words, and there are only seven of these in the whole book, supplemented by a few excellent photographs.

Probably the people who will find it most useful are science sixth-formers and undergraduates; it is doubtful if anyone without scientific training would have the fortitude to persevere to the end. This is a pity, for Professor Andrade has many useful things to say, but in his laudable effort to mention as much as possible he has little space left for the personal reminiscences of distinguished scientists and accounts of how they made their discoveries which can do so much to make a book of this sort more readable and enlightening. The facts are all there, selected and arranged in a masterly way, but somehow the whole story never comes to life. This of course is not easy to bring about, but it can be done. It is so important that science should be known as a thrilling adventure of the human mind in search of knowledge, and not as a sort of sausage machine for churning out more and more information.

The final chapter is devoted to a few brief, sensible reflections on the philosophy of science. Sience is finding out about things; and while Professor Andrade recognizes the limitations on measurement in the nuclear domain, he does not introduce those quite unnecessary causeless events that so often find their way into books of this sort and rightly infuriate philosophers and make science seem a lot more mysterious than it really is.

PETER E. HODGSON

A FIFTEENTH-CENTURY SCHOOL BOOK. Edited by William Nelson. (Clarendon Press; Oxford University Press; 25s.)

This work has hitherto only existed in a single British Museum manuscript, here edited for the first time. It makes an interesting addition to the large collection of English 'vulgars', schoolmasters' handbooks for teaching Latin by the so-called direct method, which we already possess, though the present edition is robbed of much of its interest because we are only given the English versions, with a few of the corresponding Latin exemplars as an appendix, so that this book does not show us much about its author's Latinity. What there is confirms what we already know from such scholarly editions as that by Miss Beatrice White of the Stanbridge and Whittinton vulgars, that Tudor teachers were much concerned to flog into their pupils a Latin purged of every taint of the Middle Ages: 'thanks be to God' becomes 'alti throno sit gratia', for example. Is there any surviving disputation on such matters between a pedagogue and a parish priest? One would dearly like to read it. The editor identifies the author and his school with Oxford, though this has already been questioned: but

the picture drawn of teaching methods is much the same as that which we know from too many other sources, early and late. We may recall poor little Jane Grey's beautiful tribute to Aylmer as the only teacher she ever had who showed her kindness instead of a numbing, stultifying brutality. *Initium sapientiae timor domini* must have been a sour joke to countless shivering little boys.

ERIC COLLEDGE

THE BUILDING OF MALTA DURING THE PERIOD OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM, 1530–1795. By Quentin Hughes. (Alec Tiranti; 42s.)

The little island of Malta possesses a wealth of architecture quite out of proportion to its size, and for which it is chiefly indebted to the Knights Hospitallers. After their somewhat reluctant acceptance of Malta in 1530 the knights set about fortifying the Birgu and providing themselves with buildings. Before much had been done there came the great assault by the Turks in 1565, which was heroically and successfully repulsed by the knights and the Maltese, under the Grand Master, Jean Parisot de la Valette. Thereafter, with the threat from the Turks much reduced (it was not removed until Lepanto), the knights began new fortifications within which they built a new city, behind Fort St Elmo. The new city was called Valletta, after the Grand Master, and it has been aptly described as 'a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen'. The great building activity of the knights was halted for a time by want of money, and then the Maltese themselves erected many parish churches to serve their constantly expanding villages.

Under the immediate direction of the knights there arose great buildings such as the Palace of the Grand Master, which is still used as the seat of government, the *auberges* of the various *langues*, a great hospital, a library, and much else, including the crowning glory of Malta, the Conventual Church of St John, in Valletta, Gerolamo Cassar's masterpiece, and now used as the co-cathedral. But besides the great buildings there are smaller structures; for instance, the numerous small churches of traditional Maltese design, with their plain façades and raking cornices, an 'eye' over the flat-headed door, and crowned by a bell-cot.

It is remarkable that the little island, always under foreign government, should have produced an architecture that is essentially Maltese, and that, save for Filippo Bonamici and Stefano Ittar, the architect of every important building was Maltese. It is also remarkable that hitherto there has been no work dealing comprehensively with the architecture of Malta. Mr Hughes' book is, therefore, greatly to be welcomed, for it is the product of a deep knowledge of Maltese building