

PATROLOGY. Vol. II: THE ANTE-NICENE LITERATURE AFTER IRENAEUS.

By Johannes Quasten. (Spectrum Publishers, Utrecht.)

The second volume of this important new patrology continues the carefully planned work of the first. It is divided into five regional sections, the Alexandrians, the writers of Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine, the Africans, and a final brief chapter on Victorinus of Pettau and Reticus of Autun. The lion's share—almost one hundred pages out of four hundred—is given to Tertullian in chapter four, about sixty to Origen in chapter one, while Clement of Alexandria, Hippolytus and Cyprian are the next most fully treated. It is inevitable with a group of writers of this stature that specialists will find points to question, and perhaps Origen in particular suffers somewhat from an approach which, while balanced and fair, cannot be expected to aim at subtlety. It will be recalled that the policy in this patrology has been to give straight-forward expositions, first of what is known of the life of each writer, then to discuss the text of his writing, listing editions and translations, and finally to give a short analysis of each work, employing where possible quotations from the original. The book is thus well-adapted to the needs of those who are meeting these writers for the first time. But each of the foregoing divisions is followed by an ample bibliography of full-length studies and of articles from the more serious journals, so that as an up-to-date book of reference for advanced students it is equally invaluable. The beautiful printing and layout of the volume and its excellent indices make it a pleasure to use. Indeed, when one considers the lucidity of its exposition and the learning of its apparatus, it is difficult to imagine how a book of this kind could go further in simplifying the ever-increasing complexity of modern study. At the same time, one cannot help being a little envious of medieval monks and scholars who could feel themselves free to read the Fathers, even in unsatisfactory editions, without being distracted by the temptation to read so many books about them.

AELRED SQUIRE, O.P.

SELECTED POEMS. By Walter de la Mare. Chosen by R. N. Green-Armytage. (Faber and Faber; 7s. 6d.)

Besides the earlier verse, this selection offers a fair choice of the poetry published by Mr de la Mare since the collected poems in 1942, and the long poem *The Traveller* (1946), given in full, illustrates an aspect of the poet's mind which, always present below the innocent surfaces of his thought, 'on fire to bless the daybreak', has found in his last years a more insistent and serious expression. It is as though a second self, an abstracted and revengeful intelligence, had lured him into a lost and arid land,