

a workmanlike edition is produced in the problematical future, everyone (with the exception of valiant enthusiasts such as the author of this book) will continue to render lip-service to Herder's encyclopædic mind after recoiling in alarm from the standard edition of his works. Nor can one blame them for fighting shy of an author thus presented to their notice. Awkward to pronounce, unwieldy to handle, almost impossible to consult, Suphan, who took from 1877-1913 over the task, erected a monument to his hero which is indistinguishable from a mausoleum. And in this he proved himself the very antithesis of that philosophical live-wire. Fascinating, stimulating, maddening and chaotic, Herder is one of the most suggestive, revealing, challenging and fundamentally important writers even the Germans have ever produced. Mr. Gillies does him justice; and assesses, as far as that is possible, his vital and enduring influence, from the days when he electrified Goethe in Strasbourg until his latter-day dominion over the mind of Masaryk. I recommend to everyone the author's masterly summing up of the direction given to the German national consciousness by the fervid apostle of cosmopolitan *Humanität*. It could not be bettered, and sheds light into dark places where many are still hopefully or hopelessly groping according to the complexion of their minds. Nor is this all which could be urged in favour of Mr. Gillies' book. By the patient and lucid analysis of the works, he has evolved order out of the strange chaos of Herder's creative genius, and he has done so in a readable and at times attractive style. The best thing in the book, however, was said by Jean Paul, who (Mr. Gillies reminds us) once characterised Herder as being not a star of the first magnitude but a collection of stars. Star-gazers attempting to read the future of Germany and therefore of Europe and the world should take note of this *bon mot*.

E. M. BUTLER

The Day of Glory. By H. E. BATES. *Michael Joseph, 6s.*

The excursion of H. E. Bates into the R.A.F. as a writer in uniform was one of the interesting cultural experiments of the war. To all intents and purposes Bates took on that guise most dreaded by the prophets, that of the State writer.

He did it very well. Only a man of sensibility, of talent, and of integrity could have managed as he did. For he produced memorable work both as Flying Officer X and under his own name in this country

and in America. It was done to order; it was done under Service conditions. It was at once immediate effective propaganda and ultimately effective literary writing which penetrated beneath the skin of the obvious and which portrayed man in proper relation to incident.

This first play of his, "The Day of Glory," is one of his personal, unofficial by-products of that R.A.F. experience. It is not one of the popular, happy-ever-after pieces for production upon the escapist wartime stage. Like all his better war work, it is not so much about war as about people who in their own stricken lives are war. The two world conflicts are implicit in his group of middle-class people acting against the nervous, overstrung background of the air war. The explicit impact of war is in the person of Pilot Officer Radwanski—an objective and exact characterisation of one of those Poles in whom the fighting is resolved with terrible simplicity.

The play may lack stage action, but it reads as a brilliant short story in dialogue. It is not easy to break off before the end, that final act of measured and inevitable tragedy. The lines themselves ring with an economical understatement so characteristic of war, and of Mr. Bates's interpretation of people at war. The reading of the play is made easier and the conviction enhanced by brief, telling, descriptive stage directions.

A History of Economic Thought. By ERICH ROLL. Second (revised) Edition. *Faber, 18s.*

Professor Roll's book first appeared in 1938, and established itself at once as a useful text-book. It now reappears, with considerable amplification and alterations, enlarged but not improved. Professor Roll devotes a quite disproportionate amount of space to purely theoretical elaboration by modern economists of points of the "refinement" of analysis which are of little interest in relation to the general history of economic thought. He gives, to much more purpose, a brief account of the new, Keynesian approach, but entirely fails to relate it to its antecedents. The work of J. A. Holmes is not even mentioned, though there is a very long, and by no means good, excursion into the economics of Thurston Veblen. It would be intelligible, though narrow, to leave out both Veblen and Holmes; but to deal with the one and omit the other suggests mere ignorance. By contrast the earlier chapters, which are mainly as they appeared in the earlier edition, are refreshingly clear and to the point. It is in the combination of contemporary influences that Professor Roll most notably fails.