

depression of the thirties, and by World War II; (11) the business philosophy and the intriguing personalities of the managerial group, especially of Alex Dow, Detroit Edison's guiding hand for over forty years (President, 1912-1940); and a number of other themes of equal interest (e.g., interesting sidelights on the growth of Detroit).

The reader of this volume gets the feeling that he has had a very good vantage point from which to observe many features of the changing problems of the electrical utility field—from the viewpoint of a company more independent than most it is true, but perhaps the more interesting in consequence. The book concludes with a full description of the sources and is, on the whole, well worth reading.

Indiana University

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The Renaissance, 1493-1520. Volume I of *The New Cambridge Modern History*. Edited by G. R. Potter. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1957. Pp. xxxvi, 531. Index. \$7.50.)

The success of the first *Cambridge Modern History* is evinced by the large number of reprints. Planned by Lord Acton in 1896, edited after his death by A. W. Ward, G. W. Prothero, and Stanley Leathes, and published between 1902 and 1912, it served as a standard work of reference for many years. Confident that a complete revision, embodying new historical materials, utilizing new methods, and reflecting new interests, would appeal to the historians of the latter half of the twentieth century, the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press have planned and begun publication of *The New Cambridge Modern History*. The first volume of the new series was planned and edited in part by Professor G. R. Potter of Sheffield University. Professor Denys Hay of Edinburgh University completed the editorial revision, wrote the introductory chapter, and saw the book through the press.

The date for the beginning of the new series was fixed by the terminal date of *The Cambridge Medieval History*, which accounts for the relatively short period of time allotted to the Renaissance. Most of the authors, however, include materials outside this time span. Since the period of time covered is only twenty-seven years, one might question the advisability of having assigned the sixteen chapters to twenty different authors. Although there is relatively little overlapping of materials, there is noticeable unevenness of quality and style.

The introductory chapter is followed by a helpful and fresh essay by H. C. Darby on "The Face of Europe on the Eve of the Great Discoveries," but these discoveries are not discussed until at the end of the book. Instead, there follows a brilliant, interpretative chapter by Hans Baron on "Fifteenth-Century Civilisation and the Renaissance," in which he explains the social backgrounds of European culture and shows how the scholars of northern Europe responded to Italian humanism. A chapter on the papacy and the church offers little that is new; however, two chapters on learning, literature, and the fine arts contain many new interpretations. Six chapters are devoted to the internal history of a number of European countries, excluding Scandinavia and Russia, which will be discussed in a subsequent volume, and England,

for which no provision seems to have been made. There is a scholarly chapter on international relations by J. R. Hale, which provides the setting for one on the invasions of Italy. There are two essays on the expansion of Europe and its impact on the Old World. The latter, unfortunately, is concerned almost solely with economic consequences and ignores the influence of the New World on the intellectual and cultural history of Europe.

Although this first volume of *The New Cambridge Modern History* contains much useful information, there is no fresh synthesis for the period as a whole. There is a good index, but no bibliography.

The Ohio State University

Harold J. Grimm

John Locke: A Biography. By Maurice Cranston. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1957. Pp. xvi, 496. Frontispiece, illustrations, index. \$8.00.)

"John Locke," writes Maurice Cranston, in bringing this volume to a close, "was a great man; indeed so great a man that his biographer cannot grasp the measure of that greatness. His biographer is perforce too close to him. Only an historian of European thought with a panoramic vision, could judge his stature. But this at least one can say here: Locke did not merely enlarge men's knowledge, he changed their way of thinking." The author's comment in itself is remarkable, for it amounts to saying that those who most thoroughly know Locke are somehow less fitted to know Locke as a great and influential thinker than are those who know him less well. Yet, somehow at the same time, the biographer does know that he was a very great man. How he knows it, except on the word of others who presumably know less about his subject than he does, is not indicated. Mr. Cranston, however, can document his conclusion by pointing to the biography which he himself has written, for it is seldom that the greatness of Locke breaks through the details of his life to impress itself upon the consciousness of the reader.

The biography itself is based upon more complete sources than any earlier work dealing with Locke. It is the first biography in which the author has been able to take full advantage of the Lovelace Collection, now the property of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. This collection contains approximately three thousand letters besides a thousand miscellaneous manuscripts which include such disparate material as Locke's library lists, his notebooks on politics, economics, philosophy, etc., and even his entries of recipes and inventories, as well as his own personal journals. Mr. Cranston has also succeeded in breaking the secret cyphers, and the personal shorthand system, used by the remarkably secretive philosopher of common sense. In consequence, he has produced a work which, when read in conjunction with Fox Bourne's earlier biography, provides a complete and very useful portrayal of the details and somewhat striking peculiarities of Locke's life. It is a volume, however, which is of much greater value for the Locke scholar than for those less conversant with Locke's intellectual contributions