

Beauty's footprints and one is content to leave Beauty as nebulous as the Abominable Snowman. One does not know the extent of Mr Newton's influence as Editor, but the choice of authors and the whole presentation of the volumes reflect great credit. There is the right choice, from among the artists' work, of familiar and unfamiliar paintings, and the essays on the painters succeed, on the whole, in maintaining a position between the forbidding specialist tone and the over-simplified popular approach.

But as for Beauty, painting is one art and writing another. Whatever painters know about Beauty they paint.

PAUL HARRIS.

ST TERESA OF LISIEUX. Frances Parkinson Keyes. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 12s. 6d.)

This interpretation of the life of St Teresa is intended, to use the writer's own words, 'for those who, like myself, are only average women'. It was first written and published under the title 'Written in Heaven', before her own reception into the Church, and a long introduction describes the circumstances surrounding the writing of it at the Benedictine Abbey where the saint went to school, the subsequent fate of the nuns, and the reasons for writing this second slightly expanded version. It is very much a woman's book; for, of the three parts into which the narrative is divided, the longest is that devoted to her childhood and schooldays, and this is largely taken up with descriptions of rooms, furniture, dresses, toys, and so on; two pages and a reproduction are spent on the moments of her First Communion. Much of this is unnecessary and uncritical. The same must unfortunately be said of the presentation of the saint's character as a child; no hint is given of any fault, all is told in terms of a fairy-tale perfection, the heroine complete with golden locks. It may be attractive, but the impression it leaves is not of a real person. Luckily, the second part, that devoted to her life in Carmel and her death, is more sober, and the figure presented proportionately more convincing. As might be expected from so successful a novelist, the writing is very competent, and the book very easy to read: it has also been approved by the Carmel of Lisieux.

B.W.