

the reviewer had to read a few pages of Jane Austen as an antidote before bedtime.

But we have yet to face, in the last chapters, the satanic era of our day; the 'Death of God' prophesied by Nietzsche; the Waste Land; the streamlined horror of genocide. It is well to be reminded, in the Introduction, that fundamentally the condition of the Christian soul is one of triumph: 'Take courage, for I have overcome the World'.

PARACELSUS. Selected writings, edited by Jolande Jacobi. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 25s.)

With Paracelsus, we are back in the sixteenth century: in a kind of murky twilight blending with a dusky dawn. It is a world of half-science, of new wine fermenting in old bottles. The figure of this physician who is also philosopher, astrologer, alchemist, typifies most vividly that epoch of Faustian conflict between old and new. He was a good man, searching for truth in every possible cranny of this strange world. He kept his faith through all the aberrations of pseudo-science which for him were reflections of the Truth.

The book is a selection from the voluminous writings, and must have entailed an immense labour from the author-editor. It is copiously illustrated with woodcuts, which have too the peculiar quality of that epoch.

C.B.

CHRISTIANITY AND PAGAN CULTURE. By M. L. W. Laistner. Cornell University Press. (Geoffrey Cumberlege; 20s.)

SANCTI AURELI AUGUSTINI SERMONES SELECTI DVODEVIGINTI. By D. C. Lambot, O.S.B. (Spectrum: Utrecht-Brussels; 6.25 Dutch guilders.)

SAINT AUGUSTINE: LETTERS. Vol. I (1-82). Trans. by Sister Wilfrid Parsons, S.N.D. (New York: Fathers of the Church, Inc.)

TERTULLIAN: Apologetical Works. MINUCIUS FELIX: Octavius. Trans. by Rudolph Arbesmann, O.S.A., Sister Emily Joseph Daly, C.S.J., and Edwin A. Quain, S.J. (Fathers of the Church, Inc.)

Dr Laistner's book is made up of three lectures delivered at the University of Virginia, together with an English translation of St John Chrysostom's *Address on Vainglory and the Right Way for Parents to Bring up their Children*. It was a happy thought to make the complete text of the *Address* available in English, and the translation, which is lively and careful, deserves the attention of anyone concerned with education. It is not only historically interesting, sometimes amusing, but full of shrewd practical advice. The pages on how to teach Scripture to children are especially worth attention for their sound psychology.

The text of Chrysostom is a relevant appendix to the lectures, which are concerned not so much with pagan culture in general as with