

## Reviews.

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THE STORY OF THE TOWN OF READING, by W. M. Childs (Long, Reading).—Mr. Childs has given to the young people of Reading a charming little book on the history of their town. It makes one long for the more important work which for some time he has been preparing. He states the obvious truth which must be evident to all who have any experience in teaching that in order to impress upon the minds of young people the important events of our national history, it is advisable to tell them the details of the story as connected with the place and neighbourhood in which they live. Reading is indeed a "city of memories," and many great events of national importance have been associated with the town during its life of more than a thousand years. Mr. Childs tells its story clearly and pleasantly, and we should like to see his little book in the hands of every child in Reading, so that they may know the part which their town has played in the annals of England, and be able to trace its gradual growth, the history of its Abbey and the lives of the great men who once trod its streets. Mr. Childs states that all the monarchs from William Rufus to Henry VIII. visited Reading Abbey. It is not quite evident how William Rufus managed to do this, as the Abbey was not founded until the reign of his successor; but this statement is only a slight variation from the general accuracy of the history. The book contains some good maps, which are most useful in tracing the gradual growth of the town.

A HISTORY OF THE GUNPOWDER PLOT, by Philip Sidney (Religious Tract Society).—The author of this work, a member of the family of the Sidneys of Penshurst, has done well to tell again the story of the plot viewed in the light which recent historical investigations have thrown upon the nature of the conspiracy. He holds no brief for the Jesuits, Garnet and Oswald, and proves the authenticity of the traditional story of the plot and that the Government knew all about it long before the receipt of the warning letter by Lord Mounteagle. It is a very interesting volume and abounds in illustrations taken from old prints. Mr. Sidney is a careful historian whose facts can be relied upon, as his information is derived from original sources and from patient searching in the Record Office and in the British Museum.

THE ANTIQUARY (Elliot Stock) continues to delight its many readers, and the Editor's monthly notes on archæology are especially valuable, as no important discovery ever seems to escape his eye. A good programme for 1906 has been arranged.

MANSIONS OF ENGLAND IN THE OLDEN TIME, by J. Nash (*Studio* Winter Number).—The Editor of the *Studio* has conferred a great benefit on the students of domestic architecture by placing within their reach this admirable reprint of Nash's superb work. The four large volumes of the original edition are costly and difficult to procure. Here we have in a convenient form clear reproductions of the plates, arranged in alphabetical order, and prefaced by an excellent sketch of domestic architecture written by Mr. C. Harrison Townsend. Few copies are left, and these should immediately be sought, or the applicant may experience one of the keenest disappointments of life.