

The translation is as a rule faithful and readable. There are added a sympathetic preface by the translator and an admirably comprehensive bibliography of articles about Bergson's philosophy in several languages. The first presentation of this important contemporary to our public has been so well done that all readers of the book must lament the sudden death of the young Oxford scholar to whom we owe the service.

Medieval Italy. By Prof. Pasquale Villari. Translated by Costanza Hulton. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.75 net.

The coronation of Charlemagne, the last event treated in "The Barbarian Invasions of Italy," forms the point of departure in Professor Villari's new work, which follows the fortunes of the peninsula to the time of the death of Henry VII. The book is written for the general reader, and offers a straightforward narrative, free from controversy and show of erudition, and based on thorough knowledge of the sources and on criticism of the results of modern investigation. The whole territory is constantly held in view. Southern Italy and Sicily are accorded—for the first time in a general history—their full share in the record. The orderly control of the many interrelated series of events is admirable. The book grows in interest and value toward the end. The concluding chapters clarify notably the events and the personalities of the late thirteenth century.

Professor Villari deals almost exclusively with men and arms. The whole period, in his presentation, is dominated by individual men, builders of states that disintegrate at the builder's death, politicians whose policies lapse into oblivion when the controlling mind is gone. Institutions appear externally continuous, but devoid of vital growth; Papacy and Empire hold power or sink into insignificance according as the men who wear the tiara or the iron crown are strong or weak. One could wish that more attention had been paid to non-military matters. The intellectual and religious life of the Middle Ages, the condition of the people, the development of commerce, even matters of such political importance as the feudal system and the conflict of the investiture, are treated hurriedly and with far less clearness than the general reader has a right to ask. In the single paragraph devoted to the Dominican and Franciscan orders (p. 267) they are differentiated only as being respectively bloodthirsty and tenderhearted. The implication (p. 266) that the "De imitatione Christi" was written in the time of St. Francis is unfortunate. Dante's "De monarchia," treated (p. 368) as of the time of the descent of Henry VII into Italy, was almost certainly not

written before the last years of Dante's life. The comparison of Pope and Emperor to sun and moon, attributed (p. 259) to Innocent III, goes back at least to Gregory VII.

The translation has the prime virtue of accuracy. The only serious error is an arrangement of relative clauses which attributes to Sylvester II instead of to Otho III denial of the authenticity of the Donation of Constantine (p. 114). Sykelgaite should not be termed "high-souled" (p. 186) until she is quite cleared of her reputation for readiness with poison: high-spirited she certainly was. From the point of view of style the translation is very poor. The Italian is followed closely in wording, order, and punctuation, and the resultant English is strange and unpleasant. The Italian phrases on pp. 5 and 158 have no textual value, and should have been translated. The difficult matter of the Anglicization of proper names is in general well-handled. "Walter Offamill" (p. 247) might well have dropped an *f* and changed the *a* to *the*. The typesetter is presumably responsible for the dates "1909" (instead of 1009) on p. 130, and for "1,506" and "1,528" on p. 348, for "sunt" instead of *sum* on p. 193, and for "civitatis" instead of *civitas* on p. 341.

The illustrations are well-chosen and well-made. The interesting frontispiece, from an ivory in which Otho I appears as a diminutive kneeling donor, should have a more explicit title than the somewhat misleading "The Emperor Otho I." The index is excellent.

With Stevenson in Samoa. By J. H. Moors. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50 net.

Though Mr. Moors's copiously illustrated volume adds little of importance to our knowledge of Stevenson's character, it throws some light upon the avocations of his later years, and helps us to realize the Apian background. It is distinctly refreshing, too, because of the angle from which it was written. The author of these memoirs did not go to Samoa to hang upon the lips of Tusitala. As shopkeeper, dealer in real estate, local politician, and chairman of the Board of Works he was—is still—in the island on his own account. His plain, unvarnished tale proceeds from an interest which was rather neighborly than literary—we infer from some passing remarks that he is unacquainted with his neighbor's essay on Burns. Their relations, none the less, as the "Vailima Letters" and this book bear witness, were of the friendliest intimacy. They exchanged yarns and discussed local celebrities together, "generally in the evenings, as we sat in our pajamas on the balcony"; they conspired together against the German president of the municipal council; they collaborated on the materials for the "Footnote to His-

tory"; and Moors says, with a suggestion of pleasure in the reminiscence, that at one time Stevenson owed him above twelve thousand dollars. These are vital points of contact; Moors's opinion of his friend should be of some weight.

He finds it hard to believe in the canonized Stevenson proclaimed in the pulpits. The man he knew went to church only from deference to his mother, regarded the prayers at Vailima as something of a nuisance, was more himself in a paper-chase than in a Sunday-school on the Lord's day, looked upon the wine when it was red in the Tivoli Hotel, and was "surprised more than once in Bohemia"—whatever that may mean. Moors therefore cites with manifest delight the following brief but pointed epistle:

My dear Moors—

I hope to get down to-day, but the weather does not yet seem bordered up. We had a hell of a time yesterday; I wish the man who invented open eaves had been with us—I would have burned him to see to read by.

