

is found only in the historic revelation of Christ, in a historical event in time by which man is reunited to God, the holy one; not to an abstract principle or idea but to a person.

Dr Brunner is surely right in drawing our attention to the fundamental themes of Christian doctrine, to the basic truth that man exists before God as one in need of redemption, for whom the Cross is a sign of life and the source of power. For this is (and how difficult it is for us to realise it other than as a merely mental interpretation) what is real, what our life is about, what gives it significance.

IAN HISLOP, O.P.

THE LETTERS OF ST ANTHANASIOS CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT.
Translated with Introduction and Notes by C. R. B. Shapland.
(Eppworth Press; 25s.)

ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM'S LECTURES ON THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENTS.
Edited by Frank Leslie Cross. (S.P.C.K.; 12s. 6d.)

These two volumes are another sign of the growing interest in patristic thought among Christians in Britain. The letters of St Athanasius to Serapion appeared recently in the French series, *Sources Chrétiennes*, but this is the first English translation of what has long been recognised as a most important theological text. Mr Shapland's work is so careful that, in spite of the reasons he offers in explanation of the omission, it will be regretted that a Greek text is not given with the translation. But all theologians will be grateful for his introduction, and the ample notes which almost eclipse the text.

Mr Shapland's work is for scholars only, but Professor Cross's edition of the *Procatechesis* and the five *Mystagogical Catecheses* should reach a wider public, although primarily intended to meet the needs of the Theological Faculty at Oxford. An excellent introduction prefaces the Greek text, which is followed by the English translation prepared by Church for the Oxford *Library of the Fathers*. The lectures were given by St Cyril about the middle of the fourth century. The first was addressed to catechumens, the other five to the newly-baptised. They treat mainly of Baptism and the Eucharist and constitute one of the most important texts in the history of the liturgy. Their interest is not only historical. Brief though they are—forty pages of English text—they are packed with food for meditation.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.