

*Handbuch des preussischen Verwaltungsrechts.* Für den praktischen Gebrauch bearbeitet von K. PAREY, Königl. Verwaltungsgerichts-Director a. D. Berlin, J. J. Heine's Verlag, 1887. — 2 volumes, vii, 323, iv, 229 pp.

This is the latest book that has been issued on the subject of Prussian administrative law. It is at the same time, as a whole, one of the least satisfactory that has ever come to my notice. Its arrangement is most extraordinary. The first volume contains matter which it is almost the universal practice to treat last; and the second volume discusses many subjects, the study of which is necessary in order to understand what has gone before. For this reason it cannot be recommended to one entering on the study of Prussian administration. It is also unsuitable for the foreign student of Prussian government, because most of those matters which are of the greatest interest to him are treated with the least fulness — indeed, they are barely touched upon. On the other hand, certain subjects which are to a great extent technical, are entered into with such thoroughness as to indicate that the book was really written, as its title page indicates, "*für den praktischen Gebrauch.*" The book will, undoubtedly, be of great use to the Prussian official and administrator, but has little value as an intelligible description of the entire Prussian administrative system. It must, however, be said of the first volume, which is devoted to *Verwaltungsprozess*, that by reason of its detail it gives an amount of exact information hardly to be found in any other published work. As this volume is devoted to one of the most interesting of German institutions, *viz.* the administrative court, no one who desires to investigate that institution thoroughly can well escape the duty of reading it. What Mr. Parey says on this subject, is said by one who knows of what he speaks; for he has been president of one of these courts. Of real interest is the distinction drawn between the *hierarchical appeal* from lower to higher officers, which has resulted from the administrative centralization, and the *judicial appeal* to the administrative courts from the decisions of the administrative authorities, which has resulted from the great administrative reforms of the last twenty-five years. As such a method of hierarchical appeals is foreign to our administrative law, the clear account given by Mr. Parey is very welcome to the student of foreign administration.

The second volume, however, is very unsatisfactory. The subject-matter is not only badly arranged, but it is not fully enough treated to give a good idea of Prussian institutions to a reader unfamiliar with them. The book must therefore be regarded as a treatise on the Prussian administrative courts and their jurisdiction, and as such is excellent. As a general handbook of Prussian administrative law it has little value.

In his treatment of the powers of the King, Mr. Parey shows a strong royalist bias. He does not consider that the King's powers rest upon the constitution; the constitution is simply an instrument which limits them; and where any subject is not fully regulated by the constitution, the King has the same power as before the constitution was granted. This view he endeavors to base on one of Bismarck's speeches in the great constitutional conflict of 1863-66, which expressed the ideas of the government at that time. But such a conception of the Prussian constitution is certainly not held by a large number of writers, and is hardly in accordance with modern theory.

FRANK J. GOODNOW.

*Revaler Zollbücher und -Quittungen des 14. Jahrhunderts.* Von Dr. WILHELM STIEDA, ord. Professor der Staatswissenschaften an der Universität Rostock. (Hansische Geschichtsquellen. Herausgegeben vom Verein für hansische Geschichte. Band V.) Halle, 1887. — cxxxviii, 107 pp.

This is one of those books, which, under the modest title of a simple edition of hitherto unpublished manuscripts, contain an immense amount of valuable information and are the result of a great deal of hard work. The *Zollbuch* which was the principal excuse for the present volume is a mere succession of names and sums of money of various standards, comprising 2673 entries. In some cases these represent the value of the dutiable merchandise, in others the duty paid. The *Zollquittungen* are an equally dry looking series of 135 tax-receipts. The introduction to these somewhat forbidding records is, however, a treatise on the Hanseatic tariffs of the latter part of the fourteenth century, and on the commerce and navigation of the Baltic at the same period. The result is a mass of facts which are not only useful for the specialist, but also exceedingly interesting to the general reader. Among the various subjects discussed are the value of the foreign trade of Reval and other Hansa towns, the receipts from the duties, the ships used on the Baltic, the different kinds of merchandise dealt in, their prices, and the systems of weights and measures. As an example of the thoroughness of this work, it may be stated that no less than twenty-six different kinds of craft are mentioned and twenty-six pages devoted to a description of their construction, rigging, *etc.* In spite, therefore, of the apparently limited scope of the book, it contains a great deal that is of value in the study of any portion of the history of the Hansa, and is of much assistance in giving one a concrete and definite impression of that interesting and important agency in the economic development of the middle ages.

HENRY W. FARNAM.