

the thirteenth century, its weakness during the Hundred Years War must always be a problem to English students, and the causes are here carefully analysed. There is nothing more noteworthy in French history than its marvellous recovery after periods of disaster and depression such as the Hundred Years War, the Revolution, and the German War of 1870. The ample materials for the modern period have been well utilised. Justice is done to the great constructive work of Napoleon I., though we think Mr. Hassall insists too much upon its being a new departure in the way of centralisation. Much of it was an adaptation of the symmetrical centralised lines of the monarchy, which accord with the French genius for methodical order. And is it not rash to lay down that "it is by developing a local spirit such as exists in England that France will find the best means for improving the radical defects of her Government and for remedying the evils of her free Press"? At no time in French history is there any sign that the system which is our pride showed any tendency to take root and flourish spontaneously.

We are realising how important it is to study French history alongside of English, and Mr. Hassall's accurate and suggestive book will give valuable aid, in a form not available elsewhere, both to students of history and to students of contemporary French politics.

In The Early History of Venice (Allen. 7s. 6d. net)
Mr. F. C. Hodgson gives a detailed narrative of Venetian history from its early origins down to the surprising Fourth Crusade in 1204, when the forces of the Christian allies were diverted by the policy of Enrico Dandolo, the old blind Doge, to the capture of Venice's old enemy, Zara, on the Dalmatian coast, the assault on Constantinople and the subversion of the Greek Empire which had become obnoxious to Dandolo. This event is a turning-point in Venetian annals, and the Republic henceforth occupied a new position as absolute mistress of the Mediterranean.