

BLACKFRIARS

have been goldsmiths, painters, illuminators, or practitioners of some similar branch of art, which would afford quiet sedentary work. The monk who was a sculptor on a large scale, or a skilled carpenter, builder or architect, is a rarity If an artist turns up, well and good; he may exercise his craft provided that he behaves with proper humility. But the person who is expected to do, as a general thing, whatever building, carving or painting may be required is the ordinary, hired lay craftsman Not very frequently do we find monks taking part in building operations, even when only simple tasks, calling for no special skill, are required. In a new and poor community, or in one fired by unusual enthusiasm in some wave of reformatory zeal, we do sometimes find monks acting as builders, either alone, or, more frequently as the unskilled voluntary helpers of professional masons. . . . When a community is financially prosperous, and when the reformatory zeal has died away, we hear no more of these amateur builders.' Financial prosperity, however, is no index to the spiritual standard of a community and some may regret the passing of such reformatory zeal. But no one can mourn the passing of the amateur builders—at least no one who pretends to admire medieval architecture. That great achievement was principally the work of laymen and it is as well that its praise should be directed to the right source.

A.M.

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE. By F. Eygun. (Sands & Co.; 3/6.)

This volume forms part of Messrs. Sands' series of translations of works by French Catholic writers. M. Eygun's wide knowledge of his subject renders this introduction to Romanesque architecture more comprehensive than its price suggests. His treatment is commendably sane and thorough and the translation excellent.

J.P.-H.

Recent Art Exhibitions.

MR. Leon Underwood, in an introduction to the catalogue of the exhibition, arranged during November by Mr. Sydney Burney at his St. James's Place premises, of sculp-