

Notices of Archaeological Publications.

THE ARMOURY OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
AT MALTA. By G. F. LAKING, M.V.O. Crown 4to. Bradbury, Agnew
and Co. 1903.

The catalogue of the collection of arms and armour in the Palace, Valletta, Malta, prepared by Mr. Laking under the authority of His Excellency the Governor of Malta, is a welcome addition to the literature concerning armour now existing in Europe. As explained in the short but excellent introductory note, the armoury at Malta has, owing to various causes, comparatively little to attract the student of armour, but Mr. Laking has wisely arranged in the centre of the hall the really interesting portion of this otherwise numerically large collection of genuine though not very rich pieces of equipment. The volume is most liberally illustrated, and the editor's criticisms of the older attributions make it a reliable guide.

One is sorry to see that Nos. 244 and 245, the old colours of the 80th and 35th regiments, should be so far away from their proper resting places, Stafford and Chichester, or at least the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, where in the charge of the Royal United Service Institution, as in Chelsea Hospital, so many regimental colours are well cared for.

The collection at Malta appears to surpass that in London in respect of comb morions and shields.

Elbow cop is as good a word as *coudre*, whatever that may be. La Rousse does not give such a noun, and we hope this is only a printer's error. Centuries and parts of them are safer references for undated examples than years, even when qualified by *circa*. But without cavilling, we should be grateful to Mr. Laking for the volume which adds so materially to our knowledge of the Maltese collection.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE. By Lieut.-Col. HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A.
London. Elliot Stock. 1902.

This is a cheap re-issue of the work published some years ago in Mr. Elliot Stock's series of Popular County Histories, and will be welcomed as placing within the reach of all a brief but very interesting history of the great county which has within the last two hundred years attained so important a position in the kingdom. After a brief description of the several hundreds, Colonel Fishwick describes the pre-Roman remains which have been discovered all over the county, and then states what is known of the works of the Romans, as illustrated by the roads, forts and other marks of their occupation, especially those at Manchester and Ribchester. The history of the county then follows in

regular order down to the beginning of last century, a multitude of illustrative details being given from the records in order to bring the condition of the people more vividly before the reader. The civil war of the seventeenth century and the Jacobite rebellions of the next are treated with special fulness. The history of the nineteenth century Colonel Fishwick does not profess to deal with, as being too vast for the limits assigned to him. A special chapter narrates the story of religion in Lancashire from the days of Paulinus and Wilfrid to the Tudor Reformation; thence onwards in its tumultuous progress amid the contentions of Catholics, Puritans and Quakers, down to about the year 1820, when apart from the old parish churches and their chapels of ease (about 260 in all) there were 77 Roman Catholic chapels, 68 Independent, 27 Baptist, 32 Unitarian, and 180 Wesleyan.

In addition to the new title page it would have been useful if a list of "errata" had been added in making this issue; for instance, Coniston Priory for Conishead occurs twice, John Caxton for William, and others might be mentioned.