

fact, therefore, shows that of a usual merit.

But of greater immediate interest is the latest exhibition of portraits by that subject of endless, and often violent, debate, Mr. Philip A. de László, the Hungarian. Mr. László must be by nature very good-tempered, or else his brilliant successes must have made him so, if he can read without annoyance and resentment the slighting criticisms or the patronizing commendations bestowed on him by so many of the professional art critics, the younger ones especially. Even the excellent critic of "The Times" is inclined to damn him with faint praise, saying of him that he has "great fluency and facility," and that he can "fill a canvas and furnish a room." This writer, however, proceeds to describe some aspects of László's work very well. It is, one admits, probable that László's popularity with the general public over here is due to the way in which he "overcomes the natural reserve of Englishmen, and says things about them to their advantage in paint that they would not care to say about themselves." And it is certainly true that in his portraits of English men and women, as of other people, he "shows them off at their best, as everybody in his heart of hearts likes to be shown off, and he is able to do it with all the better grace because he is a foreigner with a genuine appreciation of our qualities." But posterity may very well rate László much higher than the English art critics rate him to day. He has a wonderful eye for character, and his paintings are decorative in a very high degree. He has often been compared with Lawrence—even his detractors admit the force of the comparison. If his pictures last as well as Lawrence's they must increase immensely in value with the flight of the years, and his fame will increase accordingly. Indeed, as one walks round the French Gallery in Pall Mall, in which this Show is being held, and as one studies the individual pictures (nothing in particular that of the present Pope Pius XI) one cannot help thinking that in the eyes of our descendants of a century hence László will rank, with Sargent and Augustus John, as one of the three great portrait-painters of our age.