

NOTICES

VERSES FROM ST AUGUSTINE by John Searle (Oxford University Press, 6s.) has for a sub-title 'Specimens from a Rich Mine', and the translator's felicitous renderings make it a just one. Some of these verses first appeared in BLACKFRIARS, and readers will be glad to find them assembled in this elegant book. An example of Mr Searle's skill is this:

'Better to lash with words and then forgive,
Than smile and smile but let deep hatred live'.

THE CONFESSIONS OF ST AUGUSTINE appear in yet another English translation, this time by Vernon J. Bourke (New York, Fathers of the Church, Inc.). Its principal merit is that it contains much fuller notes than are to be found in the usual translation, and as a version it is accurate and serviceable, though scarcely inspired.

THE WELFARE STATE by D. L. Hobman (John Murray, 7s. 6d.) is a useful survey of the origins and scope of the social revolution which has so affected our national life. The quick judgments that are made about the social services are not always based on much knowledge of their purpose or their methods, and Mr Hobman's clear summary should be valuable as a corrective to hasty generalization.

THE LEGACY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD by W. G. de Burgh (Pelican Books; two volumes, 2s. 6d. each) has long since established itself as a standard account of what Western civilization owes to the tradition of Israel, Greece and Rome. At a time when Christian culture faces new crises, the appearance of Professor de Burgh's great work in this form is especially welcome, and Penguin Books have given fresh proof of their responsibility in influencing popular opinion.

BLESSED ARE THEY by Frank Baker (9s. 6d.) is the first English publication of the Society of St Paul, and this collection of short stories based on the eight beatitudes (conceived within the context of modern life) should do much to show how relevant the fundamental teaching of Christianity is to the problems of our own times. Mr Baker writes easily, and his gift of sympathetic characterization will persuade those who may be disinclined to read more overtly 'spiritual' books than his. The illustrations are weak and unnecessary.