II
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

A. ITALIAN STUDIES

ITALIAN PHILOLOGY AND LITERATURE
TO THE RENAISSANCE

By E. G. Gardener

We must needs begin this summary with the name of that great master in the field under survey, Pio Rajna, who passed away on 26 November 1930. His last published utterances were on two subjects that he had made peculiarly his own: the text of Dante’s *De Vulgari Eloquentia*, and the origins of the romances of chivalry. He was actually engaged upon a review of Faral’s three volumes, *La Légende Arthurienne*, at the time of his death.

A notable work, for reasons not exclusively philological, is Carlo Battisti’s recently published study of the dialects of the Alto Adige and the Ladine question, treated from the historical as well as the linguistic standpoint, and obviously of considerable topical interest. A new series of studies in philology and folk-lore,


entitled Pallante, is being issued by Chiantore; among its first numbers has appeared a collection of Fiabe e novelle calabresi, in the dialect of Calabria, 'transcribed' from oral tradition by Letterio di Francia. Increased attention is being given to the formation of the literary language in the thirteenth century and what we may call Dante linguistics, notably by Alfredo Schiaffini; Michele Barbi has recently emphasized the need of such philological equipment for an accurate understanding of the poet.

A much-needed piece of work has been done by Letterio di Francia in his edition of the Cento novelle antiche or Novellino, now for the first time presented with full notes and a commentary that will appeal to the student of comparative literature. To Dr. Esther May we owe a critical edition of the two best-authenticated poems of Giacomino da Verona, an important contribution to the knowledge of the dialects of northern Italy in the thirteenth century. A hitherto unpublished composition of Fra Guittone d'Arezzo, a treatise on the nature of love, in twelve sonnets, has been edited by Francesco Egidi. Of some importance, alike for Franciscan and Dante studies, is the editing for the first time from the manuscripts at Padua and Dresden of the Tractatus super Quatuor Evangelia of Joachim of Flora by Ernesto Buonaudi, who has followed it up with a popular volume on the Calabrian prophet, some of the conclusions of which seem open to question. The second volume of Sabatier's posthumous edition of the Speculum Perfectionis, edited with admirable skill and indefatigable labour by A. G. Little, touches Italian studies inas-

1930 (Terms of hunting, fishing, woodcraft, minerals, &c.). — J. Melander, 'L'Origine de l'italien me ne, me lo, te la, &c.', SN, ii, 3. — E. Levi, 'Due trovatori antichissimi nell'onomastica italiana del sec. xii: Marcabru e Cer-
camon', lv, 1929.

3 Pallante, studi di filologia e folklore, ed. P. S. Leicht, F. Neri, and L. Suttina, Turin, Chiantore.

4 'Note sul colorito dialettale della Divina Commedia', Studi Danteschi, xiii, 1929; 'Infuissi di dialetti centro-meridionali sul toscano e sulla lingua letteraria', L'Italia Dialettale, iv, 1928, v, 1929.

5 'Con Dante e coi suoi interpreti', Studi Danteschi, xv, 1931, pp. 5–8.


7 The De Jerusalem Celesti and the De Babilonia Infernali of Fra Giacomo
da Verona, Florence and Oxford University Press, 1930.

8 'Un Trattato d'amore inedito di Fra Guittone d'Arezzo', GSLI, xcvi, 1931.

9 The Tractatus in the Fonti per la Storia d'Italia, Rome, Istituto Storico Italiano, 1930; Gioacchino da Fiore, i tempi, la vita, il messaggio (Coll. di Studi Meridionali), Rome, 1930.