Yours ever

R. L. S.

All that this somewhat trivial testimony amounts to is that Stevenson, being neither a moral, intellectual, or social snob, was able to mix familiarly with all sorts of men on their own ground, and make them feel that he was no better than they. The defect of the critics who, like the late W. E. Henley, insist on the "real Stevenson" is their unwillingness to recognize his many-sidedness—their failure to understand that a man of letters may give to the wide world some sincere and precious part of himself which he cannot give to his nearest friends.

The most touching passage in this book is the chapter entitled "A Plan that Failed." Mr. Moors writes of the political troubles in Samoa from an inside view, but of the ladies at Vailima, we trust, from the outside. He could not help feeling that they were a little queer: for example, "the whole family—I except Stevenson's mother—worshipped at the shrine of 'My Lady Nicotine.'" What was worse, he thought, there was too much literary collaboration at Vailima. He felt a certain jealousy of the influence exerted by the women over the master of the house! And with the talent of a conspirator he bought a little island, and in 1893 secretly proposed to carry Stevenson off where he might work undisturbed and "accomplish something worth attempting"—

The important question was how to keep the ladies away from our island retreat, but he said he would manage it somehow. Meanwhile, I had myself visited Nassau, and had set a party of islanders to work. . . . Stevenson, longing for the peace and quiet of such a spot, evinced a lively interest in my account of these labors; and when we left the tower [where Moors had unfolded the plot] and rejoined our friends we drank

a quiet toast to our future happiness in Elysian fields.

This little dream of a literary paradise freed from the annoyances of Eve and her daughters was abruptly terminated by death. One may regard the affair as a bit of amusing gossip or as curious additional testimony pointing to that "other Stevenson" with the singular power of exciting personal devotion frequently verging on sheer idolatry.

Notes.

"The Life of Tolstoy," in two volumes, by Aylmer Maude, has just been published by Dodd, Mead & Co. It is a consecutive and detailed account covering the whole life.

Forthcoming books from the Oxford University Press include: "The Englishman in Greece," as a companion piece to "The Englishman in Italy," and "The Oxford Book of Ballads," chosen and edited by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch.

D. Appleton & Co. announce for immediate publication "Farthest West: Life and Travel in the United States," by C. R. Enock; "On and Off Duty in Annam," by Gabrielle M. Vassal, and later "Egypt: Ancient Sites and Modern Scenes," by Professor Maspero.

Doubleday, Page & Co. are already announcing for the spring "The Children's Library of Work and Play," a series of ten volumes, each of which is to be written by an authority: "Carpentry and Woodwork," by Edwin W. Foster; "Mechanics," by Fred T. Hodgson; "Housekeeping," by Elizabeth Hale Gilman; "Metalwork," by C. C. Siefert; "Needlecraft," by Effie Archer Archer; "Outdoor Sports," by Claude H. Miller; "Interior Decoration," by Charles F. Warner; "Outdoor Work," by Mary Rogers Miller; "Gardening," by Ellen Eddy Shaw; and "Electricity," by John F. Woodhull.

James Lane Allen's "The Doctor's Christmas Eve" is expected from the press of Macmillan November 30.

In "The Great Texts of the Bible," a new series in preparation by the Scribners, Dr. James Hastings contributes to each of the selected topics pages of homiletical exposition and illustration. It is proposed to cover the whole Bible in five years. The first volume, "Isalah," will be published within a month. So far as the book has any one aim, it is to furnish material for sermons.

Volume XXIV of the publications of the Selden Society, Volume V of their Year Book Series, "The Eyre of Kent 6 and 7 Edward II," edited by Messrs. Maitland, Harcourt, and Bolland, will be issued in December.

The December issue of *Chambers's Journal* will contain an article by Canon Dawson on "The Morals of the Round Table; or, Malory's 'Morte d'Arthur,' compared with 'Idyls of the King.'"

As a companion volume to "American Duck Shooting" the Forest and Stream Publishing Co. is about to issue "American Game Bird Shooting."

Among B. W. Huebsch's announcements

are "Democracy and the Overman," by Charles Zueblin; "The Philosophy of Plato and its Relation to Modern Life," by Edward Howard Griggs, and "Optimos," by Horace Traubel.

The Rev. Walter W. Skeat has issued a statement as to the present position of the Chaucer Society:

It appears that some of the books, upon the completion of which the regular issue for the various years depended, are not even yet wholly ready; and the result is that more money has been received than has been expended, whilst at the same time, subscribers for the years 1907-10, have not yet received the parts due to them; and a few of the issues for earlier years are still incomplete.

