

writings, modern literary epics, legends and traditions, treatises on theology, mythology, astronomy and astrology, Spanish literature in general—is carefully assessed. In many instances, the most that is claimed is a high degree of probability: with regard to a number of specific works and authors, Hojeda's indebtedness is clearly established. This monograph undoubtedly contributes to a fuller appreciation of the religious 'epic' of the Counter-Reformation.

RICHARD J. A. KERR

THE PLATONIC RENAISSANCE IN ENGLAND. By Ernst Cassirer; translated by James P. Pettegrove. (Nelson; 15s.)

It is always stimulating to see wide erudition brought to bear on a limited theme, and this short work of the late Professor Cassirer is no exception. He is concerned with the Cambridge Platonists not as mystics but as philosophers; for him their origin is not Plato or Plotinus but the Platonism of the Florentine Academy, and their importance lies not so much in their ideas but in their attitude, their philosophy of religion. His account of their conflict with rising empiricism and puritanism, and the alliance of these, at first sight, so discordant movements against them, is particularly interesting. The breadth of his mind enables him to set them in the context of historical development and show the unsuspected influence they exerted on later philosophy, principally through Shaftesbury; he seems, however, to treat Utopia too much on its face value, and, missing its satirical character, to attribute its opinions too definitely to its author.

B. W.

NOTICES

THE CHARTERHOUSE, by David Knowles and W. F. Grimes (Longmans; 25s.), is a work of happy collaboration in which Professor Knowles relates the history of the monastery and subsequent school, whilst Mr Grimes tells the story of the excavations made on the site after the buildings had been all but totally demolished in the air-bombardment of 1941. Other scholars have contributed to the appendices and provided interesting data on a leaden coffin containing remains which 'with all reasonable certainty are those of Sir Walter de Manny'. Profusely illustrated, the volume contains many photographs, plates and sketches of the original buildings, together with eight plans.