are very few instances where there is a variation in a word. For the ordinary Hebrew student most of it is, between you and me, much ado about next to nothing. On the other hand, this is a sacred text, and it is right and proper that one here and one there should labour night and day if possible, to get it exactly right. This kind of study has a fascination all its own, though maybe it has to be experienced to be believed.

NORMAN H SNAITH.

The New English Bible Reviewed. Edited by Dennis Nineham. Epworth Press, 1966, pp. xv, 160; 21s.

This book consists of twenty-three reviews of the New English Bible New Testament written by New Testament scholars of varying national, theological and ecclesiastical backgrounds. Practically all the reviews have appeared in one or other of the main theological or religious journals of the Western world; one is written by an Australian Lutheran, one by an outstanding Roman Catholic scholar, one has been specially written for this book.

It is probable that most serious students of the N.E.B. New Testament will already be familiar with a number of these reviews and for them it may only be a matter of convenience that they now appear in a single volume. There is however something to be said for a general anthology of this kind in the hands of the ordinary reader. Five years have elapsed since the New Testament was published and in that time there has been opportunity both for a detailed examination of the translation as it has been used in a wide variety of contexts, and for sober reflection as to the measure of success which the translators achieved. In particular the many Bible translators who have sought guidance in the pages of the N.E.B. and who have undoubtedly formed opinions of their own as to the helpfulness of the translation for their own work will find this collection of earlier reviews of interest and value. Of late, the N.E.B. has sometimes been held up as a model for those engaged in New Testament translation into the manifold languages of the world. Such translators will find in the pages of this book much to support this general claim and much that will require them to interpret it with caution and reserve. In this connection Dr Nineham's introductory essay and the index of the New Testament texts should prove very useful.

WILFRED J. BRADNOCK

The Cambridge Bible Commentary on the New English Bible

The Acts of the Apostles, by J. W. Packer, 1966, pp. 233; 18s. 6d.; School edition 11s. 6d.; Paper edition 9s. 6d., $1.65.

The Pastoral Letters, by A. T. Hanson, 1966, pp. 126; 15s., $3; School edition 9s. 6d.; Paper edition 8s. 6d., $1.65.

The general features of these excellent commentaries have been mentioned in reviews of previous volumes. The two volumes now to hand maintain the

high standard of the series. The authors are both scholars of wide teaching experience. If you find yourself with a couple of hours to spare while you wait at your jungle air-strip for the incoming plane you could do worse than take one of these handy volumes out of your travel bag and refresh your mind and soul. You will still need to consult the bigger books when you reach your desk. If in addition to being a translator you are teaching in an English medium High School these commentaries are tailor-made for your purpose. It is quite fascinating to watch the commentators coming to terms with the text of the N.E.B. New Testament.

WESLEY J. CULSHAW

A Handbook of Asian Scripts. The British Museum, London, with 18 plates; 16s.

An exhibition of Asian Scripts was held at the British Museum in July and August, 1966. This Handbook provides not only a background to the exhibition, but a brief description of the origins and development of Asian scripts in the past 2,000 years. It contains an outline only but it is authoritative and forms a useful introduction to its subject.

In the past as in the present, religion, trade and conquest have exerted their influence on the invention, development and diffusion of scripts—aided by the genius of creative and practical thinkers who are mostly anonymous.

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