The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)

Griechische Geschichte. Von Ernst Curtius. Zweiter Band. Bis zum Ende des peloponnesischen Kriegs. Sechste verbesserte Auflage. Berlin, 1888. 10 Mks.

A. H. Cooke

The Classical Review / Volume 2 / Issue 08 / October 1888, pp 254 - 255

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00193382, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00193382

How to cite this article:

A. H. Cooke (1888). The Classical Review, 2, pp 254-255 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00193382

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

information is not to be had in any accessible English work of reference; and yet of points which meet the student at every turn in working at classical authors and in reading commentaries. If any reader will recall his school or college days, and the state of mistiness which pervaded his ideas on manuscripts, glosses, scholiasts, the names of famous scholars, and textual criticism generally, he will be able to measure the avidity with which he would have opened a book like Dr. Gow's, professing to summarise for him 'the essential facts and rules' which would have made order amidst his chaos.

Granted however that the points dealt with are the right ones, the much more important question arises, how these professions are realised in the actual handling. We think that here too Dr. Gow is to be congratulated on his success.

First the authorities consulted on the various points are all recent, so that the information is all posted up to date as far as was possible. The author gives a list in the preface of the chief books to which in the various sections he is most indebted; and they are nearly all either newly published, or re-edited, in the last seven years. This will supply an answer to a possible objection that might be raised on a perusal of the table of contents, namely that on many of the subjects in *B*, *C*, and *D*, information is to be got by the English reader in Dictionaries of Antiquities. The answer is that so much of that information is now wholly or partially superseded, that instructed readers, where they cannot check it, have to accept it with misgivings. To take one example: if the article on the Greek Theatre, for instance, in Dr. Smith's dictionary be compared with Dr. Gow's account, the reader will find in the latter an interesting summary of recent discussions on the Stage, where careful archaeological research has thrown doubt on the traditional account given by the former.

But also, and still more important, the style of Dr. Gow's exposition is excellent. Perhaps the part where it is most difficult to present adequate information in a form at once brief and interesting is the first section on Classical Texts. The success with which this is done is chiefly due to two things: to the tact with which he has selected the prominent and essential facts, and the judicious choice of examples and illustrations. Particularly noticeable are these qualities in the chapter (vii.) on Textual Criticism, where a remarkably good collection is made of instances showing how mistakes arise, and how they are emended. For instance, even the duller reader must find a new interest in text criticism when he comes on the following illustration:—

'In Seneca, Ep. lxxxi. 4, Madvig found the words: *philosophia unde dicta sit, apparet: ipso enim nomine fatetur. Quidam et sapientiam ita quidam finierunt, ut dicerent, &c.* He set the passage straight by reading '*ipso enim nomine fatetur quid amet. Sapientiam ita quidam &c.*'

Again, the two pages of facsimiles of Greek Uncials and Minuscules, Latin Rustic Capitals, Uncials and Minuscules, will give the young student a better idea of what is meant by those often recurring words than any amount of description, and will tempt him to turn over the Palaeographical Society's publications which have hitherto been undisturbed by him in his school library.

We have only noticed two misprints in the book, one on p. 121, the trivial mistake of *σύμβολον* for *σύνβολον*; and the other the curious (though hardly misleading) confusion of left and right (in speaking of the Greek writing), which occurs three times on pp. 4, 9, and 10.

We will conclude with two suggestions; first that

there should be rather more illustrations, *e.g.* of the ancient armour, ships, &c. in chapters xvi. xxvii. and xxviii.; of ancient houses and dress, which the author has omitted to speak of; and perhaps facsimiles of ancient inscriptions, like those of early manuscripts, to replace the rather confusing table of letters on page 16. And secondly that those who wish to pursue any point in more detail should be guided by a careful list of works of reference, which need not take up much room, and might be prefixed to each chapter, somewhat in the style most usefully adopted for indicating his authorities in Green's *History of the English People*.
A. S. W.

Griechische Geschichte. Von ERNST CURTIUS. Zweiter Band. Bis zum Ende des peloponnesischen Kriegs. Sechste verbesserte Auflage. Berlin, 1888. 10 Mk.

