

Ages was subjected to intolerable strain by the sudden rise in prices consequent upon the flow of precious metals into Europe on the discovery of the New World. During the second half of the sixteenth century, the total stock of gold and silver was quintupled.

Passing on to Christian principles and their practical application, Lord Stamp enumerates the following: (1) the brotherhood of man; (2) the principle of stewardship; (3) the doctrine of the good neighbour; and (4) the equality of the value of each individual soul. On the application of these fundamental principles to the conditions of modern life, Lord Stamp gives much valuable guidance.

Lest his work should be regarded too much in the light of a merely personal view, Lord Stamp includes a careful examination of three recent representative pronouncements of organized Christian bodies: first, the Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*; second, the findings of the Conference of

Protestant Churches on Church, Community and State, held in Oxford in 1937; third, a pamphlet published by the Industrial Christian Fellowship on "The Church and the New Economic Order". He finds in them "a common basis of criticism and condemnation, despite differences of emphasis".

In his final chapter, Lord Stamp raises some significant questions. If we can only avoid poverty by exploiting the machine and by organizing men in industrial subservience to it, "it seems as if material abundance and spiritual are inversely related", as Christ virtually taught. We too confidently assume "that we can have all the material riches that a pagan society teaches us to produce, equally from a truly Christian order". So is it really possible to make the best of both worlds?

Lord Stamp has given us a good book with a clear grasp of facts, principles and values.

J. C. H.

The Flora of North-east Ireland

A Flora of the North-east of Ireland

By Samuel Alexander Stewart and Thomas Hughes Corry. Second edition. Flowering Plants, Vascular Cryptogams and Charophytes, by Dr. Robert Lloyd Praeger; Mosses and Liverworts, by William Rutledge Megaw. Pp. lix+472. (Belfast: The Quota Press, 1938.) 10s. 6d.

THE great botanical interest of the flora of Ireland is due not only to the position of the island as a western outpost of the Eurasian continent, but also to the peculiar elements of which the flora is composed and to the differences shown by the flora and vegetation when these are compared with the botanical features of Great Britain. North-east Ireland is, in some respects, less interesting botanically than the western districts but there are compensating features. The matter is stated thus in the introduction to the work at present under notice: "The position of the area is such that it is removed from the regions occupied by the most marked plant-groups to be found in Ireland—the flora of the south-west and west, with its fascinating admixture of Mediterranean, Pyrenean and North American plants; the Central Plain, with its rich assortment of lime-loving and swamp-loving species; and the south-east and east coasts, which connote the presence of species, mostly of southern facies, favouring sandy and gravelly soils. But as will be seen, certain members of all these groups

penetrate into the north-east. On the other hand, as a glance at a map might suggest, the region is rich in plants of Scottish type, which here reach their maximum in the country."

The introduction to this new edition makes instructive and pleasant reading. It contains many facts regarding the ecological distribution of the more distinctive species, and the contents are so arranged as to facilitate the researches of botanists desiring to visit the best botanizing areas for special studies. There is also much information regarding the historical development of botanical knowledge of north-east Ireland. The bulk of the book is arranged after the style of "county floras", the sequence of species being that of the Bentham and Hooker system. Valuable historical and distributional notes are included and many references to literature are given. The value of including the critical species of *Rubus* with the proviso that probably the names "cannot all hold permanently" may be doubted. An appendix gives a list, with comments, of casual plants and of those recorded in error.

The inclusion, as Part 2, of the mosses and liverworts is a welcome innovation in Irish county or district floras. A topographical index is also a very useful scheme which might well be widely adopted by authors of similar works. There are an index to plant names and black and white maps of the counties of Down, Antrim, and Londonderry.

W. B. TURRILL.