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Covino's Manilius, Book I *Covino's edition of the first book of Manilius*. Torino: Rour. 1895. 3 Lire.

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COVINO'S MANILIUS, BOOK I.

Covino's edition of the first book of Manilius.
Torino: Rour. 1895. 3 Lire.

THIS is a translation into Italian prose, accompanied by the Latin text, of that section of Manilius' poem in which he describes the earth and sky according to the geographical and astronomical ideas of his time. It has, besides, copious notes dealing with the different stars passed in review by Manilius, the mathematical difficulties which his semi-scientific reasoning occasions, and sometimes with the obscurities of the text.

It is disappointing to find so little notice of Manilian criticism since Bentley. The edition of Jacob, published in 1846, is not even mentioned in the preface, still less any of the numerous works which have appeared on Manilius within the last twenty-five years. Prof. Thomas' *Lucubrationes Manilianae*, which contains a complete collation of the Gemblacensis, the best MS. of the poem, does not seem to be known to the author, nor my own *Noctes Manilianae*, which followed upon the publication of Prof. Thomas' work. All this is the more to be regretted, as the difficulties of the poem are notoriously great, and a translation based on a text in which so much is ignored of the highest critical importance is, from the philological point of view, an anachronism. On the other hand, from a scientific stand-point, M. Covino's version can hardly claim the same authority as the excellent French version, executed in the latter part of the eighteenth century, of Pingré.

Judging from the length of the astrono-

mical notes, I conclude that the author's view was rather to present to his countrymen an introduction to the astronomy of the ancients as represented by a poet of the late Augustan epoch, than to anything of a more purely critical or philological kind. This end to some extent he has secured. The translation is fairly faithful, and the student of astronomy as now known will find much that is modern worked up into the notes by way of supplementing the statements of Manilius. The author, too, is not without views of his own, e.g. on 101 *Arderent terrae* which he is certainly right in explaining (as Creech did before him) of volcanic fires; and it is obvious that in scientific matters he is no tiro: this may account for the somewhat lengthy appendix on the planetary system.

The episode of Perseus and Andromeda from B. v. would, I think, have more wisely been omitted. It merely adds to the bulk of the book and has no special connexion with B. i. Nor can much be said for the planisphere at the end of the volume, which is too confused to be of any great service.

I take this opportunity of calling attention to the important dissertation of Boll *Studien über Claudius Ptolemaeus*, the last section of which deals with Manilius. It forms part of the twenty-first supplemental volume to Fleckeisen's *Jahrbücher* and is mainly occupied with the *Tetrabiblos*, an astrological treatise of which Boll promises a new edition.

ROBINSON ELLIS.

GARDNER'S JULIAN.

Julian, Philosopher and Emperor, and the last struggle of Paganism against Christianity, by ALICE GARDNER. 8vo. Putnam. 1895. 5s.

THE 'Heroes of the Nations' Series aims at 'picturing the National conditions of the selected periods around the central figure of some representative historical character.' It is a picturesque method of writing history, which gives an advantageous platform of appeal to the general reader. But

for success three things at least are indispensable—right selection of subject; vivid grasp of 'the hero's' personality; and just comprehension of the age itself. It was inevitable that Julian should sooner or later find a place in this gallery of national portraits. His historical importance is not comparable with that of men like Aurelian, Diocletian, Constantine, or Theodosius; and it cannot in truth be said that he was a 'representative historical character,' or embodied any 'National ideal.' Of the motley