

God's free gift, not man's desert, it yet works a veritable renewal in the soul.

St John's teaching on grace is dealt with clearly but too briefly. The Word of God, imparting to men the life and light which flow from God's prevenient love, accomplishes the work of redemption and revelation. Men, thus become children of God, begotten of God, must respond by faith and a return of love. These leading ideas are developed in two short chapters. There is little attempt to correlate the teaching of St John with that of St Paul; none to synthesise the two. St John is almost a mere pendant to St Paul. The author indeed insists that St John has lived in the intimacy of our Lord, that his picture of Christ is extraordinarily concrete; but he realises perhaps too little that St John's doctrine, developed though it is by life-long meditation, must really be placed, as P. Rondet has recently pointed out (*Gratia Christi*, Paris, 1948, p. 43), before that of St Paul, that it takes us back to the source of Christian revelation and we hear Christ speaking by the mouth of the beloved disciple. One may hope that Père Denis, with his gift of clear and concise expression, will give us a fuller account of the theology of St John.

DOM J. HIGGENS

ST ATHANASIUS ON THE PSALMS. A Letter to a Friend. Rendered for the first time into English by a Religious of C.S.M.V. (Wantage). (Mowbrays; 1s. 6d.)

The word 'gem' has lost its charm but we may be forgiven once in a life-time for saying that this little treatise of St Athanasius is a gem of spiritual literature. It falls into three main divisions: the psalms as uttering the sentiments of Christ or speaking of him; the psalms as the expressions of our own needs and sentiments; and thirdly, a brief and very telling epilogue on singing the psalms.

The translation is excellent, free, but where we have tested it, accurate. The publishers and the translator (an Anglican nun of Wantage) are to be congratulated for making available in this attractive booklet a first class example of the ancient Christian interpretation of the psalms.

J. D. C.

WHAT JESUS SAW FROM THE CROSS. By A. D. Sertillanges. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 8s. 6d.)

A new edition of Fr Sertillanges' scholarly meditations comes at an appropriate moment when many eyes are already turned to the Holy Land, and after reading much of Israeli, Transjordan and other political views it is reassuring to share the outlook of Christ upon the land of contradiction. Fr Sertillanges possesses the deep learning which clothes the bones of history in flesh and sets before our eyes three-dimensional figures such as can make our prayer live. An excellent Lent book and a book for every day's prayer.

G. A. M.