

ment that he employs against Sartre, i.e. rational argument; he must do something which he declares to be impossible.

In view of the preceding remarks it should be obvious that this book must be read for what it does contain, mysticism and poetry, not for what is not to be found there, i.e. metaphysics; the mysticism will be found rewarding. These searching meditations of Marcel are admirably calculated to put an end to 'bouncing' Catholicism, the Catholicism of the slick answer and the toby-jug, which in all conscience has little enough to do with the cry from the Cross, the last days of the Little Flower or the 'heaven-handling' of a Gerard Manley Hopkins.

DONALD NICHOLL.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION. Enlarged and revised edition. By J. F. S. Ross. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 15s.)

There is, of course, no need whatsoever to recommend this new and enlarged edition of Mr Ross's 'Parliamentary Representation' to students of political institutions; any serious student will have already made himself familiar with the earlier editions, and will have correctly anticipated that the additions to the volume maintain his high standards of accuracy, readability and sane interpretation. Part IV of this enlarged edition consists of 60 pages of entirely new material devoted to an analysis of the House of Commons which came into being at the 1945 election; several appendices have also been added on electoral reform, the redistribution of seats and election expenses. The statistics which he has collected only confirm the strength of his arguments in favour of the single transferable vote and of financial reform.

DONALD NICHOLL.

THE NATURALISM OF SAMUEL ALEXANDER. By J. W. McCarthy. (Cumberlege; 14s.)

This thesis is an honest piece of work with little pretension to originality; the author sets out to expound Alexander's philosophy as faithfully as possible whilst not neglecting to correct misinterpretations or to indicate those points at which the system itself seems to creak. He is convincing when dealing with Konvitz's misconceptions in that author's 'The nature of value', and the book becomes exciting when McCarthy announces his intention of applying the notion of analogy to Alexander's impressive metaphysical constructions. The promise is not realised, however, because the author's conception of analogy is not sufficiently worked out. It would seem that to 'analogue' Alexander would involve a much more radical change in the whole structure of his thought; however, McCarthy has certainly pointed in the right direction. His book contains a valuable bibliography.

DONALD NICHOLL.