

decline in the reign of Edward I., and the quarterly sessions of the justices of the peace, instituted in 1363, took away what life was left, though some survivals may be found in the nineteenth century.

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Comptes de la Ville d'Ypres de 1267 à 1329. Publiés par G. des Marez, Archiviste de la Ville de Bruxelles, et E. de Sagher, Archiviste de la Ville d'Ypres. Tome premier. [Académie Royale de Belgique, Commission Royale d'Histoire.] (Bruxelles. P. Imbreghts, 1909, pp. xxiii, 627.) The accounts of Ypres are probably the oldest and are certainly among the most important of town accounts to be found for the old provinces of Belgium. The first is of 1267-1268; then there are a good many fragments relating to years between 1276 and 1304; and from 1304 the series is fairly regular, with gaps, however, here and there in the fourteenth century and more frequently in the fifteenth. They are not complete enough, unfortunately, to give full knowledge either of the receipts or of the expenditures of the city. They contain, however, precise information on a great variety of matters, most commonly: revenue from fines, from charges upon property taken out of the city, from payments for acquisition of burgessy or recovery of rights thereof; outlay for rents or annuities arising from expropriations by the city, for salaries, for pleas before church courts, for travelling and other expenses of officers or agents of the city, for gifts out of courtesy or obligation to various persons, for police service and public works. Now and then appear exceptional sources of expense, like war, or burial of the poor dying in time of pest. Such documents will contribute much to the history of Ypres; particularly, they make possible a study of its finances like that by Espinas on Douai or by Knipping on Cologne. They will furnish many concrete bits on the life of townsmen in the Middle Ages and later. They will help to clarify the history of the county of Flanders, whose fortunes were so intimately bound up with Ypres among other towns. Also, they will aid in tracking those international interests in which the Netherlanders of that time were involved.

This first volume makes these documents available only to 1316. Two more volumes, completing the first installment, are to reach only to the close of the democratic régime of 1325-1329. This is indeed a slow pace. It seems due, however, at least chiefly, to the fullness with which the material is given and to the care with which the editors are doing their part. Whoever gleans here will find his advantage ministered to in every reasonable way. Indeed the whole of the third volume of this installment is to be devoted to statistical tables, lists of certain officers, a glossary, an elaborate index, and possibly some *pièces justificatives*.

E. W. Dow.

A Suffolk Hundred in the Year 1283. The Assessment of the Hundred of Blackbourne for a Tax of One Thirtieth, and a Return showing the Land Tenure there. Edited by Edgar Powell. (Cambridge, University Press, 1910, pp. xxxiv, 121.) In this handsome volume Mr. Powell has edited and analyzed with scholarly care some documents illustrative of economic conditions in the hundred of Blackbourne, county of Suffolk, near the close of the thirteenth century. The principal document is a subsidy roll of unusual interest since it records not only the name of each taxable and the total money value of his property, but also states the quantity and money value of the different kinds of grain and the number and money value of the different kinds of stock constituting that property. Moreover, from contemporary records the editor has been able to determine the status of a number of the people named in the lists. A second document, derived from a *quo warranto* return, gives details of the tenures of the free lands held in the hundred from the Abbot of Bury St. Edmunds. Extents of four manors, dating from the year 1302 and describing the services and payments due from the villein tenements, are of considerable interest. In notes on the several villages of the hundred Mr. Powell summarizes the contents of many nearly contemporaneous *inquisitions post mortem*, manorial records, references in assize rolls, etc.; and for purposes of comparison gives statistics of the present population, acreage, and number of inhabited houses.

Le Domostroï (Ménagier Russe du XVI^e Siècle). Traduction et Commentaire. Par E. Duchesne. (Paris, Alphonse Picard et Fils, 1910, pp. 168.) This is one of the many excellent contributions which French scholars have made to the study of Russian history. It places in the hands of students not reading Russian a well-edited text of an invaluable, and, at the same time, highly interesting source for the sixteenth century. In addition to a translation of the text, M. Duchesne gives a brief summary of the controversy occasioned by the existence of two versions of the Domostroï: the Konchine or short version discovered in 1848, and the longer edition belonging to the Historical Society of Moscow. He reviews the arguments of I. S. Nekrasov in support of the more probable authenticity of the latter, but agrees with A. V. Mikhailov against Nekrasov in favor of the shorter text as being closer to the unknown original. He accepts the prevalent opinion, which assigns the original compilation of the treatise to Silvester. As to its historical value, he disagrees with K. S. Aksakov who believes it a mere imaginary picture, and holds with A. Afanasiev and Porfiriev that it reflects faithfully the economy of the average well-to-do household in the Moscow of the period.

If any comment might be made upon the text which M. Duchesne adopts, it would be upon the freedom with which he has omitted here and there passages in his judgment unimportant. This exercise of