(Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. \$2.00.) By all odds, the best popular study of Italian literature, for the use of beginners, which we have ever seen, is Oscar Kuhns' "Great Poets of Italy." Mr. Kuhn's volume gives the student just entering upon that most fascinating of studies, a guide which cannot but be immensely helpful and stimulating The treasure-house of Italian literature must have already been opened before there can be complete enjoyment of John Addington Symonds's wonderful series of studies of Italian art and literature, and Rossetti's Italian essays presuppose some knowledge of the greatest authors, but Mr. Kuhns writes for the beginner, and how precious is the heritage he offers. Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, Ariosto, Tasso, Alfieri, Leopardi, Carducci, D'Annunzio, and Togazzaro, as well as many a minor poet and several of the greater of the humanists, are, by description and selection, opened to the student, and Mr. Kuhns has been wise enough to make his selections from the best extant translations; Longfellow, Leigh Hunt, Shelley, Rossetti, Howells, and Greene are a few of the translators

THE GREAT POETS OF ITALY. By Oscar Kuhns.

well sketched, and the critical work of the volume is excellent. The illustrations will add to the interest. and are good without being remarkable. Naturally the most exhaustive study in the book

selected, and the examples have been chosen with great skill and literary taste. The lives of the authors are

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is gven to the "Divine Comedy," and is simple and straightforward enough for school use, although, of course, a short introduction to that stupendous poem must be inadequate from a Dante student's standpoint.

We think that more space might with advantage have been given to Michelangelo's sonnets, and perhaps Ariosto and Tasso received a trifle more attention than the taste of to-day would approve. As a whole, the book is excellently fitted to be exactly what it starts out to be—an introduction to the critical study of Italian literature.

E. G. F.

Lucretia Borgia. By Ferdinand Gregorovius.
Translated by John Leslie Garner. (New York:
D. Appleton & Company. \$2.25 net.)

The ever fascinating personality of Lucretia Borgia, whose accusers and apologists are legion, is the inspiration for this book, the data for much of which comes from original and hitherto unexploited sources. It is a work done in true Germanic fashion, exhaustive and copiously supplied with references To the interested student it throws many new lights upon a character which is indeed quite alien to twentieth century ideas. That Lucretia was indubitably charming and sweet-natured, and that there is no good proof of her guilt of those most atrocious crimes, seems certain from this author's showing; but that she was not free from other faults, more easily condoned in

This book is, of course, concerned not only with Lucretia, but with the other famous and infamous

that age than now, seems equally clear.

members of that family. It is impossible to separate the group. It was one of the most remarkable families in all the history of the world. Few families have boasted a woman of such charm, a brother of such dire wickedness, and a father who was first cardinal and afterward Pope, and whose life was filled with corruptness. The author does not attempt to excuse wickedness in any of the characters, but he does attempt to show just what charges were false and what true. He also gives us sketches of these persons in their true relation to the times. The complex characters of the Borgias and other nobles of that time, their wars and amours are exploited at length, and no better picture of the period can be found. The illustrations are numerous and good, the index excellent, and the book attractive in appearance. The material, unfortunately, is very badly arranged, many repetitions

HISTORY OF THE GERMAN STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY. By Poultney Bigelow. (New York: Harper & Brothers. \$2.25 net.)

occurring throughout.

This is the third volume in a notable series, and takes us along from Waterloo to 1848. The story is told in the author's own style, with all its extravagances and its dash. It is a strong picture, and merits consideration of those who are trying to understand the peculiar workings of the German mind and nation, as shown to-day in Welt Politik. It was during this period that arose almost all the great social leaders who are to-day influencing so much the reformers of Germany. A mere mention of some of these names — Jahn, Fritz Reuter, David Strauss, Blum, La Salle, and Simon — shows how inclusive and important this work is. In dealing with these men, the reader must not forget the author's strong bias. La Salle, for example, was regarded by Bigelow as little better than a fraud, a poseur, and as in

no sense living such a life as was indicated by his principles. To German Socialists of to-day, whose Bible is La Salle's utterances, these words of our author will come as almost blasphemous. Such extremeness of view is again revealed in his opening sentence on Jahn: "Friedrich Ludwig Jahn is more of a factor to-day in the life of the average German than perhaps Goethe or Schiller." That sounds like a comparison of Emerson and Peter Cooper.

a comparison of Emerson and Peter Cooper.

There are, of course, notable and enjoyable chapters in the book, especially those dealing with National Art and Music. The volume is admirably arranged and finely illustrated with portraits of the great figures of the period.

F. B. T.