It has been decided therefore that the society will definitely come to a close, with the end of the present year. Such parts as are overdue will be issued at convenient opportunities. The society, which began work in 1868, was designed to publish what was most material for the study of Chaucer's text. In Dr. Skeat's opinion this has now been accomplished. The last five or six numbers embodied the results of investigations by Americans.

As a memorial to the late Dr. Furnivall, Leonard Magnus and John Munro, the deceased's literary executor, have suggested a volume consisting of a biography of the scholar written by Mr. Munro and appreciations by others. The list of those who have promised to contribute are Dr. Henry Bradley, Prof. Alois Brandl, Professor Feuilleterat, Dr. T. Gregory Foster, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Prof. W. P. Ker, William Poel, A. W. Pollard, Prof. W. W. Skeat, Miss Spurgeon, Henry Arthur Jones, Mrs. Laurence Gomme, and Mrs. Stopes. Besides an edition at an ordinary price, there will be an *édition de luxe*. The subscriptions which are invited towards the expenses of publication may be sent to Leonard Magnus, 9, Gray's Inn Square, London.

Yet another account of the career of Joan of Arc is offered to the public by Mary Rogers Bangs (Houghton Mifflin). Her narrative eschews controversy and gives a purely objective statement of the facts as ascertained by recent research, couched, it is true, in the language of enthusiasm, but not colored by any attempt at systematic explanation.

To John Lane's attractive edition of the works of Vernon Lee is added "Vanitas, Polite Stories, Including the Hitherto Unpublished Story, A Frivolous Conversion." In these four short stories of souls enmeshed in the web of social circumstance the art of Vernon Lee appears with all its usual incisive delicacy, and with, a somewhat exceptional grace of human compassion. Her worldly malcontents are always pathetic, and sometimes tragic. The last tale, "The Legend of Madame Krainska," is of Poe-like intensity.

It is, for the most part, a sordid series of servants that come and go in the pages of Elizabeth Robins Pennell's "Our House and the People in It" (Houghton Mifflin). But, with the sordidness, there is so much of romance that a reader does not object to the author's retaining each successive specimen long enough for her story to come out, especially as this second-hand method of learning it inflicts a minimum of the disagreeableness that was plainly there. To an American, moreover, there is positive

charm in the very definite atmosphere that envelops the chambers from which one may look out on the Thames, down at St. Paul's, up to Westminster, and opposite to Surrey. Then, besides the succession of servants, from 'Enrietter to the satisfactory and, one is glad to know, permanent Augustine, who receives the well-deserved honor of the book's dedication, there are the tenants, more respectable if less picturesque than the servants; the beggars, of that new and difficult sort that "make a profession neither of disease nor of deformity, but of having come down in the world"; and the microcosm that bears the name of the Quarter. An occasional comment, such as any servant-seeker makes now and then, does not detract from the essentially narrative character of the book. After the merciful end of one of these servants, the writer concludes:

No doubt, daily in the slums, many women die as destitute. But they never had their chance. Mrs. Haines had hers, and a fair one as these things go. Her tragedy has shaken my confidence in the reformers to-day who would work the miracle, and with equal chances for all men, transform this sad world of ours into Utopia.

He would be a churlish sportsman or nature-lover who did not enjoy E. P. Stebbing's "Jungle By-Ways in India" (Lane). Of the many other books on this subject, all save two or three are serious even unto dullness; but this is different. It is like the off-hand, rapid-fire talk of a good friend who has just returned from a camping trip, and finds pleasure in sitting opposite the reader, telling his stories very much at his ease, and illustrating with rough sketches and droll diagrams on the backs of envelopes. Besides the reproductions of photographs, there are many simple sketches by the author, and they are of the most abstemious sort. There is never a line that could be spared. Crude and rough though they are, they serve their purpose excellently, and even with the sambar stag, whose antlers as drawn represent a four-foot length, we do not quarrel, for that is the way big antlers often look to the hunter who sees them in the wilds. Many persons will regard these impressionistic sketches as one of the most interesting features of the book. Mr. Stebbing is a keen and truthful observer, and an honest chronicler of his own adventures. He has hunted about all kinds of India big game south of the Himalayas, and he has vivid stories to tell of the home life of elephants, tigers, leopards, bison, sambar, axis deer, barasingha, bear, wild dogs, monkeys, and other species. His sense of humor is as rare—in books of big-game hunting—as it is welcome to the reader. He calls the barking deer "a funny little beggar"—as it is—and the cheerful confidence of the unconventionality is really refreshing.

In "Second Chambers: An Inductive Study in Political Science" (Frowde), J. A. R. Marriott takes for granted that a bi-cameral legislature is essential to the continuance of democratic government. He bases this assumption not on any abstract considerations but on the practical unanimity with which the system has been adopted by the civilized world. His object is primarily to explain the functions of the existing Second Chambers, and secondarily, to reach some conclusions which may assist in solving the