

and *affaires* after the worst French manner. This essay is more valuable for the bibliography which it gives than for the author's own treatment of his subject. The fourth and final essay is concerned with the political theories advanced by Bartolo da Sassoferrato in his *De Regimine*. It shows that Bartolo, basing himself on Aristotle and on his experience of the Italian city state (the two data, one remembers, of Bartolo's great contemporary, Marsilio of Padua), arrived at the conclusion that the search for an ideal state was the pursuit of a mirage, and that the true work of political science was to preach the relativity of constitutions and to distinguish their classes. It is shown what influence Bartolo's views had upon Montesquieu; and a final section is devoted to an estimate of their value. The author does not, I think, mention Marsilio of Padua by way of comparison, or Giercke by way of modern exposition, although he gives a list of modern writers who have touched upon the political science of the middle ages. But, on the whole, Signor Salvemini's little volume has much interesting matter and shows much careful work. The author has wide reading and a steady good sense which inclines one to follow his guidance.

ERNEST BARKER.

*Le Livre Noir et les Établissements de Dax.* Publiés par FRANÇOIS ABBADIE, Président de la Société de Borda. (*Archives historiques du Département de la Gironde*, xxxvii). (Paris: Picard. 1902.)

*Documents Pontificaux sur la Gascogne d'après les Archives du Vatican. Pontificat de Jean XXII.* (1316-1334.) Publiés par l'Abbé LOUIS GUÉRARD. Tome II. (*Archives historiques de la Gascogne.*) (Auch. 1908.)

THE first of these books contains a full introduction and the text of the *Livre Noir*, the coutumier of Dax, followed by the cartulary; after these come the *Etablissements*, then an excellent *Glossaire Gascon*, quoting illustrative passages, and index. There are also eight facsimile pages of the principal manuscripts. The seventy-three charters date from the visit of our Richard I. as duke of Aquitaine to Bordeaux in 1170 to 11 May, 1400. The historical introduction and the summary of the laws and institutions of Dax give an admirable picture of the life of the city under English rule. It does not fall within the plan of the editor to inquire into the origin of the liberties confirmed by Richard after the precedent of his father, Henry II; but he shows fully how great these liberties were, and the high status of the burghers and municipalities of Guyenne in medieval times: 'Tandis que la noblesse ne croyait pas déroger en aspirant à la bourgeoisie, la bourgeoisie était assez grande dame, au moins dans le midi, pour ne rien envier à la noblesse. Dans le domaine politique, elle traitait presque d'égal à égal avec les rois' (pp. xix and xxxiv). Although even under English rule we find a gradual restriction and encroachment on these liberties, chiefly in the matter of the election of the maire and jurats, yet, from the fate of the neighbouring provinces as they fell under the sway of France, 'Dax pressent que le maintien de ses institutions dépend de la continuité de son union séculaire à la monarchie anglaise' (p. lii). And, in the final struggle, 'c'est l'esprit communal qui, seul, dans les contrées situées entre l'embouchure de la

Garonne et les Pyrénées occidentales, essaya de barrer la route à la monarchie française. Ce ne sont pas les capitaines anglais de l'époque, obscurs et inconnus pour la plupart, ce sont les chefs municipaux qui jouent le principal rôle dans cette guerre de défense suprême' (p. lxi). The subsequent confirmations of these liberties by French monarchs proved quite illusory. The family institutions and modes of succession bear a great likeness to those which prevailed in the Western Pyrenees. The influence of Spain, too, counts for something down to the fourteenth century. Among curiosities are the mustering of the host of the Black Prince at Dax before setting out on his Spanish campaign, and the apocryphal epistle of Lentulus to the Roman Senate, describing the person of Jesus Christ, written on the back of a page of the municipal manuscripts.

The documents of pope John XXII, printed by the Abbé Louis Guérard, present the reverse side of the English rule. Though sincerely desirous of promoting peace, and of preventing private wars and judicial combats, yet, through his relationship with Gaston de Foix, the Comte de Comminges, and especially with the notorious Jourdain de l'Isle, the pope was always taking the part of the worst disturbers of the public peace in Guyenne. But, in spite of all his efforts and solicitations, Jourdain de l'Isle was hanged at Paris, 7 May 1323. A letter to Edward II, 26 August, 1323, complains of the arrest of his proctors sent to take possession of the archdeaconry of Canterbury. The summaries, notes, and editing of the volume are excellent, but it terminates in the middle of a letter, and has neither table of contents nor index.

WENTWORTH WEBSTER.

*Les Variations Monétaires sous Philippe le Bel et les Sources de leur Histoire.* Par le Colonel BORRELLI DE SERRES (extrait de la *Gazette Numismatique Française*, année 1902). (Chalon-sur-Saône. 1902.)

THE French monetary system, in the period with which Colonel Borrelli de Serres deals, was of great complexity. Business was transacted in money of account, *i.e.* in pounds, shillings, and pence of Tours or of Paris, the ratio of these standards being as 4 to 5. The actual coins used in 1289 were a gold penny, the silver *gros tournois* with its fractions, the *maille demie* and the *maille tierce*, the *denier tournois*, and the *denier Parisis*, these last coins being heavily alloyed and equivalent to the pence of the money of account of the two standards. The commercial value of the larger denominations was determined by their average intrinsic value, and their official value, which was frequently lower, was fixed by proclamation. Consequently the coinage might be debased or enhanced, without the actual recoinage of any considerable part of it by the simple process of attributing new values in money of account to the coins in actual circulation. The activity of Philip the Fair in these financial operations caused him to be likened by a contemporary poet to a conjuror. M. Langlois, his latest historian, seems to despair of giving any accurate account of the proceedings of the royal *faux monnoyeur* between April 1295 and 1306. He contents himself with noting a gradual debasement of the coinage from 1295 to 1303, continued by increasingly rapid steps until 1306, at which date the coinage was re-established on a sound basis. Colonel Borrelli de Serres