

CARDINAL WISEMAN. By Denis Gwynn. (Browne and Nolan; 15s.)

The hierarchy centenary celebrations provide an opportune moment for the republishing of Dr Gwynn's *Cardinal Wiseman*. The book however is much more than a new edition, for it has not only been very carefully revised and added to, but almost entirely re-written. Dr Ward's monumental life of the great Cardinal has long been out of print, as Professor Gwynn reminds us, but even if it were not so it would probably be to our author and not to Ward that the majority of readers would go for their knowledge of Wiseman. Professor Gwynn points out that the Cardinal, whom all once saluted as the 'chief organiser of the modern Catholic revival in England', has been largely forgotten in comparison with the other leading figures in that movement, Manning, Newman, and Ullathorne, but he cites the words of Abbot Butler, in his closing chapter of Ullathorne's biography—'Wiseman, in his successful achievement of a great life-work, surpassed them all'—to support him in claiming the original estimate of the Cardinal as the true one. Whilst paying full tribute to the Cardinal's excellent qualities, he does not deny his failings, but by stressing none of these unduly has added balance and strength to his excellent book. The publishers have done their work well, for the volume is excellently produced, with several fine plates. The paper wrapper has an elegantly executed blazon of the Cardinal's arms which, unless I am mistaken, are also those of the Essex Wisemans.

W.G.

THE DAWN OF PHILOSOPHY. A Philosophical Primer by Georg Misch, edited in English by R. F. C. Hull. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 25s.)

It is becoming increasingly clear that it is impossible to make any adequate study of philosophy without taking account of Chinese and Indian thought. The chief texts of this tradition are now available in good translations, and the general lines of their interpretation have been laid down by writers like René Guénon and Coomaraswamy. The present work is a most valuable study of the origin of philosophy in India, China and Greece, based on a careful examination of the earliest texts. The philosophical tradition in India is traced back to its beginnings in the later songs of the Rig-Veda; its development is shown in the earlier Upanishads. The origin of Chinese thought is revealed in the Book of Songs (Shih-ching) and the Book of Changes (I-ching), which were the sources of much of the thought of Confucius. The Indian approach to philosophy from the point of view of the subject and the Chinese approach from the point of view of the community, is then compared with the Greek approach from the Physical Universe, particularly in Parmenides and Heraclitus, by means of a

study of the 'Primordial Words', Brahma, Tao and Logos. An attempt is made at the end to relate this to the Christian traditions in Eckart and Nicholas of Cusa, as also to Spinoza and Hegel. This is a study based on the earliest texts of precisely the kind which is most needed: but we still need someone to bring all this material into the proper relation with Christian and particularly Thomist thought.

D.B.G.

ESSAI SUR DIEU, L'HOMME ET L'UNIVERS. Publié sous la direction et avec une introduction de Jacques de Bivort de la Saudée. (Casterman; n.p.)

There is an enviable quality about the Christian apologetic now coming from France. This is not only due to superior scholarship and ability—and this book is an outstanding example of both—but to the relative simplicity of the problems to be faced. Here in England we have aggressive secularists in plenty, but there is some common ground (though it is rapidly diminishing) with other Christian bodies; in France the issue between Catholicism and its antithesis, Marxian Communism, holds the field—a diametrical opposition which the clarity of the French mind illuminates in its full force. There is perhaps no better exposition and critique of Communist materialism than the first and last chapters of this work: the one by Professor Albert Dondeyne of Louvain, the other by Professor Gustave-André Wetter of the Oriental Institute in Rome. No less valuable, alike in matter and manner, are the anthropological studies of Professors Antonio Romana, G. Vandebroek, Félix Rutschkamp and Joseph Ternus; here are expert essays in the much-needed work of linking the established findings of science with what revelation teaches concerning the origin of the world and the first appearance of man. Père de Lubac has a characteristically able account of what is known about the origin of religion; that of Père Huby, 'Le Christianisme primitif dans son cadre historique', is a model of compressed exposition based directly on original sources. What adds to the usefulness of the book—as an aid to the teacher and the study-circles for which it will be found invaluable—is the concluding series of examination questions covering the material of each chapter. It is seldom that one traverses five hundred pages which merit such unreserved praise.

A.G.

THE EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT AND INFLUENCE OF MATTHEW ARNOLD.

By W. F. Connell. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 21s.)

Although Matthew Arnold has been revered as an educational pioneer, there had never been a full-length study of him in English, as educationist, until this new book by a distinguished Australian scholar.