

chosen fields. Of course, the chosen fields overlap from time to time, but in such instances there is more duplication than co-ordination. Jesuit methods of education are covered by both Bolgar and Parker; demographic problems are treated by Spooner and Hurstfield; French office-holding is discussed by Hurstfield and Koenigsberger; international law is listed in the subtitles of the chapters by Mattingly and Bolgar, but the former refuses to admit its existence in the modern sense and the latter makes no actual mention of it. On the other hand, in their respective chapters on the Ottoman Empire, Poland and Lithuania, and Sweden and the Baltic, V. J. Parry, P. Skwarczynski and I. Andersson discuss economic and military matters omitted from the chapters devoted to such general issues.

Some of the contributors (G. D. Ramsay on the Austrian Hapsburgs, for instance) might have been writing for the old volume rather than the new. Apart from diversity of aim and method, there is also much unevenness in quality. Some contributors have skilfully mapped the settled parts of their territory and also made provocative forays into areas which remain partially unexplored, such as demographic history, popular unrest and the comparative study of political and social institutions. Others have provided undistinguished surveys and stale generalisations. The editorial policy which has compelled Mr. Ramsay to use 'Emperor' for 'Kaiser' and 'Empire' for 'Reich' has not prevented other anomalies, such as Pierre de la Ramée being referred to in both his Latin and his French guise. Nor is the volume free of its share of factual errors.

But a more grave deficiency is the failure of the volume to reveal the coherence so optimistically forecast by Sir George Clark. Sometimes it would seem that not all the garments in Clio's new wardrobe have been designed to fit the same figure. When compared with J. H. Elliott's masterly survey in the same field, *Europe Divided*, or even with the joint work of Koenigsberger and G. L. Mosse, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century*, the third volume of the *N.C.M.H.* seems lacking in structural unity. Few would wish to sacrifice the breadth of vision and depth of understanding that a diversity of historical specialisations may afford, and no one would want artificially to impose the uniformity of attitude revealed by the historians of the earlier volume. Yet Elliott has shown that it is still possible to write structural history, and it is a pity that the authors of the volume under review could not blend their contributions into a composite whole.

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Edward VI: The Young King. The Protectorship of the Duke of Somerset.

By W. K. Jordan. George Allen and Unwin, London, 1968. 544 pp.
U.K. price: 70s.

PROFESSOR JORDAN describes his book as an old-fashioned narrative history in which 'we have indulged ourselves even with battles, broils and death bed or . . . scaffold scenes'. He sketches in the Henrician background, then traverses thoroughly the duke of Somerset's protectorate (1547-9) in pursuit of four themes: the progress of the Edwardian Reformation, the fero-

cious aristocratic power struggle, the military conflict with Scotland and France, and Somerset's subscription to the ideals of the commonwealth party which led on to 'the fracture in the society' and his fall in 1549. In fact it is much more than a parade of events. He displays an almost intuitive understanding of Tudor society and government, combined with an enviable command of detail. And he draws extensively upon a chorus of contemporary voices to illumine the story.

As a narrative history it supersedes previous works on the protectorate. Even so his most important original contribution to our understanding of Edwardian politics lies, not in his coursing narrative, but in his monographic studies of the contemporary power structure, in which he utilises techniques already made familiar in his work on early modern English philanthropy. He examines the privy council, the aristocratic élite, and their erosion of the crown's resources, in a period when the prerogative of a boy-king was being exercised and contended for by aristocratic politicians. But his analysis of the rôle of this élite in the power structure is based upon an artificial and unsatisfactory division into new and old peers, determined by the adoption of the year 1509 as an arbitrary line of demarcation. Even if we accept the validity of an analysis based on lineage and the adoption of 1509 as the determinant of age, it is necessary to contest the conclusions which flow from this. According to Professor Jordan the old peerage was firmly, indeed contemptuously excluded from power under Henry VIII and Edward VI, because of their religion, 'genetic deterioration', or 'sheer want of ability'. In 1547 royal authority was firmly lodged in the hands of a junta of educated, moderately protestant and 'extraordinarily able' new peers. The monopolising of power by a group of recently ennobled men cannot be denied. The fact remains that the old peers included men of talent and specialised skills, whilst the new peers had their share of fools and nondescripts. Professor Jordan cites the old peers' lack of university training as evidence of their general incapacity (p. 95). Yet university was not the touchstone of educational quality. Erasmus, Elyot, and Lupset favoured instruction by private tutors, the traditional educational method for which many old aristocratic families retained a marked preference. Nor is his contention acceptable that the Tudor monarchy held the old peerage in contempt. It was not contempt, but political acumen mingled with fear, which impelled Henry VIII into a minor pogrom of old peers and caused him to omit the survivors from the list of those who would govern during his successor's minority. If there is a single explanation of their exclusion, it is probably to be found in their suspect loyalty and conservative religious sympathies.

