

on the Mercantile system in general, which is neither very new nor very profound. But the details of Becher's life have been industriously collected, and the methodical account of his views will be convenient to those who do not possess the original essays.

Professor Guillaume De Greef, of the *Université Nouvelle de Bruxelles*, continues his elaborate exposition of historical and social progress in a volume on *Croyances et des doctrines politiques* (Bruxelles, 1895), in which we find an interesting and suggestive review of political thought from the most ancient times down to the present. Peruvians, Mexicans and Egyptians, no less than the mediæval thinkers and the modern philosophers, have come in for examination. The volume is hardly to be described as a profound treatment of the subject, but, like all that Professor De Greef writes, it is well filled with suggestions, interpretations and flashes of insight that render it valuable to any student of this subject.

The title, *The Council of Trent*, given to the late Professor Froude's last published work (Scribner's, 1896) is somewhat misleading. Considerable space is devoted to a general review of the Lutheran Reformation, and only the earliest period of the Council can be said to be treated at all, as the concluding summary contains the only references to the decisive sessions of 1562-63. The fresh, independent treatment of a subject so badly handled by both the friends and foes of the movement is, however, most welcome. The book possesses the peculiar charm for which its author is noted, and no one, whether scholar or layman, will put it down without feeling that he has been carried into the very midst of the momentous struggle of the fifteenth century, and has gained much from Mr. Froude's shrewd suggestions. It is a pity that circumstances did not permit exact references to be given to the authors upon whom the writer has relied; it would be interesting to know the rôle that Erasmus, Sarpi, Pallaricini and the rest respectively played in determining Mr. Froude's conclusions.

Professor A. B. Hart is laying teachers of American history, especially in schools and colleges which are not well supplied with books, under great obligations. Channing and Hart's *Guide to the Study of American History*, which appeared some months ago from the press of Ginn & Co., has now been followed by the first volume of Hart's *American History as told by Contemporaries* (The Macmillan Co., New York, 1897). The first-mentioned volume contains an excellent bibliography, prefaced by judicious observations on the method of teaching history. The new series, of which Professor Hart is sole

editor, contains nothing but extracts from contemporary writers. It will consist of four volumes, the first of which, just published, is on the *Era of Colonization, 1492 to 1689*. The extracts illustrate the history of the discoveries, the conditions in England which facilitated and guided colonization, and life and growth in the English-American colonies themselves. The selections are made from a large number of representative writers. They are intended to illustrate the social and political life of the colonists in all its leading phases. The extracts have been judiciously selected and arranged, and probably accomplish the purpose intended as well as any such collection could do it. The series must prove a valuable aid to teachers, and should result in a wider reading of the original authorities.

It is very unfortunate that training in the use of books regarded merely as instruments is not yet recognized as a regular branch of our college instruction. The want of such technical training is nowhere more apparent than in the many slovenly works upon history which are written and read with the same serene faith that what is printed is right. In the hope of encouraging a more enlightened use of books M. Ch.-V. Langlois has recently introduced a course in historical bibliography in the *Faculté des Lettres* of Paris. His excellent *Manuel de bibliographie historique* (Paris, Hachette) is partially, at least, the outcome of his instruction. The earnest student or teacher of history will find this little volume a most useful addition to his works of reference. It is, evidently, the result of much careful and discriminating thought and investigation. The author has compressed into a little volume of less than two hundred pages an extraordinarily complete account of the bibliographical apparatus now essential to intelligent historical research. The book shows a cosmopolitan acquaintance with the work carried on in the libraries of the world, including those of the United States. It is encouraging to see the Boston Public Library and the Athenæum termed "*deux bibliothèques modèles*." The second part of the work is to be devoted to a comparative account of the scholarly activity in the field of history in the various countries of the world, and will describe the great coöperative undertakings which are doing so much to advance the science. It is to be hoped that the completion of this useful and original essay will not be long delayed.