

Dr. Ward's pages bear the impress of care and thoroughness, and embody the results of a more special study than had previously been made of the subject to which they relate.

J. B. MOORE.

*Annals of Politics and Culture* (1492-1899). By G. P. GOOCH, M.A., with an introductory note by Lord Acton. Cambridge, The University Press, 1901. — 530 pp.

To compress all modern history, "embracing the life of mankind in its entire range of thought and action," into simple monkish annals, and then to enliven the result by a double-entry system of book-keeping, is certainly a unique performance in historical work. The underlying idea of Mr. Gooch's work is not exactly new—a chronicle with an index; but no one has ever before thought of applying to the literature, art and science of modern times this simple method of classification—by dates. The plan of the book, which is somewhat more original than the idea, is to deal with "politics" and "culture" on opposite pages and keep them as closely parallel as possible, in order that the reader may see at a glance what was taking place in the chief departments of thought and action at any given moment. Each event or paragraph is numbered, and these numbers only are entered in the index, from which one turns to the body of the book to find briefly summarized the fact which he is looking up in its appropriate chronological place. The value of this in a ready reference book must be evident. But the text is hardly full enough to be of much aid to any but experts in the various subjects touched upon. For example, the student sees in the index "Böcklin 3105," and on turning to the given paragraph he finds under the year 1856 the words "Böcklin's Pan." This is the only reference to Böcklin in the book. Paragraph 3016 gives the information that in 1850 "Titus Salt founds Saltaire works"—upon which incident the index gives no light either under Titus or Salt or Saltaire. In paragraph 3765 we are told of the death of Bunsen. The index has no record of this, and we must find that the death notice of Bunsen, "the diplomatist," is paragraph 3169, before we can even infer that the chemist is referred to. Indeed, the index is not complete, especially with reference to the last hundred paragraphs in the book.

If the *Annals* will not be of great value to the uninitiated, it will disappoint those who have some knowledge of what the items refer to in the different subjects. For instance, the information that

in 1668 Newton "discovers gravitation" is certainly wrong, and in paragraph 1335 "Newton states the three fundamental laws of motion" conveys the impression that all three were first formulated in 1687. The only reference to the physiocrats is under the date 1758 and would lead one to think that the work of Quesnai, of Gournay, of Dupont de Nemours and the others centered about that one year. It is easy to see the difficulty of classifying "culture" by dates. With regard to large events, such as the Renaissance, the Protestant Revolt or the French Revolution, the editor has boldly taken the bull by the horns and makes no mention of them in his index.

When we turn to the bibliography, the disappointment becomes greater. Apart from misprints (Law for Low, Bury for Berry, Poggendorff with one *f*, Waliszewski with the *z* and without it, and other small slips), one finds the titles abbreviated so as to carry no explanation. "Poole's *Turkey*" and "Julleville's *Littérature Française*" are misleading. "Krones' *Oest. Gesch.* 5," and "*Grundriss*" give no idea of the works whatever, and late Austrian historians are not mentioned. But one need not delay over details; for the bibliography, like the rest of the book, conveys no message to the inexperienced, and the scholar will not find many crises in his life in which he will turn to it for guidance.

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*An Introduction to English Politics.* By JAMES M. ROBERTSON. New Amsterdam Book Company, 1900. — 515 pp.

The title of this work gives little clue to its real character. It is an essay in general sociology, or what used to be called the philosophy of history. Buckle is the obvious model. In fact, the argument is in many points a restatement of Buckle, to meet the objections urged by critics. The author also follows his model in devoting most of his space — 390 pages out of 503 — to a preliminary consideration of other countries, including Greece, Rome, Islam, the Italian republics, Scandinavia, the Hansa, Holland, Switzerland and Portugal.

The general thesis of the book is that all forms and manifestations of human activity derive from and are dependent upon economic conditions. This proposition is admirably worked out for each country and each phase of activity considered. No one interested in the economic interpretation of history can afford to neglect it.