

combined with a sane and balanced judgment. The author deals systematically with the fortifications and town planning, with the churches, the palaces, public buildings and houses, and he has included an interesting section on Maltese building materials and methods of construction which, though short, illuminates the whole book. The buildings are described and discussed with precision, and the text is admirably illustrated by means of photographs, plans and elevations which are conveniently keyed to the text. Malta's architectural wealth has been well served by this distinguished book.

GEOFFREY DE C. PARMITER

ITALIAN ART, LIFE AND LANDSCAPE. By Bernard Wall. (Heinemann; 2Is.)

Mr Wall knows Italy well, and his new book (which replaces his two volumes on *Italian Life and Landscape* published a few years ago) is a discursive and friendly commentary on Vespas as well as Venetian Gothic, on food as well as Florence. His familiarity with modern Italian writing gives a contemporary flavour to his comments, and he is not afraid to express personal opinions. It is obviously impossible, in just over two hundred pages, to deal adequately with a country so rich in the three respects indicated in the book's title, and often Mr Wall's sketchy dismissal of a cathedral or a whole city leaves one dissatisfied. But, granted the necessary limitations of a single book on such a subject, this is a valuable companion to the country in which English travellers feel happiest. The illustrations are obvious—the Ponte Vecchio at Florence, the Colosseum, a Sicilian painted cart and so on. It is a great pity that more trouble was not taken to provide fresh and arresting pictures of this lovely land.

I.E.

ARGENTINA. By George Pendle. (Royal Institution of International Affairs; 12s. 6d.)

The revolution of September 1955 which brought to an end the astonishing régime of General Perón had its roots in the stresses of a century and a half of painful national growth. Any judgment on Perón must take into account the facts of Latin American history and its endemic capacity for military revolutions as well as the special problems of an immense country, isolated, of vast potential wealth, uneasily balancing its swollen capital against the thousands of miles of its thinly populated provinces. Mr Pendle's excellent introduction to the history and recent development of Argentina gives full weight to these factors, and does so with a combination of accuracy and readability that is rare. He makes full use of the travel literature of the last