

## Short Notices

PROFESSOR ORAZIO MARUCCHI's small volume on Christian epigraphy (*Epigrafia cristiana*. Milan: Hoepli, 1910) has been translated by Mr. Armine Willis (*Christian Epigraphy*. Cambridge: University Press, 1912), and forms an excellent introduction to the subject. Nearly every inscription of historical importance from Rome is given in full (we should have expected a fuller account of that set up under Celestine I in S. Sabina, quoted on p. 422), and many are included in the thirty plates of facsimiles at the close of the volume; and there is a good selection of typical examples taken from private monuments. Professor Marucchi does not attempt to cover the empire as a whole; but he devotes some pages to the famous inscription of Abercius. Mr. Willis's translation is both accurate and readable, but contains a few Italianisms. It is not usual to speak of the cemetery of 'Callisto'; and the *grotte Vaticane* are not described in English as 'grottoes', but as the 'crypt' of the Vatican. H. S. J.

The third edition of Dr. Carl Mirbt's *Quellen zur Geschichte des Papsttums* (Tübingen: Mohr, 1911) does not vary greatly from the second of 1901, save in the additions which the policy of Pius X has rendered necessary. Smaller type has enabled the author to limit his increase to thirty pages. The arrangement is improved here and there, and among the enrichments of the earlier part are the bull *Clericis laicos*, the prophecies of St. Malachi, and an extract from Mariana on the murder of princes. It is surely time that Pope Joan should disappear. From an English point of view the controversies between church and state in Germany since the Reformation, and especially in recent times, occupy an excessive space, and seem to indicate that one purpose of the work is to serve as an armoury for protestant debaters. This may be very useful in Southern Germany, but it injures the symmetry and the temper of a very learned and accurate volume. A.

*Two Select Bibliographies of Mediaeval Historical Study*, by Miss Margaret F. Moore (London: Constable, 1912), comprise classified lists of works relating to the study of English palaeography and diplomatic and to English manorial and agrarian history down to 1660. Both are helpful, and are manifestly the result of a careful exploration of catalogues and indexes as well as in most cases an inspection of the books themselves. For the second part the transactions of local societies have been gone through in a way that will save students a great deal of trouble. The palaeographical lists, it should have been explained, are

not—as indeed they could not be—limited to England; but if M. Chatelain's book on Tironian notes was included, the important paper by M. Maurice Jusselin in the *Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes*, lxxiii. 481-508 (1907), should have been mentioned also. Occasionally the alphabetical arrangement under authors' names leads to inconvenience: thus no. 274 in the first part is a supplement to nos. 275, 276, and no. 292 deals with the same document as no. 290. Each part has a full index; in the second we miss 'Barnwell'. B.

An interesting *Bibliographie Lorraine* (1910-11) of historical and other works which have appeared within the last few years has been issued by the *Annales de l'Est* (Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1911). C.

It is a good testimony to the practical usefulness of Andrew Wright's *Court-Hand Restored* that there should be a demand for a tenth edition of it (London: Stevens, 1912) nearly a hundred and forty years after it was first published. But in almost every edition since the first three it has more and more departed from its original purpose, which was to teach people to read definite types of writing known as court-hand; and it has become filled up with miscellaneous matter, palaeographical and glossarial, which can be found very much better elsewhere. It may have been excusable in 1879 to give 'photolithographical' facsimiles of heterogeneous documents; but when they are reissued in 1912, we perceive that the publishers are working off old stock. The editor himself, Mr. C. Trice Martin, has twice revised (though not at all sufficiently, see *cate* xxv. 804 f.) the glossary and list of Latin names of persons and places. Thus in the result we have an expensive book of which the only part specifically valuable for the worker at court-hand records is contained in Wright's original twenty plates, which might easily be published at a very low price instead of at a guinea net. D.

Professor Mentz's *Handschriften der Reformationszeit* (Bonn: Marcus & Weber, 1912) forms the fifth volume of the well-known series, *Tabulae in usum scholarum*, edited by Professor Lietzmann. It does not attempt to illustrate the handwriting of the period comprehensively; but its fifty plates, mostly containing two specimens each, are derived from the archives of Weimar, Marburg, and Nuremberg, with a few from elsewhere, and represent in the main the circle of Saxon and Hessian reformers and humanists, with the addition of some princes and statesmen. The aim of the book is practical, to provide students with specimens to work at, and to aid the researcher in the identification of unknown handwriting; and these purposes are excellently fulfilled. The reproductions are admirable, and the specimens selected are carefully deciphered in a detachable fascicle, which for the convenience of the student can be placed alongside the plates. One quarter of the specimens are Latin, and the rest German. The Latin handwritings are markedly superior, whether in the bold, spacious characters of Erasmus and Melancthon, or the neatness of Jonas and Zwingli—a superiority which cannot be entirely accounted for by the freedom with which men write in the vernacular. P. S. A.