

his material pleasantly. Marie Adélaïde makes an agreeable heroine : she seems to have had the gift of bringing out all that was best in those with whom she came in contact, so that through her eyes we are shown Louis XIV, Madame de Maintenon, and their court in the most favourable light. More accuracy might have been shown in revision, especially with regard to dates. In the first sixty pages only the following slips occur : on p. 6, 1571 should be 1671 ; on p. 10, 1629 should be 1679 ; on p. 47, 1674 should be 1690 ; on p. 34 both the daughters of Victor Amadeus are called ' the elder ' ; on p. 54, Victor Amadeus is spoken of as the nephew of Louis XIV.

K. D. V.

The successive volumes of the abbé P. Feret's work on *La Faculté de Théologie de Paris et ses Docteurs les plus célèbres* have been so frequently noticed in our columns that we need do no more on the present occasion than congratulate M. Feret upon its completion by the publication of the seventh volume of the *Epoque Moderne* (Paris : Picard, 1910) of his laborious work. The names of the Sorbonnist and other doctors dealt with in it are, of course, less known to the ordinary student of history or of theology than is the case with the volumes relating to the middle ages or the classical period of the seventeenth century. The work will no doubt be all the more valuable to those who wish to acquaint themselves with the history of French theology in the eighteenth century. The book is not one which can expect a large circle of continuous readers, but it will have an enduring value as a work of reference.

E.

The second volume of M. E. Bourgeois's *La Diplomatie secrète au XVIII^e Siècle, ses Débuts (Le Secret des Farnèse, Philippe V et la Politique d'Alberoni)*. Paris : Colin, s.a.), of which the previous volume was noticed on p. 368, is based mainly on the correspondence of Alberoni and Count Rocca, which the author edited some years ago, and on the Farnese documents in the Neapolitan archives. Others have been beforehand in ransacking these latter, and M. Bourgeois's labour on the former has been freely utilised by all subsequent writers. Consequently there is little in the present work that is absolutely new to those who have kept abreast of the subject. It is, however, none the less welcome to have the documentary evidence welded in a full and agreeably written narrative. It should be added that there is no book in English which contains any very appreciable information on Alberoni's career down to the death of Marie Louise of Savoy, and the two short works of Signor A. Professione, *G. Alberoni agli assedi di Vercelli e di Verrua* and *G. Alberoni dal 1708 al 1714*, are perhaps the only other available authorities on this period. From the chapters on this subject the reader will gain a far clearer idea of the position and character of Alberoni ; he will realise that he was never the mere adventurer that he has so often been represented as being. His loyalty to Vendôme was creditable both to his heart and to his head, even though his propitiatory methods may have been rather culinary than romantic or intellectual. Incidentally the volume serves as a wholesome corrective to Saint-Simon, who has been the chief source for the depreciation alike of Vendôme and of Alberoni. M. Bourgeois bears his load of learning very lightly ; his book is eminently readable.

E. A.