In contrast Professor Jordan is at his best in the evaluation of the erosion of the crown's resources, the kind of exercise to which he brings considerable experience and expertise. He calculates that, during Edward's reign, crown lands were sold to the capital value of £424,109, whilst gifts of property, mainly to the ruling junta, totalled £408,489. These represented serious inroads into the crown's capital resources, which deprived it of over £40,000 in annual revenue. It is with this initial awareness of the crown's financial plight and the politicians' rapacity that we follow his account of the ill-starred protectorate. In particular Professor Jordan traces the evolving policies of Somerset's régime as expressed in the commissions, parliamentary legislation, and proclamations of the period. He includes a useful analysis of the legislation of the protectorate parliamentary sessions,

especially the thirty-nine statutes of 1548-9. And he rightly gives prominence to the many abortive bills which, as he observes, reveal 'the thrust of interest and concern of the articulate classes of the realm' (p. 307). It is unfortunate, however, that he has excluded twenty-one private acts and confined his analysis to unsuccessful measures and to statutes in the precise sense of public acts. The distinction between public and private legislation was often technical rather than substantial; in 1548-9 both classes of parliamentary act included beneficial measures relating to individual boroughs and technical measures concerning the common law. The formal classification of Tudor legislation conceals many anomalies of this kind and an examination which embraced the private acts would add appreciably to our understanding of parliamentary activity in this very productive session.

Much of the legislative activity expressed the aspirations and ideals of the protector, of whom Professor Jordan emerges as a stout defender. A. F. Pollard's image of 'the good duke' has proved hardy and enduring. Professor Jordan is at least willing to criticise him, at times severely: for the 'imprudent and essentially bootless war' against Scotland, his overbearing temper and inability to delegate authority, his lack of political realism, and his weakness in the face of public disorder in 1549. Nevertheless the image of the good duke — pious, tolerant, magnanimous, and with a profound sense of social justice — continues to shine through. Yet in the context of Edwardian politics these personal virtues were political liabilities, which contributed to, if they did not guarantee, his downfall. In any case the image has become tarnished. His unscrupulous dealings with Viscount Lisle in the 1530s are hardly consistent with his reputation for generosity and equity. If we accept the genuineness of his aspiration to social and economic justice, we must explain what G. R. Elton describes as the 'vicious rather than generous' nature of many of the protectorate's proclamations, and the savage poor law of 1547. Nevertheless Professor Jordan's assessment of Somerset, at once sympathetic and critical, represents a notable advance on that of A. F. Pollard. His conclusion that 'this strange and complex man remains one of the true architects of the modern world' contains an element of truth, even if it has about it the ring of heroic exaggeration.

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Anti-Catholicism in Victorian England. By E. R. Norman. Historical Problems; Studies and Documents, I. Allen & Unwin, London, 1968. U.K. price: 35s (cloth), 18s (paper).

OURS IS A tolerant age (or so we like to think); it is all the more necessary, therefore, that we should be reminded that anti-Catholicism was a religious, political and social force in nineteenth century England.

There is little to be gained from haggling over the selection of documents; it illustrates well enough the points which Dr Norman makes in an introductory essay of 108 pages, which was awarded the Thirlwall Essay Prize for 1967. Dr Norman elects to deal with four incidents: the Maynooth grant (1845), the crisis precipitated by the creation of a Catholic hierarchy