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***The Glorious Koran. A bi-lingual edition with English translation, introduction and notes, by Marmaduke Pickthall. Pp. xliv + 826 English, 826 Arabic. (London: Allen and Unwin, 1976.) £14.50 (also a deluxe edition by Fine Books Ltd).***

W. Montgomery Watt

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'From the Islamic point of view the question of the equality of men and women is meaningless. . . Islam envisages their role in society not as competing but as complementary.' The arguments in this last section will not please the advocates of women's liberation, and in general one might say of Professor Nasr's book that his view of Islam is an idealistic one that takes no account of the social, economic and political pressures that afflict Muslims today. It is a call for a return to fundamentals that is as likely to be ignored in the East as it has been in the West. Nevertheless this is a stimulating little book that should be read and pondered over by non-Muslim and Muslim alike.

L. P. ELWELL-SUTTON

*The Glorious Koran.* A bi-lingual edition with English translation, introduction and notes, by Marmaduke Pickthall. Pp. xlv + 826 English, 826 Arabic. (London: Allen and Unwin, 1976.) £14.50 (also a de luxe edition by Fine Books Ltd).

Marmaduke Pickthall was an Englishman who became a Muslim and who in 1930 published a translation of the Qur'ān, which was nearly an 'authorized English version' since it had been approved by leading Muslim authorities in Egypt. The present 'Festival of Islam edition' is in the main a facsimile of the bi-lingual edition published in Hyderabad in 1938, but is in one volume. The Arabic text is in a beautiful Naskh, and reproduces the Egyptian 'Royal' version; the English text is on opposite pages, and is so arranged that it corresponds to the Arabic. Some slight discrepancies between the names of suras used by Pickthall and those used in the Arabic text are noted in the preliminary pages, and should present no difficulty to the reader. Altogether this is a very handsome volume, and should replace some of the other current bi-lingual editions with inferior translations. It is certain to be popular with English-speaking Muslims, and it is to be hoped that the sales will be such as to justify a reduction in price.

W. MONTGOMERY WATT

'Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā'i. *Shi'ite Islam.* Translated from the Persian and edited with an introduction and notes by Seyyed Hossein Nasr. Pp. xiv + 253. (London: Allen and Unwin, 1975.) £6.50.

It is commonly said, and not without justice, that most occidental student of Islam have devoted nearly all their attention to the Sunnite form of