

Blackfriars

proval; the boy can hardly have realised how his father's soul must have been wrung.

Behind all the disputants is another figure, a shadowy one, that of 'our Bishop' or St. Ambrose. Augustine recalls something Ambrose had said in a sermon, and when at the close he referred to the mystery of the Trinity, Monica 'remembered words which had stuck in her memory and, as though awakening to her faith, chanted with glee that verse written by our Bishop:

'Fove precantes, Trinitas'
adding: 'That is "Beata Vita" beyond all question; that is the perfect life; to it we can trust that, hastening on our way thither, we shall be brought to it through sound faith, eager hope and burning charity.'

Other Fascicules in the same series that have reached us are Fascic. xxii SS. *Eusebii Hieronymi et Aurelii Augustini Epistolae mutuae*, Mks. 5.60; Fascic. xxiv, *S. Aurelii Augustini, De Doctrina Christiana* i-iv, ed. H. J. Vogels, Mks. 5; *S. Aurelii Augustini, De Videndo Deo, seu Ep.* cxlvii, ed. Michael Schmaus, Mks. i, 50.

A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE. (Longmans, Green; pp. 239; 7/6.)

This book purports to be notes from an unfinished private diary of a mind that has pilgrimaged from the Established Church to what the pilgrim frankly calls 'the threshold of the Catholic Church.' Whether or not the pilgrim is a being of flesh and blood or a mere *ens rationis*, the story of his pilgrimage should invite many of his readers to follow him on his way.

Something of the charm of travel-tales has been captured by his pen. Though it is everywhere and undeniably the pen of a scholar, yet it leads the reader not into the book-dusty atmosphere of a library but into the freshness of spring and dawn.

Many names of the great captains of modern controversy find a place in the pilgrim's winning travel-talk. But nowhere is the stress of the attack allowed to quench the pilgrim's sense of charity. If, as we shrewdly suspect, the pilgrim is using the permissions of fiction to disguise the fact that he is on this side of the threshold, he is to be thanked for the spirit of charity no less than of scholarship that gives his book a place amongst the few. But if the pilgrim is a real pilgrim, and if his way-faring has really led him, trembling and afraid, to the threshold, may his readers' alms of prayer open the everlasting doors and direct his feet into the way of peace!

V. McN.