

the case) for people without any previous knowledge of Latin, we find the grammatical explanations somewhat confusing and cumbersome. English derivations of the Latin words are given, but the introduction of such English words 'dolose' (wily) and 'tristful' (sad) on p.8 and 'mortician' on p.56, even with an explanation, is surely pointless in a book of this kind, and the reference on p.10 to 'Lux (the flakes that make clothes light)' would have been better omitted. Tables of declension and conjugation are given at the end of the book, together with a fairly complete vocabulary. The book's chief merit is that the reader is throughout made to feel that learning Church Latin is easy, and that the student will meet no difficulty which cannot be overcome. The price of 8s. 6d. is excessive, even for war-time.

K.P.

**SURVIVAL TILL SEVENTEEN.** By Leonard Feeney. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

Fr. Feeney's express purpose in this quasi-autobiography is 'to offer some of the experiences of my early childhood for clinical examination by those capable of appraising such things scientifically.' Those who are familiar with his *Fish on Friday* and *You'd Better Come Quietly* will not be surprised to find these experiences oddly chosen and whimsically related; and their scientific appraisal is convincingly set forth by the author, despite his own modest disclaimer. In truth the account of his *Survival Till Seventeen* years of life have passed proves to be largely a series of delightful pegs upon which to hang sundry important results of a vivid insight into the eternal verities. His vignettes of his noise-loving, hospitable father and his lovely young mother, of Mr. Wigglesworth, the local store-keeper, of Wing Lee, the solitary laundryman, of schoolgirl Alicia and the incident of the inkwell, of the Imagination Guy, all are delightfully alive. But they are not thus exquisitely drawn to attract or amuse; they are key-points in the development of a character which the reader will find remarkable and fine, and they are the introduction to some profound, though whimsically expressed, observations on life and art and mysticism.

H. J. CARPENTER, O.P.