

*St. Alice, St. Ronald* from this book. And there are others too, beginning in the first and ending in the fifteenth centuries. All now recognise Miss Windham's skill in telling the truth about the saints to children, but many will be delightfully surprised to find how skilfully she 'gets across' to the children the truth about a sinner like Pelagius, and how she can tell them even about his typically English error. If there were space we would quote, instead we must urge all to turn to pp. 33 and 34 of this book for simple and deep instruction, and to the rest of the book besides.

C.P.

ST. PHILIP NERI. By Doreen Smith. (Sands; 6s. 6d.).

Here is a book for those who have not yet been introduced to St. Philip, a saint especially dear to us not only for his charm but through his association with Newman. Such a blend of sanity and eccentricity is disconcerting until we realise that the latter is the product of an interior spirit and nothing superficial. We have an example of that permanent reversal wrought by grace so that natural activity is impeded by the effects of supernatural love: the human situation becomes, as it were, dilated by love and the Saint has to make extraordinary efforts to act normally. We should like to see some of our clean, practical, modern Mass-sayers putting up with St. Philip's two hours contemplation at the *Agnus Dei*. It was also the strength of this interior spirit which made it possible for him to live together with friends, without spiritual degeneration, a capacity so necessary for the Apostolate. St. Philip also appeared eccentric, because he was always ready to attack that solemnity which goes with intellectual and moral righteousness and is the result of pride. He knew that the detachment humour gives is purifying, so he used humour as a weapon both against himself and others and even ridicule when the sufferer was strong in spirit. A Saint to be commended to all who take themselves too seriously and the Spirit not seriously enough!

DAMIAN MAGRATH, O.P.

#### NOTE.

From the Editions du Cerf, 229 Boulevard Latour-Maubourg, Paris—7e, we have received copies of new periodicals issued by that publishing-house, already so well-known for *La Vie Intellectuelle* and *La Vie Spirituelle*. They include *Fêtes et Saisons*, *Cahiers de l'Art Sacré*, and *La Maison Dieu*, the quarterly organ of the Centre de Pastorale Liturgique (250 francs for a year's subscription). From the same source come two new series of books, *Lex Orandi* and *La Clarté-Dieu*. A detailed survey of these encouraging signs from France will appear in an early number of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT.

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