

tion to the Letters. She uses their writings to recreate their life. And those unlearned in Greek should refrain from 'On not knowing Greek.' They would have to begin at once.

THE BENEDICTINES. By Dom David Knowles. (Sheed & Ward, 2/6 net.)

A volume in the 'Many Mansions' series of concise and popular monographs on the principal Religious Orders. In the book before us Dom David Knowles sets forth in an able manner the essential spirit of Benedictinism and discusses its varied manifestations. It is an attractive account of the Benedictine ideal by one who has that ideal very much at heart, and we recommend very cordially Dom David's interesting pages of lucid exposition and candid self-criticism. J.M.

THE IDEA OF VALUE. By John Laird, M.A., Regius Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Aberdeen. (Cambridge: at the University Press; 18/-.)

It has been said that philosophy is but a toilsome and pedantic way of discovering what common sense always takes for granted. In so far as it is the function of philosophy to give rational and scientific justification to our intuitions the taunt is a truism. It is for this reason that a philosophy which fails to fulfil this function and which concludes in fantastic paradox will ever have more attraction as mental entertainment than the traditional philosophy of common-sense. But when the commonplace has disappeared in the litter heaped up by sophistication, the thinker who attempts to extricate and expose the obvious deserves our gratitude. And there is a certain pleasure in the re-discovery of even the most trite when it has been lost and forgotten.

'If the present volume,' Professor Laird concludes, 'clears a little rubbish away and does not add much more, it will have amply fulfilled its purpose.' Any effort to give some definite significance to the confused concept of value deserves all attention. A cursory reading of this difficult book might suggest that if Professor Laird has cleared away much rubbish, he himself has somewhat smothered the main issue with irrelevances. It is probable that a closer study would do much to modify this criticism; but despite the clarity of much of the detail and the crisp definiteness of the style, the trend of the argument is often hard to follow. But it is clear that Professor Laird has some very important things to say; and although, at the end of it all, we are only put on the road 'towards a conclusion,' it is