BLACKFRIARS

KING-DOCTOR OF ULITHI. By Marshall Paul Wees and F. B. Thornton. (Macmillan, N.Y.; \$2.50.)

The account of a six months' stay on one of the Carolines by an American naval doctor who had been sent to stamp out disease among the natives. That Dr Wees did a good job is certain, but it is also manifest from his own account that he received as much as he gave. The simplicity of the natives and the power of their Catholic faith impressed him profoundly and we find in his little book a proof that Catholic Christianity can transform and vivify the life of the primitive without destroying any of its charm. The book, in spite of a few purple passages, makes good reading.

RELIGION IN CHINA. By E. R. and K. Hughes. (Hutchinson's University Library; 7s. 6d.)

This excellent book is the clearest brief account of the subject in English we have encountered. The authors do much to correct the current overemphasis of the rationalist tradition in Chinese thought and they succeed in making it evident that the religious current is of immense importance in the great tradition taken as a whole. This is made clear by evidence drawn, not simply from Taoist sources or Mahayana writings, but from the great tradition itself.

One of the most important parts of the book deals with the continuity, which can be traced, between the primitive religion of the Chinese and the thought of Confucius.

PHILOSOPHIA NATURALIS. Auctore Carolo Frank, S.J. (Herder, Freiburg; D.M. 8.40.)

This is an elementary text-book the main value of which is that its author has read those modern works which raise problems for the natural philosopher. Though it must be said that Father Frank's interests appear to be predominantly biological, since it is that part of his work which deals with the organic sphere which is most interesting.

The most serious defect of the book lies in the fact that the author provides no adequate discussion of the quite fundamental problems which are raised for the traditional natural philosopher by modern theories regarding the method of the sciences.

CHRISTIANITY AND CIVILISATION. By Emil Brunner. Second Part. Specific Problems. (Nisbet; 10s.)

This book comprises the second half of Dr Brunner's Gifford Lectures, and while it contains much that is of interest it cannot be said that it reveals the high standard which we have come to expect of Dr Brunner. Technics obviously frighten Dr Brunner, but it does

396