

apostles. In the sixteenth century they found—by the aid of man—a practical philosophy which enabled them to apply this love of the beautiful to daily life and intercourse. This philosophy was the Neo-Platonism of the Renaissance—a creed half mystic, half æsthetic, more suited to the romantic Italians than to the practical French. It began with an exalted ideal, and ended in cold affectation—or, worse still, in the elusive casuistry that all was well so long as the heart was pure.

The author's intricate study of this Renaissance Platonism is the most interesting, as well as the most informing, part of his book. But every chapter shows an immense amount of research—thrown off with so much brilliance and feeling that we forget his learning while we profit by his knowledge. The light reader will know how to skip artistically, and yet reap a harvest of anecdote; the serious student, whether he agrees or disagrees with M. de Maulde's conclusions, will, at all events, find himself on a new and promising road. It may be added that neither kind of reader should include the young, for whom these pages were not intended. The fact that those who take up the book are left in undisturbed possession of the author's ideas is the best compliment we can pay to the translator.

The Story of Rome. By Norwood Young. (Dent. 3s. 6d.)—This is not a guide-book, nor is it intended to compete with guide-books, though it contains a small Appendix of Practical Suggestions. It is the outline, the suggestion or reflection, of all that distinguishes travel from sightseeing. Many towns offer a more perfect and concentrated beauty to the eye, but Rome alone forces upon the intellect and imagination the whole range of great ideas which have moved the world. Mr. Young has, with great skill, managed to string upon the thread of his "story" a complete series of the events, buildings, personalities, and ideas which will most interest the better kind of traveller. The enormous width of view and power of condensation required may be gauged by the mere list of