

We are reminded about the conflict of non-Catholic opinions about the author: that it was written by a Greek thinker for Greeks, and marks the hellenization of the Christian faith; that on the contrary the gospel is thoroughly Jewish and Palestinian in tone; that it is historical and written by an eye-witness of the events; that it is purely imaginary and symbolical in character and written long after St John's death; and so on *ad infinitum*. The author ends the discussion, very unsatisfactorily, by adding to the confusion in offering his own hypothesis, for which he admits that he can furnish no proofs, namely that the Apocalypse, the three Epistles and the Gospel of St John were none of them written by the apostle but by his disciples somewhere between A.D. 90 and 140. Introductions should always be read last!

R.G.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPELS. Edited by D. E. Nineham. (Blackwell; 60s.)

A heterogeneous collection of essays written by former pupils and admirers of the late R. H. Lightfoot, the biblical scholar who died in 1953. It consists of an introductory memoir of Lightfoot and a dozen essays ranging over the whole field of Gospel study, but with no common theme or argument. What witnesses to the widespread admiration and influence of the man in whose memory these studies were written is the fact that their authors are representative of so many centres of learning—Oxford, Cambridge, London, Manchester, Birmingham, and Aberdeen Universities. The source of this admiration and influence may perhaps be seen in the intimate description given of him in the memoir—a shy, reticent and diffident scholar, but very painstaking and sincere, who strangely enough became convinced that he had an important contribution to make to the world of biblical scholarship. This conviction sprang from his discovery of the German school of Gospel interpretation known as the *Formgeschichte* or form-critical school. Lightfoot strove to popularize the conclusions of these scholars in his Bampton lectures of 1934, later published in his *History and Interpretation of the Gospels*.

R.G.

ISLAM: Essays in the Nature and Growth of a Cultural Tradition.
By G. E. von Grunebaum. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 21s.).

This book is introduced to us in a foreword by Robert Redfield and Milton Singer—presumably colleagues of Mr Grunebaum on the teaching staff of the University of Chicago. They inform us, rather cryptically, that it appears 'under anthropological auspices', not elsewhere apparent, since it reveals few, if any, traces of any real approximation to the outlook of the social scientist or the cultural anthro-