

Blackfriars

nature of his healing craft is such as to make him more detached and disinterested than men of other professions and less liable to unworthy or sordid considerations. Of all professionals who went to the war, I venture to think none shone more gloriously than the doctors. This little book conveys the same impression and leaves us marvelling at the charity and self-sacrifice of the great medical fraternity—and the impression is all the more pronounced because there is no special pleading, nor even any effort to conceal the more human of the medico's failings, and the writer is doing nothing more than setting forth his own plain statement of a doctor's experience. The little dissertation on Pain in Chapter xxiv is of especial significance and value to anyone in search for a Catholic statement of a difficult problem.

B.D.

THE UNREALISTS. By Harvey Wickham. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6 net.)

The unrealists are William James, Bergson, Santayana, Einstein, Bertrand Russell, John Dewey, Professors Alexander and Whitehead. The book contains good portraits of six of these philosophers with irreverent mottoes attached. It is a vivacious criticism of their various philosophical positions from the point of view of a robust realism, and might be described as an episode in the ancient quarrel between the plain man and the philosopher. But that is perhaps too mild a description for this slashing onslaught, written in a very lively and picturesque style. The idiom is, indeed, rather too lively and too picturesque for the subject, and we fear that many a reader will find it difficult to follow the argument. It is philosophy served up with jazz and cocktails, and should have an appeal for those who like that sort of thing. Yet the book contains not a little shrewd criticism of its victims, who are treated throughout with a breezy irreverence that may serve as a refreshing antidote to popular worship.

J.M.

OF SHOES AND SHIPS By Thomas Foster. (Rider; 4/6 net.)

'Of shoes and ships,' of jerry builders, publishers, the clergy; of unemployment, agriculture, and corrupt business practices; of youth, of age, of pernicious 'movements,' of muddled thinking; of all these they talk, the characters in this book, and of persons and periodicals presented under transparent pseudo-