

as to the nature of mind itself, and the problem of the body-mind relationship is never really solved. This perhaps is only to be expected in an outline of modern psychology with its vague notion of mind as a state or series of states of consciousness, while the mind-body problem must always remain insoluble as long as it is formulated in terms of a false dualism.

E.C.

RENAISSANCE IN THE NORTH. By W. Gore Allen. (Sheed & Ward; 10s. 6d.)

Based on lectures delivered to the Workers' Educational Association, Mr Gore Allen's book contains introductory studies of six Scandinavian writers: Sigrid Undset, Soren Kierkegaard, Selma Lagerlöf, J. P. Jacobsen, Verner von Heidenstam and Knut Hamsun. These are prefaced by a brief survey of Scandinavian literature during the last hundred years, and concluded by a note on the music of Grieg and Sibelius and its effect on Nordic thought. The portraits of Knut Hamsun and the two women novelists are drawn clearly and with sympathetic fairness, but the other three figures are less distinct. The study of Kierkegaard is especially disappointing, for it gives no impression of greatness or of a quality which could be mistaken for greatness.

The author believes that both the Liberal humanism of Ibsen and the Liberal Protestantism of the Lutheran Church are spent forces, but finds 'a second spring of Christian faith . . . manifest throughout the modern literature of Scandinavia'. This 'renaissance is less explicit than the title suggests; and 'the prophecy of Christian forms to come has not as yet been uttered by the Scandinavian writers, but rather by an architect and a musical composer'. [Lars Sonck and Sibelius.]

Indirect or partially explained statements occur too often in the book. Mr Gore Allen has a quick, independent mind and no doubt finds it tedious to expose its workings. But unless he learns to be more simple he will leave the common reader behind altogether.

COLIN SUMMERFORD

ADVENTURES OF THE REDCROSSE KNIGHT. By Sister Mary Charitina, B.V.M. (Sheed & Ward; 10s. 6d.)

Here is the perfect Christmas book for children from eight to twelve or so. It is the story of Una and her Knight, the first book of Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, retold in modern English prose. Very sensibly, it is free from fancy archaisms, and its charm as a tale may surprise those grown-ups who may have found Spenser a little tedious. Graced by illustrations in three colours by Jeanyee Wong, this book is notably beautiful to look at—not the least of its merits. The publishers are to be congratulated on making available for English children so acceptable an example of American intelligence and good design.

I.E.