

boys of all classes which will not exist in their social outlook and habits.' Much remains to be done in ridding ourselves of complacency, and first principles in the matter of education are not as yet staled by familiarity. To take one point only—St. Thomas says briefly: *A patre filii accipere debent non solum esse per generationem sed disciplinam per instructionem.* What does that mean for us to-day? Is it not usually held that a Catholic father sufficiently does his duty if he chooses this school rather than that to educate his sons—in so far as politics and economics still permit any choice? And is this merely doctrinal development?

W.S.

THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE. Studies in Modern French Literature. By Wallace Fowlie. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.).

DE VILLON A PEGUY. By Wallace Fowlie. (L'Arbre, Montreal.).

A book like 'The Spirit of France' really does more harm than good. The title is promising, the subject is promising, the publisher's blurb is more than promising: the latter might be about a different book altogether, for it gives special mention to Léon Bloy whom the author does not mention at all. The book reads like a verbal translation of a jerky, hop-skip-and-jump conversation between a group of slick young Frenchmen rather impressed with their own cleverness. It contains information, but leaves no mark on the memory but irritation.

The French book has an endearing preface by Henri Focillon, and a disarming dedication in which the author's love of France is simply told. In these sentiments I am wholly with him. His French is very good indeed, not perfect: the effect is somewhat childish. It is a little surprising to learn that Péguy, the militant dreyfusiste, was 'exempt from political cares' until 1905. Good intentions are not a substitute for verification of facts, and approximations invalidate the good intentions and leave us unconvinced. What a pity.

R.B.

IRISHMAN'S DAY. By John Boland, M.P., South Kerry, 1900—1918. (Macdonald; 5s.).

This is a book which will be valuable in years to come. It is valuable now, for many of us will recall, if only from our newspapers, the persons and things which made news and history in our ears if not under our eyes. Newspaper-cuttings, Hansard, and several books more human still are used, the author tells us, as the hard bones of an interesting disquisition on Parliament and its manners, customs and daily business, witnessed at first hand by a Chief Whip of the Irish Party and filtered through a humane and temperate mind somewhat resembling the special calm of Maurice Baring. Front Bench manners seem admirably to disinfect the record from partisanship and give it the impartial tone of a good historian.