

REVIEWS

precocious by a vivid realisation of the things of heaven, but rather more lovable and more typically a child. Holiness did not prevent her from encouraging her little brother and sister to indulge in protracted sniffs at a pungent cheese as a mortification.

The description of Anne's last days and brave death at the age of eleven is well worth reading even for itself : but altogether the book is a very pleasing account of a little girl who would have been remarkable in any case, but who in her loyal response to the urgings of grace was made quite fascinating.

P.H.K.

SELF-ABANDONMENT TO DIVINE PROVIDENCE. By Father J. P. de Caussade, S.J. A new translation by Algar Thorold. With an Introduction by Dom David Knowles, monk of Downside. (Burns Oates & Washbourne, 1933; 5/-.)

A thoroughly beneficent piece of spiritual instruction, excellently translated and with a masterly introduction. If such spiritual books, offering us a simple method of attaining perfection—'sanctity without tears'—often raise false hopes; and if their authors, in the claims which they make for their own special method, often assume the very style and language of the vendors of patent medicines : no such complaints can justly be made against a book which asks of us nothing but that very simple and very fundamental thing, a genuine acceptance of the Will of God. Father de Caussade has unction and persuasiveness; his book ought to do a world of good.

Dom David Knowles, in the Introduction, connects the teaching of the author with the teaching of the Salesian and Carmelite schools. We should like to suggest as a possibility a further source in the book of that Capuchin writer, Fr. Benet Fitch, whom Bremond regards as of first rate importance in the history of French mysticism. The very title of his book is suggestive : *The Rule of Perfection, containing a brief and perspicuous abridgement of all the whole spirituall life, reduced to this only point of the Will of God.* And nothing could be happier than his motto from the twenty-ninth psalm : *Vita in voluntate eius.*

J.M.

IS CHRISTIANITY TRUE? A Discussion between Arnold Lunn and C. E. M. Joad. (London : Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1933; pp. 368; 7/6.)

Hard and good-tempered controversy between a rationalist and a mystic—a distinction here only of emphasis, for elsewhere Mr. Joad is also a philosopher. Most of the country has been fought over before, but never with such exciting move and