

The Cambridge Modern History. Vol. II.: "The Reformation" (Cambridge University Press, 16s. net). It is impossible within the limits of a short article to do more than give a general impression of so capacious a work as this. In a series of monographs, it narrates and discusses the Reformation in every part of Europe, and a reviewer can only indicate conclusions of general agreement arrived at. We will not discuss the well-worn argument of great men *v.* tendencies, whether, as Tolstoy holds, great men are straws to show which way the current is setting, or, as Carlyle, levers which move the world from its orbit; because this is like discussing whether 4 or 2 is more potent in the formula $4 \times 2 = 8$. Certainly our belief in the power of genius and personality is not diminished by reading this volume. Luther as a leader and an obstructor, Calvin as an organiser and a limiter, Erasmus who took down the shutters but had not the courage to open the windows, the "grand, gross figure" of Henry VIII., the intellectual superiority and moral weakness of Cranmer, are all there as they were, factors in the sum which would have been different if they had been different, a difference inherent in their several natures, as well as in their circumstances. This volume brings into relief the personal contributions of men of the second or third order of greatness, whose intervention at particular moments became part of the chain of causes; such men as Zwingli (who only wants a little of attaining to the first three), Gardiner, Bucer, Lefèvre, Contarini, Julius III., Knox, Cromwell, Cartwright, and many others whose individuality biased the course of things. It also settles more firmly the position of the greater men, some great by nature, some by circumstance, and does not add to their number. Luther, Calvin, Loyola, Caraffa, Henry VIII., Charles V., Maurice of Saxony, still hold their pre-eminence. The principal spiritual and intellectual movements also are what we have always known; emancipation of intellect by the Renaissance, the open field of antiq. ity stimulating boundless curiosity, licensed and unlicensed; alarm of threatened institutions, rebellion, repres-