AN INTRODUCTION TO ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN. By Rev. H. P. V. Nunn, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge. Author of *The Elements of New Testament Greek*, *A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge University Press, 1922. Pp. xiii+162. 6s. net.

There are cheering indications that the serious study of Later Latin is growing considerably, and there was room for an English work which would give a clear and full presentation of the Syntax of the later language. This Mr. Nunn has attempted to provide; his book contains first, "a summary of such syntactical rules as are necessary for the understanding of the works" of the ecclesiastical writers, and, secondly, a selection of passages from Perpetua, Cyprian, Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine, Bede, Adamnan, Thomas Aquinas, and Thomas à Kempis. Mr. Nunn's works for late beginners in N. T. Greek have been of such service that he might have been the very one to do a similar service to beginners in ecclesiastical Latin, had he waited until he was more fully informed and better read in it. In general method and in detail this present work contains very much that is unsatisfactory. It is hardly fair to blame the exclusiveness of the Ciceronians and at the same time to adopt a similar attitude towards the pagan contemporaries of the Latin Fathers; ecclesiastical Latin is not to be sundered so entirely from later pagan Latin: a linguistic commentator on, say, Augustine or the Latin Bible cannot afford to leave his Apuleius unread.* Nor, again, does it seem wise to include both Patristic and Scholastic under the one rubric; the Angelic Doctor and the author of the *Imitatio* present difficulties and peculiarities of their own.

Mr. Nunn's pages on syntax might better have followed the graphically clear method of the Parallel Grammar series: his distinctions between classical and ecclesiastical Latin are not seldom inaccurate, often nebulous, and almost always bewildering till one studies his examples. That these examples are taken from the Vulgate N. T. seems rather strange after the naïve statement (p. ix), that "it is not to be assumed . . . that the Vulgate is to be regarded as typical of ecclesiastical Latin." Why not rather have given us simply a study of Vulgate syntax such as is now in preparation for the S.P.C.K.?

This book is unfortunately unsuited for the purpose intended: it is far from clear; it is uninformed or misinformed; in details it shows clearly a "prentice hand." The bibliography is meagre; English scholars like J. E. B. Mayor and Prof. Souter are not mentioned. Facing the title-page and on pp. 126-127, passages from Jerome's *Epistulae* are taken from old and uncritical editions; the former is susceptible of eight corrections by the Vienna text, the latter (forty-three lines) of twenty-three. And on the title-page is perpetrated *Nepontianum*!

Misprints are few (*e.g.*, p. 3, note 2, read *du*), and care has evidently been given in writing and correction, which makes it all the more regrettable that Mr. Nunn has not given us what would have been a real and valuable acquisition to later Latin studies.

J. H. BAXTER.

THE EARLY FRANCISCANS AND JESUITS. A Study in Contrasts. By Arthur S. B. Freer, M.A. S.P.C.K. 6s.

It is very important to keep alive the interest in Franciscan study which, since the publication of M. Paul Sabatier's *Life*, has steadily

* Though Mr. Nunn does quote Apuleius at least once (p. 52).