Dr. Hoernle has rightly incorporated in his narrative the results of Mr. Bhandarkar's researches on the Gurjara kingdom, which open up a new chapter in the history of India, and are inadequately noticed in my volume. The investigation has been carried further by Dr. Hoernle's recent articles in this *Journal*, which there has not been time to digest. I have not seen Mr. A. M. T. Jackson's earlier papers on the subject, mentioned in our last number (p. 163).

As a general criticism, I venture to think that Dr. Hoernle lays too much stress on "the assumption of the imperial titles." The title used by an ancient Rāja was determined more by his vanity than by anything else, and Mr. Bhandarkar is fully justified in the remark that "the high-sounding titles borne by kings are often found empty."

Dr. Hoernle has succeeded in compressing a wonderful amount of matter into his ninety-two small pages, and anybody who masters them will attain a satisfactory knowledge in outline of the early history of India, subject to correction in certain details, and the amount of uncertainty which is inseparable from results based upon evidence often of a very fragmentary nature.

VINCENT A. SMITH.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 600 B.C. TO THE MUHAMMADAN CONQUEST, INCLUDING THE INVASION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT. By VINCENT A. SMITH. pp. vi, 389; with 9 Plates and 6 Maps. (Oxford, 1904.)

The first scholar who attempted to compile a history of ancient India from original documents was Christian Lassen. Thirty years have now passed since the publication of the unfinished second edition of his learned work. During this period a number of antiquarians have added considerably to the materials which were available to Lassen, and Mr. Smith deserves warm thanks for carrying out his self-imposed task to draw up an up-to-date account of Hindu history. He has patiently sifted a vast mass of evidence, scattered in different monographs and periodicals, and has

condensed it into a connected summary of moderate dimensions, referring to footnotes and appendices whatever is not of immediate interest to the general reader. His style is lucid and elegant. His intimate acquaintance with modern India gives a special zest and an authoritative value to his statements and conclusions.

The only absolutely safe dates in the ancient history of India are Alexander's conquest and the reigns of the Mauryas, the Guptas, and King Harsha. These four periods are treated by Mr. Smith most fully and in a very fascinating manner. Before and between them the other early dynasties have to be accommodated, and every individual date, as Mr. Smith repeatedly reminds his readers, is more or less conjectural or dependent on other hypothetical dates. We can only hope that by some lucky discovery the initial point of the eras of Kanishka and of the Western Kshatrapas will be settled as definitely as that of the Gupta era.

Every critic of a new book is bound and entitled to find fault with some portion of it, though he may not be able himself to turn out a better version. As regards Mr. Smith's three last chapters, on mediæval history, I would recommend that in a fresh edition he will expand them considerably. Thus his account of the important Chalukya and Rāshṭrakūṭa dynasties and of their relations to and wars with other powers is far too meagre and sketchy. Of this period so many epigraphical records have been preserved and published that a detailed political history can be written, which will command general interest.

In the transliteration of Oriental words Mr. Smith follows the system hitherto used in India, and everybody will agree with his view that the use of *c* for *ch* would only puzzle the English and Indian reader, and, I may add, the Continental reader as well, unless he happens to be an Italian and the *c* is followed by an *e* or *i*. The book is illustrated by photographs of typical monuments, a plate of Indian coins, and several useful maps and plans.

Halle.

E. HULTZSCH.

February 11th, 1905.