

thor's argument. It is a pity that the style and manner are not on the same level as the matter.

G.V.

THE PATH TO RECONSTRUCTION. A brief introduction to Albert Schweitzer's philosophy of civilisation. By Mrs. Charles E. B. Russell. (A. and C. Black; 3s. 6d.)

Mrs. Russell has set herself to give ordinary people some idea of the life and teaching of Albert Schweitzer. She herself worked with him in Africa, and is therefore particularly qualified to speak of one of the most remarkable men alive to-day. She writes with understandable enthusiasm, and though she modestly disclaims any competence in philosophy, comparison with her sources will show that the work has been well done. Perhaps the outstanding quality in Schweitzer is courage: courage to translate conviction into action at whatever cost, courage to face with scrupulous honesty the full implications of the truth as he sees it. The truth as he sees it is bleak, and the philosophic basis for reconstruction which he offers is inevitably disappointing to those who see differently. But his respect for personality, his stress on the necessity of thought, his diagnosis of the ills of our civilisation, show striking agreement with the thought of men of widely differing theological schools. The chapter in this book called 'The Decline of Civilisation' would by itself make its publication worth while. There is that unhappily rare accompaniment to a popular book, a good bibliography, and three photographs taken by the author.

A. E. H. SWINSTEAD.

## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

*To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS.*

DEAR SIR,—There is a deal of difference between the gift of compunction, for which Miss Graef appeals, and the vice of self-centredness, which Miss Underhill condemns.

Yours, etc.,

GERARD MEATH, O.P.