Labour troubles and disputes were not unknown. The plasterers complained that 'the Bricklayers doe daylie practize and exercise the proper and peculiar labor and workes belonging to the said Plaisterers'. The coal-miners had been committing 'many wronges and abuses in his Majestie's coleworkes at Harraton', Durham, and a commissioner was sent down 'for the better ordering and reformation of the said workes', including the fixing of 'such indifferent rates of wages to keelemen, labourers and others, as is usual in other coleworkes'. The 'poore craftesmen' of Wiltshire, 'for the most parte weavers and belonging unto the mistery of cloathing', complain 'on the small wadges gyven them by the clothier, being no more then what was accustomed to be payde 40 yeres past, notwithstanding that the prises of all kind of victuall are almost doubled from what they were'.

The Lord Mayor of London is enjoined to take 'steps for the comon supplie of the markettes and keeping the prices at reasonable rates'. The sale of beer, the regulation of beer-houses, and the 'suppressing of drunkardes', are the subject of stringent orders; publicans are not to 'sell any beere or ale out of their howses, nor in their howses by way of tipling without meate'; unlawful tipling houses are 'seminaries of sinne and wickednesse, and for the most part inhabited with lewde and dissolute people'. On the other hand, the Lord Mayor complained of the brewers 'in making of stronger beere and aale then is allowed by the lawe, (whereby) the prizes of corne and meale are so dayly raysed in the markettes, as a greate and extraordinary dearth is to be feared, except some speedy order and remedy be therein taken'.

Here is a point of difference, for the present-day complaints about beer are not in connexion with its excessive strength. Another point of contrast is that in 1613 the harvest was a poor one 'through the wettt wheather, which continued a longe tyme together'.

There are many entries concerning maimed and disabled soldiers. There was no system of national pensions, but each county raised a fund, which was managed by the local justices of the peace.

There was much disturbance in Ireland. The Irish Parliament had a 'knottie begininge, occasioned by the difference which fell out upon the choyce of a Speaker'. The king assures Lord Chichester, the lord deputy, that 'there is noe other thinge aymed at then the generall good and peace of that state'. Notwithstanding these friendly assurances, 'such as were elected Maiors and other head officers in the cities and corporacions in the kingdome of Ireland' refuse to take the oath of allegiance.

There are many interesting notes on trade, both home and foreign, navigation, topography, etc., but space forbids any further quotations. A most fascinating volume.

W. PALEY BAILDON.

Flint Pleas, 1283-1285. Edited by J. GORONWY EDWARDS, M.A., Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, formerly Roscoe Scholar of the University of Manchester. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$; pp. lxxix + 76. Flintshire Historical Society Publications, vol. 8. 15s.

The Plea Roll here printed covers a little over two years, from November 1283 to January 1285, and is the earliest known document

of its kind. The cases are partly criminal and partly civil, but, as the editor points out, its interest is largely political, very numerous cases arising out of the Welsh rebellion in 1282 and the attack on Hawarden Castle on Palm Sunday by Llywelyn's brother David. Flint and Rhuddlan Castles were also besieged. A considerable number of Englishmen were killed, but apparently there was no wholesale slaughter. The plundering, however, was very thorough; no form of movable property came amiss: live stock, grain, household and farm implements, lead, money, clothes, jewels, wine, and every available form of merchandise, were carried off. One is tempted to suggest that the uncomplimentary ballad about a certain 'Taffy' may date from this raid. The political crimes seem to have been tried with scrupulous fairness and resulted in a large number of acquittals.

The introduction gives a detailed account of early legal principles, institutions, and procedure, clearly and accurately stated, with occasional touches of humour, which make excellent reading. For instance, we are told of the difficulties that must have beset the clerk of the court in making his record in Latin. 'The Court was not talking Latin, but English—and probably a good deal of Welsh too—and the unfortunate clerk had to take down the gist of what was being said, translating it hurriedly into Latin as he went along. Then he must often have sighed over the somewhat unclassical names of the Welsh suitors—Bleddyn and Cynfrig and Goronwy are bad enough, but who shall abide Cynddelw and Llywarch and Llygad Flaidd! The wonder is that anything gets into Latin at all; and yet most of it does—even Bleddyn and Cynfrig and Goronwy are coaxed into their togas and persuaded to fumble about the forum as *Blethinus*, *Kenewricus*, and *Gronocus*.'

The text and translation are careful and scholarly, and there is a good index. Mr. Edwards and his Society are alike to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work. W. PALEY BAILDON.

The Renaissance of Roman Architecture. By Sir THOMAS GRAHAM JACKSON. Part II. England. 9½ x 7. Pp. xii + 228. Cambridge, at the University Press. 1922. 42s.

In this handy book Sir T. G. Jackson gives a succinct account of what may be called classic architecture in England (as distinguished from Gothic) from its first tentative efforts in the time of Henry VIII down to the end of the eighteenth century. The survey is necessarily rapid, but it is sound, with a reservation subsequently to be mentioned. There is not much that is novel in it—how could there be in a compass so comparatively small?—but some of the information is fresh, notably the interesting catalogue of the household at Knole in 1613, and the tables at which they sat; and some of the illustrations are new, to the present writer at any rate, especially those of Grove House and the coloured details from Hardwick.

Sir Thomas shows how the classic manner, derived from Italy and introduced largely by Italian artists, first affected design in England, how it was confined to ornament to begin with, while the main structure was still Gothic in conception; and he illustrates the point by the well-known examples at Layer Marney, Hampton Court, Nonsuch