

## Book Reviews

so that he would picture faithfully Thy features, those of Our Blessed Lady and Thy saints for the peace and glory of Holy Church ' (p. 7). The East has religiously preserved many traditions of the Undivided Church of the first centuries, and in this lies our hope for the future.

O.B.

ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN. By Joseph Clayton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 6/-.)

With great care and with delicate appreciation of his hero's character, Joseph Clayton, F.R.Hist.S., has given us a new life of St. Hugh of Lincoln. Founded inevitably on the *Magna Vita* by the Saint's friend and disciple, Adam of Evesham, this life is the first modern life written in English by a Catholic. How astonishing that this should be so! Fr. Thurston, S.J., with his admirable learning has indeed edited a biography which is a translation from the French. To this Mr. Clayton not seldom refers. But it is an astonishing fact that no Catholic of modern times has written in English the story of this Saint, whose name and influence were so considerable in his own time. Ruskin and Freeman from different points of view have praised St. Hugh; Henry II, Richard I, and John knew and revered him. Nor as you read the pages of this life of Mr. Clayton's do you wonder at the reverence or the praise. St. Hugh was typical of his race, a perfect Burgundian, humorous, tender to animals, a lover of children, indomitable, just, and in anger terrible, without fear, eloquent: from Burgundy also came St. Bernard, Bossuet, Lacordaire. Curiously, too, like St. Dominic and St. Anthony of Padua and many another great religious leader of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, he was a Canon Regular before he joined the order in the habit of which he died. The description of his visit as a Canon Regular to the Chartreuse with his superior, of the impression made on him by the sons of St. Bruno, and of the dismay of his superior when he saw how he had unmeaningly led his dearest subject into the very monastery which would draw them asunder is to our mind the best part of Mr. Clayton's book. But all of it is good; it is a new adventure in biography with its happy blending of colloquialisms and piety, of the natural and supernatural, of the burlesque and the reverent. It is, in fact, the biography of a medieval bishop in England, and being a good biography is vividly true. It should be in all libraries.

B.J.