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***Physikalische Geographic von Griechenland—* Neumann und Partsch, Koebner, Breslau, 1885. 9 Mk.**

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strangely enough, there is no reproduction of his head as it appears on the coins of Lysimachus. With these exceptions, however, the work is well and fully illustrated. Under 'Sculpture' ('Bildhauerkunst') a long series of important monuments is reproduced, and many of the shorter articles are accompanied by interesting illustrations. Thus, under 'Barber' there is a photograph of the quaint terra-cotta group at Berlin of an ancient hair-dresser operating upon his subject. As I have already stated, there are few antiquarian topics which are not treated of in this work; it may be noted however that there is no article 'Contorniates,' and a separate article on 'Hygieia' as well as portrait-coins of Allectus and Carausius might have been included with advantage.

An ideal criticism of so comprehensive a work as Dr. Baumeister's could only be penned by a writer of encyclopaedic knowledge having unlimited columns of the *Classical Review* at his disposal. The present article has, however, I hope indicated with tolerable fairness the principal merits and defects of the first volume of the work. I may perhaps add that my opinion has been formed not only after reading through a large number of the articles, but also after having frequently consulted the book for information on the very numerous and varied 'points' that have to be looked up by one engaged in the study of Greek and Roman Numismatics.

WARWICK WROTH.

Physikalische Geographic von Griechenland—NEUMANN und PARTSCH, Koebner, Breslau, 1885. 9 Mk.

THE Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have recently determined, at the suggestion of the Geographical Society, to establish Readerships in Geography. To all who are interested in this decision I would commend Neumann and Partsch's book as an example of the kind of work which such Readers might do with advantage.

Dr. Partsch has completed and brought up to date the important treatise on the physical geography of Greece which was the work of his teacher and predecessor, Dr. Neumann. The scheme of the book, and the leading ideas belong to Neumann; but his pupil deserves immense credit for the conscientious labour which he has devoted to its completion in detail. This is not one of those airy handbooks which give you a little art, a little history and a few commonplaces about the effect of climate upon the temper. It is a serious work, a perfect mine of facts and references; a mine, too, of ideas. Its aim is stated by Neumann in his admirable introduction to be the systematic exhibition of the physical features of Greece and their influence upon national character and institutions in ancient times. The definiteness and moderation with which he lays down the limits of his subject contrast strongly with the vague and ill-proportioned claims by which Buckle and other writers have made the name of physical environment unpopular in England. The body of the book is divided into five chapters, dealing with the climate of Greece, the relation of land and sea, the conformation of the land, its geology, and its vegetation. In the last two chapters, which form rather more than half the book, the classical reader will be chiefly interested in the sections that describe the influence of limestone rocks upon the worship of Poseidon, and of the connection between the cultivation of corn and the festivals of Athene. It appears that the cultus of Poseidon is only found in districts which are distinguished either by the presence of *barathra* or by the frequent occurrence of earthquakes.

But it is not only in these chapters that light is thrown upon myths and religious ceremonies. Researches of that kind form one of the most interesting features of the book; and their inductive method and moderate tone make them convincing as well as agreeable reading.

Another valuable part of the book is the analysis of the mountain system. No one who has not made a study of Greek geography can realise the difficulties of getting a clear conception of the structure of Aetolia and Arcadia. No existing map (not even the Vienna map) throws much light upon it: most of them represent it as mere confusion. But the third chapter of this book makes the reader feel that there is order in the seeming chaos, and that a map might show it. The same chapter states with admirable clearness and impartiality the political results of the country's peculiar formation. It contains little that is absolutely new: but its completeness and philosophical tone may make it welcome as a compendium even to those who are familiar with its doctrines.

But the book has one serious fault. It is undeniably dull, both in style and in arrangement. Gratitude for much information cannot blind the reader to the fact that a catalogue of trees which fills a hundred pages is excessive when thirty are found sufficient for the mountains. And catalogues are too prominent in other parts; while those single instances, by which many writers at once relieve and illustrate a long argument, are strangely wanting. Dr. Neumann's style is clear and often forcible, but it lacks brightness and variety. Dr. Partsch is neither clear nor forcible. And neither style gains by the arrangement which presents them in a kind of irregular sandwich. But, despite its faults, this is a book which no student of Greek history can afford to neglect.

M. G. GLAZEBROOK.

The Story of the Nations: Alexander's Empire. By J. P. MAHAFFY, D.D. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 5s.

EVEN if this book were much less cleverly put together than it is, it would be impossible for a critic to withhold his sympathy from the author. He has undertaken to write a story without a plot, and with hardly any unity of scene or of national character. He repeatedly betrays his own discomfort under these trying circumstances, by explaining and apologising for omissions and curtailments. He has to tell something reluctantly of wars and quarrels which carry little human interest with them, and lead only to results which were soon in their turn obliterated; and he has to cut short chapters evidently written *con amore*, where his wide reading and great knowledge of antiquity must have often tempted him to pause and talk at leisure to his readers. His progress through the two centuries that followed Alexander's conquests must have been a somewhat dreary one, and we seem to see signs in the latter part of the book that he was glad to get to the end of it.

It may be useful to give a brief indication of the contents of a book which in 300 pages covers so long and complicated a period of history. The story of Alexander's conquests is compressed into forty pages, with plans of his three great battles; brief as the account is, it is full of suggestive comment, and the only thing wanting seems to be some explanation of the way in which the notion of a great attack on Persia, which originated in Greece, was transferred to Philip, and through him to Alexander; Isokrates is not even mentioned. Seven chapters follow, on the period of the Diadochi, and these are some of the best in the book. The two figures of greatest human interest,