BOOK DEPARTMENT.

REVIEWS.

Civilization During the Middle Ages, Especially in Relation to Modern Civilization. By GEORGE BURTON ADAMS. Pp. 463. Price \$2.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1894.

"The object of this book is to show how the foundations of our civilization were laid in the past and how its chief elements were introduced, and to depict its progressive development until it had assumed its most characteristic modern features." (Preface.) With this purpose in view, Professor Adams discusses "What the Middle Ages Started With," "The Addition of Christianity," and "What the Germans Added." He then follows the course of events in each of the principal countries, and intermingles essays on "The Formation of the Papacy," "The Feudal System," etc. The limits he chooses are the years 476 and 1520.

This book shows the results of wide reading and broad learning. The style is generally clear and interesting. The chapter on feudalism is the best popular account in English. The chapter on the growth of commerce is valuable. Many subjects are treated in a suggestive manner, and the facts are so grouped as to show their significance. The volume is a valuable addition to our stock of books in English and will be useful.

But it is very disappointing. From the title we expect more than we find. In a book on "Civilization During the Middle Ages" we naturally look for some account of mediæval literature, religion, science, art. No one of these is adequately treated. Professor Adams has not included the discussion of these subjects in his plan. The titles—art, architecture, religion, heresies, etc., are not found in the index.

In the second place, we expect books of this class to be useful as guides. In this respect it is a failure, because there is no bibliography, and but few references to other sources of information are furnished. An occasional suggestion emphasizes the need of more frequent citations. Certainly a reference ought to be given for the "few brief sentences" mentioned on p. 16, for the "manuals or summaries of the Roman law," p. 146, and for similar subjects elsewhere.

The workmanship is careless. In places the style is negligent, *e. g.*, sentences on pp. 186, 187, 236, 289, 311, 353, etc. There are

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loose general statements. We wonder just what the author had in mind when he wrote (p. 188): "But with the accession of William, in 1066, the state took on its final form, as had the German and the French states in the preceding century." The statements about the knowledge of Latin (pp. 8 and 24), and the contradictory utterances relative to Luther and freedom of thought (pp. 430, 431, 432, 440, 441), seem to indicate some mental confusion. Possibly the carelessness is most evident in the index. Titles are admitted or excluded in an entirely arbitrary manner. On p. 322 the duties of the three officers, baillis, sénéchals and enquêteurs are discussed; only the first is in the index. The Synod at Bourges (p. 409) is admitted; the Diet at Mainz (p. 410) is omitted. Three men are mentioned (p. 428) as having influenced Luther; Gerson is in the index, Staupitz and St. Bernard are not. A large number of similar cases will be noted by anyone who uses the book.

There are occasional mistakes. Professor Adams is evidently not familiar with Mr. H. C. Lea's discussion of the Donation of Constantine and of the Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals. He falls into error (pp. 233-34) about the dates of both and the purpose of the latter. Simony did not include lay investitures as stated at p. 243. The two subjects, although intimately connected, were treated separately. It is depressing to find that Professor Adams gravely repeats (p. 269) the stereotyped statement that the crusades ended in 1270.

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Public Assistance of the Poor in France. By EMILY GREENE BALCH. Pp. 179. Publications of the American Economic Association, Vol. VIII. Nos. 4 and 5. Price, \$1.00. Baltimore: 1893.

Miss Balch has done a good service for students of social institutions in the preparation of this short but comprehensive account of the public charities of France. The merit of the book lies not merely in its clearness, accuracy and brevity, but especially in the perfect fairness preserved in a field where party spirit and sectarian prejudices have made impartiality difficult. In this respect the present essay is in marked contrast with the report upon French Charities, by Hubert Valleroux, just published in the "Proceedings of the International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy."

As the author states, the present constitution of public assistance in France can hardly be well understood without some study of its development. The first seventy-five pages of the essay present a brief history of French charity from the ecclesiastical decrees in the time