Reviews of Books

Nationale, in accordance with the opinion of Nordfelt: vtdz Wahlund and Felitzen, Enfances Vivien, Paris and Upsala, 1895, p. xvi; cf. Willy Schultz, Das Handschriftenverhaltnis des Covenant Vivien, Halle, 1908, p. 67. Few alterations are made in the text of this MS., for which moderation thanks are due the editor, who has not yielded to the allurements of subjective scholarship. The text of MS. 1441 is printed on the left-hand pages, while that of the MS. of Boulogne appears on the right-hand pages, this latter MS. differing so widely from the other that it would have been difficult and cumbersome to give its variants. For the other MSS., their variants are given at the bottom of the pages. The arrangement is unusually clear, and is carried out with accuracy. At the close of the texts in verse, the editor has printed the prose version, which exists in two MSS. The first volume of Mr. Terracher’s work is thus given up to the texts themselves. The second volume will include a discussion of the classification of the MSS., their age, dialect and other points of critical interest.

A careful examination of the texts as given in the present volume shows that we have here one of the most accurately prepared works that have appeared in Old French. The editor has evidently applied himself with the utmost fidelity to his task, and has understood that the cardinal duty of an editor of such texts is to render, with the highest degree of accuracy, just what the originals offer. His work accordingly provides a sure foundation for a critical study of the Chevalerie.

A few minor paleographical points may be mentioned. In MS. C, lines 397, 630, 681, 770, 1400; the reading appears to be Blotet. Line 955, read: enter; lines 1053, 1054; commancl, manch; 1213; estraun. In line 1436, the MS. has Autor, which is of course to be interpreted: Au tor; in line 1706, ñi. The reading of the MS. in line 1765: a poi ne, is defensible.

RAYMOND WEEKS

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There can be no better evidence of the high esteem in which Professor Fitzmaurice-Kelly’s work, Chapters on Spanish Literature (London, Archibald Constable and Company, 1908), is held by scholars in Spain than the fact that within so short a time of its publication a Spanish translation should be demanded. In his introduction, the distinguished philologist, D. Rufino José Cuervo, alluding to the well-known competency of Prof. Fitzmaurice-Kelly in all matters relating to the literature of Spain, remarks that the opinions of a foreigner are always of particular interest inasmuch as the difference of atmosphere and of studies produces a different point of view, from which peculiarities are often observed which remain hidden from the native. Sr. Cuervo calls attention to what is certainly one of the chiefest charms of Prof. Fitzmaurice-Kelly’s work: “La soberana claridad y elegancia de las Lecciones, formando cada cual de ellas un cuadro de acabada perfección.” Indeed, we can do no better than to continue in Sr. Cuervo’s words, which show how the Lecciones are regarded by so eminent an authority:
No menor encomio se debe a la manera y al estilo del autor. Ni sus vastos conocimientos le engrian, ni su calidad de extranjero se deja percibir por especie alguna de dureza o desdén. Profesando el principio de que "el alma de la crítica consiste en la estimación justa de los valores relativos, sin dejarse arrastrar a la idolatría y ni siquiera a la ilusión," no se aparta una línea de él, armado como está para ello con la preparación más necesaria, cual es la versación en la literatura clásica y en las principales modernas. Con esto, al juzgar nuestras obras, alcanza su criterio una amplitud, serenidad y mesura que dan a sus opiniones fuerza convincente; y el amor que tiene probado a las letras españolas, va acompañado, como el que es verdadero en la vida social, con una delicadeza tal, que, cuando descubre o refuta un error, no formula sentencia áspera ó infamante, sino que, a lo más, se vale de una amable ironía que pone de su parte al lector, provocándole alguna sonrisa de afectuosidad.

This admirable quality in our author—his urbanity "when he discovers or refutes an error"—has doubtless particularly impressed Sr. Cuervo because it is so conspicuously absent in many critics of Spanish literature. Sr. Cuervo concludes as follows: "In a word, no work seems more adequate than the present to inculcate a love of sane and solid erudition, which is here combined with amenity of presentation and a judicious and impartial criticism, in a style that is sober, distinguished and captivating." The justice of this judgment no one will deny, for in the present work, as in all of Prof. Fitzmaurice-Kelly's writings upon Spanish literature, are united the soundest scholarship with a clearness and elegance of style most rare in works of erudition.

Sr. Mendoza's part of the book is excellently well done. It is an adequate translation of a work that is in every way admirable.

Hugo A. Renzert

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The present work, which was composed by M. Lanson with the assistance of a number of his pupils, is merely intended to serve as a guide for students who desire to gain a more thorough knowledge of French literature. Hence, certain chapters (such as the chapter on translations), on which histories of literature give little or no information, have been enlarged; whereas others (cf. the chapter on Ronsard) are intentionally incomplete, inasmuch as abundant information on these subjects can be found without difficulty. Likewise, the chapters on memoirs, letters, administrative and political literature, usually neglected in literary histories, are developed more at length in this manual. Finally, the author has attempted to enlarge the list of reviews and bulletins of learned societies, for much of the useful work on this period is to be found scattered through their pages.

It is needless to say that the work of M. Lanson is well done: his Manuel should prove indispensable to the neophyte. An alphabetical index, however, of the authors mentioned would greatly facilitate the use of this excellent little work. It is quite difficult at times for one not thoroughly acquainted with M. Lanson's method to discover under what heading a work may be given. Every one has realized that the one great defect of Baudrier's masterly Bibliographie lyonnaise is the want of such an index, which causes an unnecessary loss of time and patience. That an alphabetical index would not unduly enlarge the