

tity of gossip, rumor and report; and all this he set down patiently and, considering the nature of his information, with surprising accuracy. He lived in the stirring period of Savonarola's reforming crusade. He witnessed the celebrated bonfire of Vanities, when the citizens followed the dictates of the great Frate and burnt their frivolous possessions.

"He was present in the Piazza when Savonarola and his two chief disciples were put to death. He watched the workmen toiling and struggling as they brought Michelangelo's 'David' from the artist's workshop to its place in the Piazza. He saw the entry into Florence of more than one Pope when the city with lavish expenditure decorated itself for the triumph.

"Life then was colorful and violet. The background of Landucci's own placid existence is a constant succession of wars. The French were in Italy. The Italian cities were constantly squabbling with one another. Plague was seldom completely absent and often raged furiously. The citizens rioted and were sternly suppressed by their governors. Crimes of violence were many, and punishments of terrific cruelty were meted out to criminals who were caught.

"Countless times did this quiet apothecary see condemned men hauled on carts to the place of execution, tortured as they were trundled through the city with red-hot pincers. The rack and thumbscrew were seldom idle. Landucci chronicles also the violences of nature; storms when lightning struck the cupolas and towers of the churches; cold so severe that the Arno froze over; floods so high that the benches in Santa Cree floated out into the square. Generally these events are regarded as portents of coming trouble and interpreted as punishment for the wickedness of the citizens. The record includes also many rumors of miracles and wonders convincingly testified to from many parts of Italy. Some holy statue sweats, the eyes of some saint in a picture move; there are miraculous fires and mysterious visions.

"Such a chronicle does not need to be read consecutively; open it at any page and you will find matter for entertainment, an astonishingly vivid evocation of the brilliant life of a brilliant city four hundred and more years ago. The translator includes the original editor's invaluable notes and has added others on sub-

jects familiar to Italians but upon which the English or American reader may need guidance."

The translator would have added to the convenience of the reader by inserting the years during which the notes were made. For example an entry made *16th December* recites that "Cegino was beheaded in the court of the *Capitano*, for the same crime of having plotted for the Medici." The next note is dated *6th January*—no year given, and as the year of the preceding entry is not stated the dates must be retraced.

The youth, on October 15, 1450, about 14 years of age, went to learn book-keeping from a master called Callandra; he adds "Praise God! I succeeded." On 1st January, 1452, he entered the shop of the apothecary Francesco, at the sign of the *Scala*, in the *Mercato Vecchio*. He continued in this shop for 10 years. There are quite a number of references to his experiences and investments. The entries are most interesting and many have historical value.

The Apothecaries' Guild of which he was a member regulated the hours during which the shops were to be kept open. Evidently, the apothecaries made candles, for the Guild decided that "we apothecaries could no longer make candles at two denari."

An entry of May 26, 1471, stated that he bought some of the first sugar that came to Florence from Madeira.

A note of the Diary explains the time use. The Translation states—"They then began to count from *eight o'clock p.m.*, that is, the present eight o'clock was called 24; and the present nine o'clock was called one o'clock, ten o'clock was two o'clock, etc. The idea was to count the fresh day from the hour of the sun going down on the last one."

*Schimmel & Co. Report.*—The annual report on essential oils and synthetic perfumes, published by Schimmel & Co., Miltitz, Germany, has been received in the United States. Fritzsche Brothers, Inc., New York City, is agent in the United States and Canada. The report consists of a bound illustrated volume of 248 pages.

*Neue Arzneimittel, Spezialitäten und Geheimmittel.*—Supplement of *Apotheker-Zeitung*, covering the period of April to September 1927, of preparations indicated, appearing in the publication named in numbers intervening between dates given.