

towards the inculcation of humility (p. 206). As such, it is also thoroughly in keeping with the apophatic recognition that God is not known by cognition but on the way of humility.

Van Geest's study of the apophatic tenor of Augustine's writings thoroughly succeeds in redressing the assumption that his robust and clear development of doctrine necessarily implies a robust and clear knowledge of God from which it follows that God is perfectly humanly comprehensible. What I have suggested above are various ways in which van Geest's interpretation of Augustine might be pursued further – and I hope will be – in future monographs.

Susannah TICCITI

Short Notices

Jason David BeDuhn, *Augustine's Manichaean Dilemma, I: Conversion and Apostasy, 373-388 C.E.*, Divinations. Rereading Late Ancient Religion, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2009, ISBN 978-0-8122-4210-2, 408 p.

Jason BeDuhn plans to describe Augustine's lifelong entanglement with Manichaeism in a three-volume series of monographs under the title *Augustine's Manichaean Dilemma*. BeDuhn sets out to show that Augustine's life and thinking from the point of view of his dealings with the Manichaean doctrine is not a history of sudden changes or ruptures, but is on the contrary continuous, as a process of a lifelong conversion. The first volume studies the episode of Augustine's first contact with, adherence to, disappointment and gradual rupture with Manichaeism, and his subsequent conversion to Catholic/Nicene Christianity, more or less the period of his life described in his *Confessiones*. BeDuhn attempts to historical-critically reconstruct this period in Augustine's Manichaean involvement, making abstraction of Augustine's later – somewhat ideologically coloured – account of it. As such, *conuersio* – the way in which Augustine understood and experienced this – is a central focus of research in this monograph. BeDuhn has made an elaborate and well substantiated beginning of an intriguing aspect of Augustine's life, proving that he not only knows both the sources and the scientific research of them but also that he is a didactic and compelling narrator.

Anthony DUPONT