

Blackfriars

' treatise on the soul.' ' Material ' in the sentence (p. 207) : ' how the intellect knows its own individual and material act,' ought to be ' immaterial.' But such faults are not of much importance, and it still remains true that the English reader owes to Mr. Watkins a reliable version of an excellent introduction to the supreme synthesis of human thought.

L.W.

A TREATISE ON THE CANON OF MEDICINE OF AVICENNA. By O. Cameron Gruner, M.D., Lond. (Luzac & Co.)

Students of St. Thomas can hardly afford to overlook a book written with the two-fold purpose ' (1) To furnish a translation of the First Book of the Canon of Medicine of Avicenna ; (2) To present a study of its mystical philosophy (tassawuf) especially showing where this and modern biological knowledge are reciprocally illuminative Furthermore, the Thomistic philosophy of human nature is especially discussed, and its applicability to the Medicine of the future definitely enunciated ' (p. v).

This is a book of wide scholarship. Our present praise must be limited to saying that Dr. Gruner's work has almost a place of honour apart in modern Thomistic writings.

V.McN.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE STUARTS. By J. Desmond Gleeson. (Cecil Palmer.)

Mr. Gleeson has explained his book in an illuminating introduction. In his own words :

' The Monarchy, national and popular in England, was pulled down and destroyed. The process of destruction lasted for a period of more than a century. It began with the raising of the new rich in Henry VIII's time, and it ended when the last Stuart king vanished over the water. At the commencement of the period the Monarch was supreme ; at the conclusion of the period the Aristocracy was supreme. And during the years that the upsetting and substituting was going on, the Stuarts were on the throne. It was their business to defend the rights of the Monarchy, their duty to preserve the prerogative, their fate to fight the losing battle. . . . The Stuart Kings of England each had his private tragedy, but the war with the new rich lords was the tragedy of the whole line.'

Mr. Gleeson, whilst giving the main emphasis to the main tragedy, has known how to blend the private tragedy with the larger dramatic doom that finally overwhelmed the line.