Mirbt's 'History of the Papacy.'

Here is a volume we may set on our shelves alongside Hahn's 'Symbols' and Hefele's 'Councils.' It is of such books that Church History is made. Here there is no making, only the material, unless a man can supply the links between the paragraphs, and so weave his own story. It is the outcome of much labour, earnestly expended. Professor Mirbt has made a special study of his subject, and is the author of a learned monograph on Gregory VII. and the problems to which his position give rise. For this new work every student must be thankful. It gives what we have never had before, the opportunity of studying in one volume, at first hand, the development of the theory and practice of the Roman bishops' supremacy. To glance through the headings of the successive paragraphs is, in itself, a most suggestive lesson. Everything is here, from the first hints of Peter's occupancy of the chair, in the letters of Clement and Dionysius, to the encyclical letter of Leo XIII., June 1894. Where it is necessary for clearness, we have also the other side of the shield, e.g. the famous theses of Luther precede the Pope's answer to them. Very interesting are the various decrees with reference to the Jesuit Order. The text of all the extracts is carefully edited, and references given, while a list of the Popes, with their dates affixed, forms an Appendix.

The whole work is an object-lesson in that first requisite of all fruitful study—'Search the Sources.'

G. CURRIE MARTIN.

Reigate.

The Text of the Old Testament.

A Pamphlet recently published at Munich (Ackermann), entitled 'Analekten zur Textkritik des alten Testaments,' by Dr. Felix Perles, deserves some consideration at the hands of Old Testament scholars. It is in form the maiden work of the author, so he himself tells us, being presumably the dissertation for his doctor's degree; but the son of so distinguished a father as Dr. Joseph Perles must have had his attention called to this subject for several years, and has doubtless embodied in his essay many of the results to which his father had already been led. We are therefore justified in assuming that it is not altogether a work of a mere tyro.

The most interesting part of his paper is his study of abbreviations. Professor Driver has indeed already dealt briefly with this in his Notes on the Books of Samuel, but Dr. Perles finds—or thinks he finds—many more examples.

He examines, first of all, the external evidence for the existence of abbreviations. Of course