

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

not appear that he has anything valuable to say about it in this work. In fact the book is simply a series of essays by a conservative Protestant thinker of wide culture who is rather at sea in the modern world.

POWER AND MORALS. By Martin J. Hillenbrand. (Columbia University Press, New York; \$3.25.)

The first part of this book criticises the nineteenth-century theories of politics and points out that they all involve the use of value judgments for which the respective theories provide no objective basis. In the second part of the work Dr Hillenbrand contends that no satisfactory theory can be formulated which does not face the problem of the use of power in the modern context and that only an ethic which can point to an absolute standard can provide an answer. The book, taken as a whole, is instructive, but it is weighed down by far too many unimportant references and blocks of detail. Again, it would have gained in interest and power if those theological issues which are so important in the moral context had been mentioned. I.H.

BOOK-COLLECTING. MORE LETTERS TO EVERYMAN. By Percy H. Muir. (Cassell; 7s. 6d.)

This is a sequel to the author's *Book-collecting as a hobby* and supplements without overlapping the earlier book. It begins with a pleasant defence of collecting, with some sensible remarks, developed in a later letter, on finance. 'Only the "how" of book-collecting can be taught', he says, 'it is useless to attempt to teach anyone the "why" of it.' So the book is about the 'how': how to proceed; how to use a bibliography (with more about collating); what to do about auction sales; how to look at the financial aspect of the hobby. There is also a letter with the rather unprepossessing title 'Is there money in old Bibles?', which is marred by its controversial tone. In particular, the crude generalisations about medieval religion are not on the same level as the rest of a very useful and otherwise attractive book.

A.E.H.S.

THE HISTORY OF THE POPES. By Dr L. Pastor, Vol. XXXV. Edited by E. F. Peeler. (Kegan Paul; 30s.)

The end of the English translation of Pastor's monumental work is almost in sight. The present volume is of special interest in that it outlines the activity of Benedict XIV, one of the most distinguished of the eighteenth-century Popes. His was a remarkably rounded-off personality: a man of erudition; of personal and religious integrity; of consummate zeal; of uncommon capacity for work; yet withal a jovial, high-spirited and commonsense man; a versatile diplomatist and a circumspect ruler. Indeed, although these last volumes of Pastor are inclined to descend to a mere listing of names and marshalling of