

and piecemeal analysis. Where it is seen at its best is in the chapter on *La Jeune Parque*, by far the best in the book, for Mr Scarfe has such an intimate knowledge of the poem, such high regard for it, that he there holds the reader more intensely than he does elsewhere.

Valéry's death has been followed by the usual literary eclipse. Mr Scarfe, however, has no doubt of the greatness of the poet's stature. His 'philosophy', his probing scepticism, need no more concern us here than it does Mr Scarfe in his book, though in this connection it may be said that so thorough and so perceptive a study as this would hardly have been undertaken if there were only admiration for the poet's art without considerable sympathy with his outlook. None the less, as his subject is the art of Valéry, Mr Scarfe is rightly concerned only with the poetry and not with the attitude to life which it may reveal.

ERNEST BEAUMONT

PIUS X. Translated from the Italian of Fr H. Dal-Gal by Thomas F. Murray, M.A. (Gill, Dublin; 15s.)

In view of the recent canonization of Saint Pius X this publication is a timely one, for this ceremony was one of more than usual interest. The last occasion on which a pope was canonized was in 1712, when Pius V was raised to the altars, and the one previous to that was as far back as 1313 when Celestine V was declared a saint.

Fr Dal-Gal presents Pius X to us in all his gentleness, firmness and sanctity and in a book eminently readable, for the translator has done his work well. The account of Pius X's miracles, given in the tenth chapter, may come as a surprise to many readers, especially because so large a number of them were done in public audiences. Naturally these did not appear during the saint's lifetime, and owing to the rapidity of the introduction of his cause of beatification the relation of all wonders wrought by him were kept secret, being *sub judice*. Little children were taken in his arms and blessed and restored to their parents healed even though crippled from birth, or born blind as in several cases. A man with a paralysed arm begged Pius to heal him in order that he might support his family who were in want; the pope touched him and he was immediately cured. When however the man joyfully called out, the pope motioned him to silence. One story bearing on Pius's gentleness and humour may be told here. A young girl suffering from a diseased foot was in great and constant pain until she was persuaded to pull on a sock belonging to the pope but which had strayed from the Vatican, and the pain immediately left her. Pius laughed heartily when he heard the story and remarked how odd it was that the socks that released others from pain had no effect on his own poor feet which caused him constant suffering.

W.G.