

New Books.



THE particular portion of the Mendips dealt with in "A MENDIP VALLEY," by THEODORE COMPTON (printed and published by C. W. Eddington, Victoria Press, Swindon) is Winscombe. The book is an enlarged edition of the popular "Winscombe Sketches," published some years ago and now out of print. In addition to being enlarged and rewritten, it is profusely illustrated with original sketches of the charming scenery of the district by Edward T. Compton. We present (by the courtesy of the author) one of these sketches, a view of Winscombe Church, and the initial letter commencing this notice is taken from the first chapter. The inhabitants of this Mendip Valley and its surroundings are genially discoursed of by the author in a pleasant style that carries the reader on from chapter to chapter till the end is reached all too soon, the conclusion, from the practised pen of Professor C. Lloyd-Morgan, F.G.S., on "The Geological History of the Mendips," being as interesting as anything in the book. The famous Sidcot School, belonging to the Society of Friends, is in Winscombe Valley, and has a chapter specially devoted to it, with a full-page view of the school. The typography and make-up of the volume, with its wide margins and uncut edges, is very neat and tasteful, the presswork sharp, clear, and dainty, and the numerous half-tone illustrations, in black and "art" tints, are admirably printed. Taken altogether, the work (which was printed and bound complete at the Victoria Press) is a model of modern bookmaking, and is another example of the high excellence of the productions of the provincial printer. (London: Ed. Stanford, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross. Price 10/6).

MR. J. B. MARSH'S new book, "ST. PAUL'S CROSS" (published a few months ago by Raithby, Lawrence & Co., Limited, 1 Imperial-buildings, E.C.) has had the effect of calling public attention to the neglect of this old landmark of English religious history, and the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's have now relined the site of the old

cross and placed a stone in the centre on which is cut deeply "Site of St. Paul's Cross."

THE Pope has bought the extensive library of the Borghese family for the sum of one million francs, and has had it transferred to the shelves of the Vatican. Historical researchers will be pleased to learn that this collection, which has hitherto been somewhat inaccessible, is now open to general inspection at the Vatican. It is also reported that the Pope has thrown open to all scholars, no matter of what religious belief, not only the Vatican library, but the papal secret archives. A separate study chamber, perhaps the largest of this nature in Italy, has been provided, in which, so far as there is room, every researcher who applies by letter is accommodated. This opportunity is greedily taken advantage of, and out of thirty-two places all but four are taken, and the chamber offers a peculiar mixture of religious and worldly students, including Italians, Frenchmen, Belgians, Hungarians, Poles, Germans, and Austrians.

