

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

pages are not overcrowded; yet space is found for special chapters upon administration and legislation during the reign of Roger II.

C. W. DAVID.

*France and England: their Relations in the Middle Ages and Now.* By T. F. Tout, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., Professor of History and Director of Advanced Study in History. (Manchester, University Press, 1922, pp. viii, 168, \$2.50.) This little book is substantially a series of four lectures, delivered at the University of Rennes in 1921, on the identical or interwoven civilizations of the French and the English from the Conquest to the close of the Hundred Years' War. The lectures deal with race, language, literature, architecture, education, religion, law, administration, parliamentary institutions, the art of war, and much other culture material, skillfully woven into a text which marches and makes progress. Anyone who has a cursory acquaintance with medieval history will find them pleasant reading, and the specialist will also get hints and *aperçus* of value. The cosmopolitan outlook of Henry II. is particularly well characterized. He was "almost as little Norman or Angevin as he was English. He was rather the sublimation [*corr.*] of that cosmopolitan French-speaking type which was as much at home in one part of the western world as another" (p. 66). Stubbs is chided for underestimating the French element in English culture (pp. 96 ff.), Edward I. and Philip IV. are recognized as promoters of parliamentary institutions for equally selfish ends (p. 99), and the theory of a real *ecclesia Anglicana* in the Middle Ages is again dismissed (p. 110). The suggestion that the economic disorders and proletarian class-consciousness in Western Europe *circa* 1381 may have been due in part to the destruction of capital in the Franco-English war (p. 147) might well lead to useful research.

The aim of the lectures was the promotion of friendship between the French and the English of to-day. Would that medieval comradeships might really promote modern understandings! There is little relating to the present day in the book (pp. 152-162), but what there is is generally sound and is graciously said. A plea is made against the biassed history text-books of the two peoples (p. 162), which contribute their quota to mutual suspicion.

There are a very few contradictions and errors. The alliance of Burgundy with England was not treasonable to France (p. 15); yet it was a "national betrayal" (p. 139). John of Paris is erroneously lauded over Pierre Dubois for denying "the obligation of a universal realm" (p. 19). Dubois in the first part of *De Recuperatione* does that very thing. *Per contra* there is an index—an unexpected boon in an English book of this type. These lectures may be professedly a tract, but they are really first-rate history.

G. C. SELLERY.