

today temperaments which are inclined to stress the corruptibility of human nature are sometimes described as Augustinian . . . it is no lantern-jawed Jansenist whose image is reflected in the periods of Augustine's prose. It is a man possessed through and through by the sense of glory.' Rosalind Murray's 'St John of the Cross' poses the problem of why 'his fame and influence appear more widespread outside the Church than within'. That statement requires qualification, of course, but still it is true that for most Catholics he remains a name in the calendar, whereas 'he has . . . proved for many pagans the way in, the first intelligible guide through whom the Christian mysteries can be grasped'. The reason for his success with the non-believer is that he conveys the reality of God 'in an unparalleled way'; he speaks in terms they 'find intelligible, using the medium of poetic imagery, uncomplicated by an unfamiliar devotional idiom'. Because I have picked out these two essays as important it should not be thought that the others are merely make-weights; that is true of none of them. Douglas Hyde's essay on St Francis with its reference to modern social needs (he instances Africa) and Dr Strauss's examination of the case of Maria Goretti are both extremely useful studies.

LANCELOT C. SHEPPARD

TEN SAINTS. By Eleanor Farjeon. With illustrations by Helen Sewell. (Oxford University Press; 12s. 6d.)

It is to be hoped that a number of wise aunts in search of the right book to give their nephews and nieces will come across this one, first published in America and now available here. To begin with it looks so fresh with its clear and attractive line drawings printed in three colours: St Simeon Stylites on his pillar in the sun, St Giles like an Eastern sage in the mouth of his cave. The strong point of the stories—the old ones of Christopher, Martin, Nicholas—is their well-managed dialogue, and the concrete images they call up. Each tale is followed by a singable rhyme for the saint in question. These too are simple and unsentimental.

Simeon lived
In heaven's eye
On top of a pillar
Hard and high.

It is difficult to imagine a better introduction to some of the older dreams of Christendom.

A.S.

THE ROCK OF TRUTH. By Daphne Pochin Mould. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

The author of this autobiography is a scientist whose curiosity and integrity in her search for true facts led her, despite deep prejudices and dislike of authority, to enter the Church. The scene of her search and