

REVIEWS

It is, nevertheless, a precious anthology which occasions these reflections. With its ideological classification of unfamiliar verse, much of which is of exquisite beauty, it may well prove to the ordinary rational animal a more illuminating guide to Parnassus than more conventional collections selected by more strictly poetic standards. Mr. Huxley reveals himself throughout as a competent, sometimes as a profound and wise, exegete. Though we are constrained often enough to reject his guidance on the 'art of living,' we are forced to acknowledge that, besides a 'modern paganism' which is crude and degrading, there is one which is noble and which compels our attention and admiration.

V.W.

THE MODERN DILEMMA. By Christopher Dawson. (Essays in Order, 8. Sheed & Ward; pp. 113; 2/6.)

Can the civilization of modern Europe remain faithful to its traditions, or must we scrap them as worn-out and valueless and start a new era of materialist civilization on purely economic principles? Mr. Dawson examines the modern dilemma with his wonted address in this short essay, and argues cogently that the solution of the problem in all its aspects, moral, scientific, political, lies neither in a revolutionary discarding of the past nor in a reactionary return to the past, but in the re-establishment of religious unity; the re-assertion of the principles of the spiritual order, in a religion not individualistic but social, 'embodied in a real society, not an imaginary or invisible one . . . an independent and universal society, not a national or local one,' the society of the Catholic Church, which, because it 'transcends political and economic categories and is indifferent to material results . . . has the power of satisfying the need of the world.' Mr. Dawson will not be a pessimist, and the conclusion of his essay is exhilarating reading.

L.S.G.V.

L'ETAT: CONCEPTION PAIENNE ET CONCEPTION CHRETIENNE.
By E. Magnin. (Paris: Bloud et Gay; pp. 163.)

State Absolutism is more than a danger. But affairs in England are not yet at the worst and vigorous minority