

REVIEWS

On its critical and destructive side the book is less successful because too facile. To say that psycho-analysis is anti-rational is a confusion surely between repression and restraint; to accuse Aristotle of arguing in a vicious circle because his virtuous mean is 'as the prudent (or virtuous) man would define it' is a confusion between prudence as an intellectual and as a moral virtue, for it is the reason which defines the moral; to say that St. Thomas 'worked up' the Aristotelian ethic into a 'systematic if ultimately unreal harmony with the principles of the Gospel' and that he does not 'quite succeed in equating Aristotle's pursuit of the chief Good with the Christian love of God,' which conclusions one cannot help regarding as too swift and sweeping; such things as these seem to lessen the value of the book and to weaken the force of the argument.

These criticisms are, however, of minor importance: the substance of the book is extremely significant and valuable, and puts in the author's debt anyone who has the ideals of Christianity or humanism at heart.

L.S.G.V.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RELIGION. By J. Howard and J. J. Ingram. (Sands; pp. 278; 2/6.)

Intended merely as a summary of the Apologetics prescribed for the Inter-Collegiate Examination, this small book includes chapters on God, the Soul, Revelation, Christ, the Catholic Church, and more. The implication, that the proved 'fundamentals of religion' include at least this much, is a pleasant one to-day, when thought and language are so slack that our intelligent atheists have only to feel the exhilaration of a moment's altruistic effort to conclude, in regretful good faith, that they have 'had a religious experience' (see Mrs. Mitchison's article in the *Nineteenth Century* for June).

Intense compression makes the authors' style rather graceless and jejune, especially in the earlier chapters, and difficulties are freely remarked and freely dismissed. But the spirited chapters on Our Lord's Divinity and on the Church are an excellent hand-list of the arguments. The appendix on the theories of Man's evolution should be expanded in the next edition.

L.C.G.