new *pastourelle*, modelled on one from the Oxford *chansonnier*, P. Aebischer¹ a fifteenth-century French *chanson de mal mariée* from Freiburg. P. Weingärtner has published a dissertation on Jehan Acart de Hesdin.²

**THE RENAISSANCE**

*By F. J. Tanquerey*

During the last few years the sixteenth century has attracted much attention; so many important works have been published that we shall be able to give only a very brief notice of each of them.

1. GENERAL. Some deal with general aspects of the history of the period: in the well-known series *Peuples et Civilisations*, H. Hauvette and A. Renaudet³ have given a comprehensive and illuminating study of the whole of the sixteenth century: this admirable piece of work will provide the necessary background to all those who specialize in French Renaissance literature or history. In a thin volume, rich in facts and ideas, H. Hauser⁴ has endeavoured to prove that from every point of view—intellectual, religious, moral, political, economic—the sixteenth century was thoroughly revolutionary; some of the arguments, however, are not wholly convincing and certain conclusions are occasionally exaggerated. Two very important works deal with the history of philosophical ideas; in one of them, J. Festugière⁵ has made a very scholarly and brilliant study of the diffusion of Platonism in France; his book is full of ingenious and fecund ideas (cf. the chapter on Lyons); in the other, H. Busson⁶ has shown the development of French rationalism in the sixteenth

¹ P. Aebisher, 'Une chans. de "mal mariée" dans un MS. fribourgeois du 15e s., *Romania*, liv, 1928.
² Quellenverhältnis u. Allegorie in der Prise amoureuse de J. A. de H., Würzburg, 1929.
century, partly under the influence of the Paduan school of philosophy: it explains—most convincingly—the philosophical position of writers like Jean Bodin, Montaigne, Charron. Both these works, scholarly and original, are of the greatest interest, and will be found invaluable guides by all students of the philosophical and aesthetic ideas of French Renaissance literature.

From the purely literary point of view, several important works should be mentioned. In his study of neo-Latin poetry in France, D. Murarasu\(^1\) opens a fairly new field, and a new light is thrown on the ideas of the Pléiade (especially on J. du Bellay’s *Défense*). The influence of Terentius is the subject of H. W. Lawton’s book\(^2\); in this volume, the author deals in a very scholarly and methodical manner with facts, and the catalogue of various editions, translations, and dates, however useful, is rather tedious; the more interesting question of Terentius’s influence will be dealt with in a subsequent volume.

In the *Collection Armand Colin*, J. Plattard\(^3\) has given an excellent little volume, concise and easily read, substantial and original; H. Guy’s second volume of his *Histoire de la Poésie française au XVI\(^e\) siècle*,\(^4\) scholarly and sound, is in every respect worthy of its predecessor; it is indispensable to all those who study Marot and the pre-Renaissance period. P. Villey\(^5\) deals with the same period: his study of Marot and Rabelais, as was to be expected, is very original and illuminating; his ideas on the sixteenth century in general are even more interesting: they are sometimes the exact opposite of H. Hauser’s conclusions.\(^6\) M. Villey derides those who will see in Rabelais and Montaigne intellectual revolutionaries. There are in L. Sainéan’s *Problèmes littéraires du XVI\(^e\) siècle* valuable contributions to the study of some of the moot points of the period. We must mention here the admirable dictionary of


\(^{5}\) P. Villey, *Les Grands écrivains du XVI\(^e\) siècle*, *I. Marot et Rabelais*, 1923.

\(^{6}\) Cf. p. 44, n. 4.