

much compression and without relief. There is very little explanation of the relation of the facts to one another, and almost no attention is given to the constitutional development or to the influence of the economic situation at different periods. In the Valois period for instance, the student will get no conception of the work of that family of kings in building up the absolute monarchy, nor of the really important commercial influences, apart from a bare mention of Flanders, in the Hundred Years' War. It is inevitable also in a narrative so packed with facts that many statements should give no real information, like the reference to Jansenism and Pascal on page 149. The book on the whole is a good specimen of the old-fashioned text-book, but it will seem to most American teachers not exactly the sort of history they are trying to teach.

The Holy Roman Empire in German Literature. By Edwin Hermann Zeydel, Instructor in the German Language and Literature in the University of Minnesota. [Columbia University Germanic Studies.] (New York, Columbia University Press, 1918, pp. ix, 143, \$1.00.) This Columbia doctoral dissertation is a creditable, though not distinguished, piece of work. It brings together in a convenient survey a large mass of literary expressions of opinion, prevailing satirical, upon the character, policy, and achievements (or lack of achievements) of the Holy Roman Empire, from the height of the Middle Ages down to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The dissertation would have gained in unity and precision, if the author had adhered to his original intention of confining himself altogether to satirical utterances. As it is, he has included a not inconsiderable body of comment friendly to the Empire, without contrasting this sharply with the satire directed against it; and the consequence is that he not infrequently produces the effect of an antiquarian miscellany rather than a truly historical study. Exception might also be taken to the selection and arrangement of his material. In the chapters devoted to the sixteenth century, for instance, Hans Sachs, beside Fischart the foremost German writer deeply affected by the religious Reformation, is treated before the section dealing with Luther and the other reformers; Rollenhagen's *Froschmeuseler*, which appeared in 1595, precedes the discussion of Fischart, who died in 1590; while Ringwaldt's *Die lauter Wahrheit* of 1585, which contains a long lament about the sectional discord undermining the Empire, is not even mentioned. Doubt may also be expressed about the correctness of the author's judgment in not a few instances. Otto von Freising, for instance, is certainly very inadequately characterized by a quotation from his *De Duabus Civitatibus*, derogatory to the "regnum Romanorum"; for if there ever was a fervent German imperialist, it was the author of the *Gesta Friderici*. Or, to take a more recent example, the confident suggestion that Goethe, in his description of the coronation festivities of Joseph II. which he

observed as a boy in Frankfort, should have been influenced by Hans Sachs's poem on the entry of Charles V. into Nuremberg in 1541, has very little plausibility.

In spite of such blemishes and shortcomings, the little book gives ample evidence of wide reading and is to be welcomed as an instructive and useful compendium of what German writers of successive generations have thought of the unwieldy and cumbersome political body which for so many centuries served as the pretentious symbol of German unity, but which had outlived its usefulness long before it finally crumbled to pieces at the onslaught of Napoleon's armies.

KUNO FRANCKE.

The Autobiography of Phineas Pett. Edited by W. G. Perrin. [Publications of the Navy Records Society, vol. LI.] (London, the Society, 1918, pp. civ, 244.) All students of seventeenth-century English history will welcome this new and complete edition of *The Autobiography of Phineas Pett*, which Lieut.-Col. W. G. Perrin has edited for the Navy Records Society. The original manuscript is preserved among the Additional MSS. in the British Museum and was used, in an inaccurate and incomplete manner however, by Samuel Pepys, when he published Pett's record in his Miscellany. There is a poor and inaccurate copy among the Harleian MSS. Colonel Perrin has collated both, and for the first time we possess a good reliable text. The editor has modernized the spelling, inserted punctuation marks, and in places completed the sense by adding words or phrases in brackets. He has provided an excellent historical account of the rise and decay of the Royal Shipwrights, of the Pett family and of Phineas in particular, and he has added several appendixes of original documents which illustrate and develop the history of the navy during the period and of Phineas Pett's activities in connection with it as a master shipwright. The editorial work is admirable. Accurate and meticulous research is combined with insight and judgment.

The autobiography itself consists of a record covering the years 1570 to 1638. Internal evidence shows that it was compiled from notes evidently kept with regularity, which were written out and elaborated after long intervals of time. Pett held the office of Master Shipwright to the Royal Navy and his manuscript throws valuable light on naval administration, on the financial policies of the Admiralty, and the practical interest of the crown in the development of a fleet. It will always remain useful for the student of maritime affairs during a period for which intimate and personal records are comparatively scarce. In addition, it helps to illustrate the chicanery of the naval executive, the by-paths of internal inefficiency, and the irritating jealousies of personal friendships and enmities which seem to have held the place of modern political corruption. The student of social history will find also much of interest in prices, wages, diseases, home-life, which have passed incidentally into Pett's pages.

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