

BOOK REVIEWS AND LITERARY NOTES

A SHORT HISTORY OF ROME.

By Guglielmo Ferrero and Corrado Barbagallo. *The Monarchy and the Republic*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1918.
Price \$1.90 net.

This book, according to the preface, is intended for the use of teachers and of the more advanced students in schools, colleges and universities, as well as for the general reader.

The general conception of the work bears witness to the gradual revolution which has taken place in the writing of history. The dramatic and personal element has become secondary, and the historian aims at exhibiting a picture of the development of ideas and social movements in accordance with laws of cause and effect. Thus political and economic evolution is the centre of interest. It is a particularly happy thought to apply these new ideas to the representation of antiquity; for, as the reader will, we hope, discover for himself, this remote period is really, from the new point of view nearer to us than the sixteenth or even the eighteenth century. Every student of modern history must feel in the presence of the great war the remoteness of the two centuries we have mentioned, which are probably the two most familiar to him. We recommend him to study this history by two Italian scholars and he will find the parallels with the present struggle more obvious. For the war between Pompey and Cæsar to which the history of the Roman Republic leads up, was really a war of ideas and ideals, and these warring ideals were in a remarkable way similar to those which are now contesting for supremacy in Europe. That is to say we are no longer engaged, except in a secondary way, with dynastic or religious problems, but are asked to decide between an aggressive militarism and peaceful progress along democratic lines. Such was also the question at issue between the factions of Cæsar and Pompey, and the parallel can be followed even into details. At the same time there are also points of difference, which prevent the student from realizing the general resemblance. For example, we have nobody now who sums up in himself the ideas of a party in the same way that Cæsar did in antiquity. But the essential thing is that the last hundred years—like the last century of the Roman republic—have witnessed the growth of an enormous power which we call capitalism, and the growth of this power has led in both cases to a reconsideration of our point of view and presents new problems for solution. Signor Ferrero is the author of a book entitled *Ancient Rome and Modern America, A Comparative Study of Morals and Manners*. We have not had an opportunity of reading this book, but the mere title will help to confirm the remarks we have made above.