

Ancient Rome in the Light of Recent Discoveries. By RODOLFO LANCIANI, LL.D. (Harv.), F.R.A.S., Professor in the University of Rome, etc. With one hundred illustrations. 8vo, pp. xxix, 329. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Price, cloth, \$6.

Professor Lanciani's work, as a scientist, was of that specific sort that combined details with generalizations, and in its results it is invaluable to those interested in the least degree in the general subject of Roman antiquities. Whether his book be regarded as a history of ancient Rome in the light of its archæology, or as a contribution to archæology in the light of the history of Rome, it is of vast importance to scientists, historians, and lovers of ancient phenomena. It is evident that as an excavator of the hills of the old city, and a profound student of his discoveries, he was patient and enthusiastic, and was eminently successful in linking together the archæological evidences of the early history of the city on the Tiber. Nor has he failed to recognize and appropriate the results of other laborers in the same field, and, putting together all the discoveries made in the last twenty years in and around the city of Rome, he has furnished a treasury of facts that cannot but be conclusively illustrative of many enigmatical problems in the prehistoric and traditional eras of the Roman people, as well as confirmatory of events in the historic periods. The statistics of discoveries since 1872 of amphoræ, terra cotta lamps, and works of art, marble sarcophagi, bas-reliefs, busts and heads, pictures in polychrome mosaic, and coins of gold, silver, and bronze, are simply enormous; and when it is remembered that this vast art collection includes some of the masterpieces of the artists, it is not difficult to

see that their historical value is very much enhanced, and that nearly every object found is a testimony of the truth of history as known, or a revelation of history until now unknown. It is impossible in a page to specify the results of these recent investigations, but we may say that they throw light upon prehistoric events, the sanitary condition, the public places of resort, the palace of the Cæsars, the house of the vestals, the public libraries of both the ancient and mediæval city, the police and fire department, the Tiber and the Claudian harbor, and the social and religious condition of the people both during the Empire and the Republic. Of the destruction of ancient ruins and monuments, especially in the *Renaissance*, and of the difficulties and embarrassments in the prosecution of excavation, the professor is startling in his statements, but they are necessary to an understanding of both archæology and history. • Of all books issued within a score of years concerning Rome this is the most complete and the most valuable, because it is in a new field, and as reliable as the facts will warrant.