

Empire two centuries later, that makes him very pertinent to our own times. Autolyceus is not the credulous pagan of the first century who believed Christians ate babies. He is tolerant and well informed; he has read the Scriptures, and thinks them rather funny. Most men today know as much of Christianity as he did, and find it no more to their liking. Theophilus may not have been a deep or original thinker, but one cannot read him without gaining a fresh insight into the difficulties the modern apologist must face. Introduction, notes and translation are of the high standard we have come to expect from this series.

THE CAPTURE OF DAMIETTA. By Oliver of Paderborn. Translated by John J. Gavigan. (Pennsylvania University Press, London: Geoffrey Cumberlege; 7s. 6d.)

A translation of Oliver of Paderborn's account of the Fifth Crusade is a useful addition to the body of mediaeval historical texts available in English. Oliver wrote as an eye-witness, and his often vivid descriptions of what he saw at Damietta, and of what he thought about it all, are of value in any attempt to estimate the crusading movement. The translation reads easily and appears sufficiently close to the text. The editorial matter is, as so often in books from America, a curious mixture of elementary and erudite.

A.R.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF SHELLEY. Selected with an Introduction by Morchard Bishop. (Macdonald; 8s. 6d.)

THE PATTERN OF A DARK. By John Sundowne. (Phoenix Press; 6s.)

To handle these volumes with their prices in mind will take the purchaser back to pre-war days. Shelley appears in thick Cellophane jacket (very practical though the coloured type printed thereon is rather startling) and illustrated throughout its 520 well-printed pages. Mr Sundowne's outline of the dark pattern of his mind is clothed in handmade paper and beautifully printed. The purchaser will already have been a reader of Shelley, maybe, but he will soon become a reader of Sundowne too, if he buys both these books, and he will be richly rewarded by both.

J.H.

THE NEWSPAPER. A Study of the Daily Newspaper and its Laws. By I. Rothenberg, D.Phil. (Staples; 35s.)

Once the reader of this volume has set aside its outworn setting of 'reactionary' and 'progressive' politics, he will profit enormously by the study of the mass of information supplied by the author. Dr Rothenberg claims to have provided the first survey of the press laws of the world, and he has certainly gathered here all the principal legislation regarding the press enforced in the last century or two. But the author does more than merely list the laws of countries and even individual American states—all these are incorporated in an interesting discussion of the laws or the absence

of laws. For example, in the section on 'The Headline' we are given a history of the growth of the headline as well as, among other things, the criticism of sensational headlines in this country where there is no direct control of such things. It is interesting to note how some states have incorporated Canon Law in their press regulations, but we miss a treatment of the Church's law itself in this respect. This law is very precise and clearly defined but it is as well that the author did not attempt to assess it on account of his uncritical acceptance of the modern terminology of 'freedom', 'reaction', etc. It now remains for someone with this wealth of information before him to undertake a more philosophical consideration of the freedom of the press, the need and nature of censorship, as well as principles regulating publicity and propaganda. This book will long remain an essential book for anyone engaged in writing, editing or publishing newspapers periodicals, and the like. CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.

JESUS-CHRIST NOTRE MAITRE. Par R. Claude, S.J., et P. Capart, S.J. (Casterman; 44 fr.)

An unusual kind of religion-instruction manual for secondary schools. Originally a boys' book (*Jésus-Christ notre Chef*), it proved so acceptable in girls' schools that this special edition has been adapted for their use by some teaching nuns. It is a fine-looking book of 200 pages with several illustrations, and its contents are all about Christian personality and the service of God and one's neighbour. The 'Virtues and Vices' section of the catechism, in fact, brought up to date. Perhaps it is too articulate, too exhaustive in statement, to appeal to the English mind. Nevertheless it does grasp the main point, which is that the young need to see themselves as *growing*. There are several other volumes in the same Jesuit series, which has the general title: '*Témoins du Christ*'. F.H.D.

DESCENT INTO HELL. By Charles Williams. (New Edition. Faber; 8s. 6d.)

It would be idle to pretend, and the publishers make no such claim, that the novels of Charles Williams have a universal appeal. They are described as 'supernatural thrillers', a definition which gives a very inadequate idea of the author's peculiar gift for the description of unusual spiritual experiences. Robert Hugh Benson had something of the same quality; but the resemblance does not go far. Those who already know Williams's novels—seven in all—will welcome the new edition of them which Messrs Faber & Faber are bringing out. This book was first published in 1937, and has long been unobtainable. S.A.H.W.

BEYOND THE TERMINUS OF THE STARS. By Hugo Manning. (Phoenix Press; 5s.)

This is a harsh little volume of poems; Mr Manning seems to have taken over from the modern school its lack of grace, without