

## BLACKFRIARS

ELEMENTA PHILOSOPHIÆ ARISTOTELICO-THOMISTICÆ. By Josephus Gredt, O.S.B. Editio septima recognita. Vol. I: Logica, Philosophia Naturalis. (Herder, Freiburg i.B.; RM. 6.40; bound RM. 8.—.)

SUMMA PHILOSOPHIÆ ARISTOTELICO-THOMISTICÆ. By Angelo M. Pirotta, O.P. Vol. II: Philosophia Naturalis. (Marietti, Turin; L. 35.—.)

The first of these manuals of Thomist philosophy needs no recommendation. It suffers, of course, from occasional oversimplifications inseparable from any work which seeks to compress the whole accumulated wisdom of the *philosophia perennis* into the compass of a handbook; but, on the whole, the work of P. Gredt is singularly free from the naïvetés common to this class of text-book. The somewhat ponderous Teutonic Latin is a minor drawback which can soon be mastered. This new edition includes some amplification of the treatment of the central concepts of act and potency, and considerable additions to the texts from the works of Aristotle and Aquinas which make P. Gredt's manual particularly useful as an introduction to their philosophy. Not the least important recommendation to P. Gredt's treatment of logic and physics is the least advertized: it is in fact largely a condensation of the masterly treatises of the great, but somewhat wordy, Spanish Thomist, Juan de San Tomas. Besides being condensed this has, however, been brought up to date, but there is relatively little of the facile "refutation" of later philosophers and obscure schoolmen which makes similar manuals in turn irritating, laughable and tiresome.

P. Pirotta's work, for all its excellence, is hardly to be recommended to those in whom such emotions are but imperfectly mortified. P. Pirotta has everybody "taped," labelled, and a store of concentrated explosives with which to annihilate them in a paragraph. His cosmos is, perhaps, too neat to be altogether convincing. But there is much excellent constructive work; and this is often directed to difficult topics which more ethereal manualists prefer to disregard. A massive bibliography, and still more an abundance of references to other authors and authorities scattered throughout the volume, should make this *Summa* particularly useful to advanced students; while the countless slick distinctions will be of much use to the professor seeking for rapid replies to the difficulties of inquisitive pupils.

VICTOR WHITE, O.P.

## HISTORY

HISTORY OF THE POPES. By Ludwig Freiherr von Pastor. Translated and edited by Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B. Vols. XXV and XXVI. (Kegan Paul; 15/- each.)

These two volumes, admirably translated by Dom Ernest Graf,