



COUNTRY HOUSE, BIDDENHAM, ENGLAND.

Mallows & Grocock, Architects.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE. J. Wood Brown, M. A., 1905. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$1.00 net.

This book is one of ten volumes published in the Langham Series of Art Monographs, edited by Selwyn Brinton, M. A.—with more volumes in preparation. They are artistically presented and profusely illustrated, both with color plates and photogravures, and neatly bound in leather.

THE GARDENS OF ITALY. Charles Latham. Descriptions by E. March Phillipps, 1905. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Buckram. Two volumes, \$18.00 net.

Since the publication of the large collection of plates "Architectural Gardens of Italy" by Forbes & Company, Ltd., several years ago, the subject of Italian gardens has been variously presented in many books. But, as the story is always new and valuable, its interest, in this latest treatment, is already assured. The descriptive and historical matter is a happy thought as it leads the reader to a better understanding of the conditions through which these old gardens assumed their unrivaled beauty.

Mr. Phillipps says, "In this land of an old civilization, gifted with so transcendent a share of natural beauty, the combination of art and nature is, perhaps, the most fascinating of all its aspects; and so well have the men of the past understood how to combine the two, that in the villas and gardens of Italy it is well nigh impossible to divorce them. The glades and woodland, the terraces and stone-work, seem so inevitably to belong to each other, and each to enhance the other's charm. The ancient Romans thoroughly understood villa life, but they differentiated between the villa rusticana or farm and the villa urbana, a pleasure house in the country or on the outskirts of the town. * * * * The result of all this varied love of gardens has been to leave us a marvelous variety of pleasure houses and grounds throughout Italy in more or less excellent preservation. Turn where you will, you meet with places which merit Cicero's term, "my

delights." All are rich in memories, there are few of which we cannot gather some story which enriches some special moment of that far reaching past, or awakes some personality which once made its expression here; and so the impression of these beautiful gardens to all thinking beings must be enhanced ten-fold, when something is realized of the historical associations with which they are bound up and vivified."