

tive, the rights of lords and vassals and bourgeoisie, the distinction between spiritual function and temporal charge in the Church, the establishment of artistic standards and the formation of types of architecture; while the metaphysical conception of the scholastics that "the only existing reality is individual reality" is in harmony with the feudal sense of personal worth. Above this work of definition and classification emerges the medieval tendency toward unity and the dream of universal harmony. This finds its full expression in the thirteenth century and is seen not only in the perfected system of scholastic philosophy but in the organization of new national states, of the papacy, of the friars; in the art of the Gothic cathedrals, a synthesis of all the beliefs and learning of the time; in Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Jacop de Voragine's *Golden Legend*; in the codification of the canon law.

In addition to these general connections between scholasticism and the civilization of the Middle Ages, Wulf examines the chief doctrines of that philosophy and shows their relation to the religious spirit of the time, to its ideas of the physical universe, to its social philosophy, its theories of the state, and its conception of human progress. The author's knowledge of historical details is not always equal to his understanding of the thought of the period and certain errors of fact are to be noted. But these do not invalidate his general conclusions, which will be found most suggestive and provocative of further thought.

A. C. HOWLAND.

*The Public Records of Scotland.* By J. Maitland Thomson, LL.D. (Glasgow, MacLehose, Jackson, and Company, 1922, pp. ix, 175, 10 s. 6 d.) The material contained in this volume formed substantially the Rhind Lectures delivered by Dr. Thomson in 1911. He confines his attention to records made by "recording authorities", and thus excludes chronicles, diaries, and such like.

In six chapters Dr. Thomson discusses the adventures of the public records of Scotland, the records of the Lord Clerk Register's Department, records of the Chancery, Treasury, and Household, the land registers, ecclesiastical records, and records not in charge of the Clerk Register. Each chapter deals carefully with its material, its nature and worth. Details are given of documents already published, and the references to those still in manuscript will stir up enthusiasm for historical research. The volume constitutes the best available short guide to the public records of Scotland, and it possesses an excellent index.

Dr. Thomson's pages abound in references to societies and historians, through whose labors much has been accomplished. The diversity of these activities suggests, however, the organization of some central body which by its personnel and attainments would command confidence in direction and advice. Dr. Thomson is doubtless right in looking for the present to local effort; and, with perhaps the most learned

ministry in the world, each manse in Scotland might easily become a centre of zeal. For public documents doubtless the present official services as outlined by the author will widen their activities which have already provided such magnificent guides for students, but local interest will always be needed to deal with the vast quantity of less official material. On the other hand, every historical student knows how frequently inexpert enthusiasm makes him almost wish that material had been left severely alone. It is in this connection that a central body of scholars, sufficiently small to avoid becoming another society and large enough to handle organization in historical activities, would be invaluable as an advisory council of research. It may well be, as was suggested, I think, at the opening of the School of Historical Research in London, that Scottish records in the possession of public authorities in England will be returned to Scotland; a magnificent opportunity would thus be provided for a thoroughly new national organization. As it is, Dr. Thomson's volume draws attention to so much unorganized material that he will secure the gratitude of all students if he is able to transfer some of his skilled industry to the creation of such an organization as will map out expert research.

W. P. M. KENNEDY.

*Das Zeitalter der Normannen in Sizilien.* Von Dr. Willy Cohn, Breslau. (Bonn and Leipzig, Kurt Schroeder, 1920, pp. 212, M. 10). One of the interesting publishers' enterprises in Germany since the War is the *Bücherei der Kultur und Geschichte* of the firm of Kurt Schroeder, a series of small manuals "for scholars, students, and laymen". According to the prospectus, they are to be prepared by scholars with scientific exactitude, yet printed in such a form as not to repel the educated general public. Dr. Cohn's *Zeitalter der Normannen in Sizilien* forms the sixth volume of this series. The period covered is that from the first landing of the Normans in southern Italy to the death of Tancred and the triumph of Henry VI. in 1194. The work is without notes; the text is compressed within some 190 pages; and there follow 21 closely packed pages of bibliography, in which sources and secondary works are run in together in alphabetical order without criticism. Since all critical apparatus has been excluded from the text, says the author, the bibliography has been made "as extensive as possible". Nevertheless, the volume is more attractive than this summary description indicates. The author does not claim that it makes any original contribution; but he has used the works of Caspar, Chalandon, and others to good advantage. The history of the southern Norman kingdom is well placed in the broader current of European affairs; and the outstanding characters and events of a stirring age and the salient features of a brilliant cosmopolitan civilization are seized upon with insight and vividly presented. The style is concise and lucid, and the