

## Blackfriars

positive Christian duty.' The question is first approached from the psychological point of view, and the ethical value of worship established. Then it is justified as something objectively due to God, springing not from the naive idea of placating an offended deity, but the deeper *Deo debetur reverentia propter ejus excellentiam*. The article is completed by a treatment of the elements of self-abasement and sacrifice found in religion. Where so many good things are said, it is difficult to refrain from quotation. 'The temptation of a sophisticated mind is to prefer a general religious reference without devotional concreteness on popular lines.' He allows for some exaggeration in the 'sin obsession' of the mystics which modern writers have attacked as un-Christian and unwholesome, but notes 'that a prosy literalism in interpreting the language with which great souls have expressed their deepest experiences is deplorably Philistine.'

There is, too, an excellent review of Dr. Kirk's Bampton Lectures on *The Vision of God*, which notices the cognate point of the tension between rigorism and humanism, unnaturalism and naturalism, present in Christianity, harmonized in St. Thomas: 'If there was even any doubt that St. Augustine (in spite of his excesses) and St. Thomas saw infinitely deeper than Pelagian naturalism, modern psychology has removed it.' A review of Karl Heim's *The New Divine Order* should also be observed in conjunction. The fashion of this world passeth away, says St. Paul; but 'the annulment of the time-form is not annihilation thereof, but *disclosure*—disclosure of the eternal content already latent therein—otherwise the victory of God throughout all ranges of existence is not manifested.'

A review of *A Spiritual Pilgrimage towards the Threshold of the Catholic Church* brings up the objection that the decision of the Pope on a doctrinal point may contradict the opinion of the majority of a Council. This expresses a religious parliamentarianism not uncommon. But it is yet to be proved that Catholic doctrine can be defined by the counting of heads. T.G.

TAIL WAGGERS. Described by A. Croxton Smith. (Published by 'Country Life,' London; 1/-.)

That very competent authority on dogs, Mr. Croxton Smith, has done all dog lovers a good service in presenting this book to the public. There are about fifty good 'close-up' photographs of various breeds, together with a short description of each. An excellent and cheap Christmas present from one dog lover to another.

P.H.