

information opened to them in one of the most interesting fields of early mediæval history.

**English Music in the Nineteenth Century.** By J. A. Fuller Maitland. (Grant Richards. 5s.)—The difficulties of writing a brief conspectus of the history of a given period are notorious. Mr. Fuller Maitland's sketch of the development of English music during the last century is a good example of how the thing should be done. He has resolutely cut down unnecessary names and dates and has kept himself as far as possible to the task of tracing the main streams of influence which have affected English composers during the prescribed time. Thus the reader closes the book not dulled or confused by an undigested mass of facts, but with a distinct mental picture of the march of music in England, in which the harmonies of perspective are carefully observed and no section is unduly elaborated at the expense of the others. Mr. Fuller Maitland has his sympathies and even his prejudices, but we do not like him the less on that account. A historian without the touch of nature that makes us all kin is apt to leave his readers as cold as himself. Mr. Fuller Maitland's prejudices do not seriously impair his impartiality. In his remarks upon Sullivan, a composer whose work obviously makes no special appeal to him, he pays a willing tribute to the really valuable work which that gifted musician accomplished in raising the standard of taste of the theatre-going public and so preparing the way for a national school of opera. And here he indicates not only the strength of Sullivan but the weakness of some of his predecessors and contemporaries, who have failed to make any mark upon their epoch, not because what they wrote was superficial or insincere, but because they were out of touch with the world in which they lived. Mr. Fuller Maitland's division of his history into periods is happily managed, though it is a trifle grandiloquent to speak of Sir Hubert Parry's and Mr. Stanford's appearance upon the scene as the Renaissance of English music. There were brave men before Agamemnon, and