As compared with the edition from which the English translation is made, the present volume contains alterations and additions which, if not so important as those made in vol. i, are at all events of considerable interest. In the first chapter we have additional matter dealing with the importance to Athens of the foundation of Piræus (p. 18), the building of the first Athenian fleet under Themistocles (pp. 30–33), the first use of ostracism to settle a quarrel between citizens where no idea of tyranny was involved (p. 35), and the effect of the Persian war in reviving interest in the Homeric poems (p. 50). An insertion on p. 124 is calculated to cause confusion. The expulsion of Pausanias from Byzantium by Cimon (Plut. *Cim.* 6, Thuc. i. 131) is placed in the forefront of Cimon's exploits, even before the capture of Eion and freeing of the Thracian coasts. It is obvious from Thucydides that Pausanias did not seize Byzantium until 470 or 469, and Professor Curtius again relates the capture by Cimon in its proper place on p. 131. The renewed strength of Argos (after her defeat in 496) is dwelt upon with more emphasis (p. 142); she is now for the first time the capital city of a large district. On p. 160–1 the substitution of the *νομοφύλακες* for the Areopagus as guardians of the laws, and the establishment of the *μητρώον* as the new state record-office, are points on which new light is thrown; close upon which (p. 163) comes a new discussion of the question of the removal of the treasure from Delos to Athens, but the date is not more definitely given than 'some time between 460 and 454.' The position of Boeotian affairs before the battle of Tanagra (p. 169f.) has undergone considerable alteration. The statement that 'the Peloponnesians had busily strengthened the Theban, *i.e.* the oligarchical party in the whole of the country,' is replaced by the view that it was no longer the old oligarchical party of the Persian wars which was in power, but a new party of democratic inclinations, hostile to Athens, and anxious to make Thebes head of Boeotia. Thus this new democratic party leaned towards Sparta for help, while the remains of the old oligarchic party looked towards Athens. The victory of Oenophyta is thus regarded (p. 170) as resulting not in 'the establishment of democratical constitutions with the help of Attic partisans,' but in the isolation of Thebes, and 'instead of the Boeotian towns uniting against Athens and Thebes, in their entering into an alliance with Athens against Thebes.' This view naturally results in alterations in the description of the movements which preceded Coronea (p. 178). On p. 180 recent inscriptional discoveries affecting the position of Chalcis in Euboea are worked in. The changes in the judicial system under Pericles are entirely rewritten (pp. 217–220). It is now pointed out how the Heliæa could be regarded as the

representative of the whole citizen body, and as such could swear to treaties. Here, and in his description how the *δικαστήρια* gradually took the place of the weakened Areopagus, the author's views have no doubt been influenced by Fränkel. The question of the number of *δικασταί* is discussed, and as a result we are relieved from the picture of the 'fourth part of the entire civic body distributing themselves into their various courts.' The author now quite gives up (p. 223) the idea that it was Pericles, or even a contemporary backed by Pericles, who introduced payment for attendance at the *ἐκκλησία*. He now pronounces that it was certainly an innovation, not truly democratical, of a later date, but the actual time of the change is confessedly unknown. He has also given up the idea (p. 227) that there was in Periclean or even pre-Euclidean times such an official as *ἐπιμελητής* or *ταμίης* of the public revenues, holding office for four years. The relation of the island states to Athens under Pericles is largely expanded (pp. 241-244), in view of new inscriptional evidence; particular reference is made to the grouping of the states for taxation purposes, though the author does not seem to mention how curiously Thucydides' notice of the Athenian allies in II. 9, confirms this view. Particulars of the amount of tribute paid by individual states, the storing and management of the same, the *μῶν ἀπὸ τῶν ἰσθμίων* given to Athens, are described on p. 247f. To this succeeds (p. 255f.) a vastly improved historical account of the origin and development of the *κληρουχίαι*, much of which is drawn from recently discovered inscriptions, and (p. 262) some new paragraphs about the *μέτοικοι*. A much fuller account is now given (p. 310f.) of the origin and progress of the fine arts at Athens, of the influence of the islands of the Archipelago, of architectural Athens in general, and of the recognition and influence of Athenian art in the Peloponnesus. The estimate of the character of Pericles (pp. 418-423) is largely added to, his panhellenic policy is regarded as his weakest point. More information is given (pp. 482-3) on the relations of Cleon and Aristophanes; the raising of the tribute, probably on the motion of Cleon, and the imposition of the first *εἰσφορά* are new points, and so is the mention (p. 498f.) of the pamphlet on the Athenian Constitution, written in 424, expressing confidence in the position of Athens and her allies, just before the expedition of Brasidas to Thrace showed how precarious that position really was. Passing on to events succeeding the peace of Nicias we find Athenian designs on Epidaurus and the events leading up to Mantinea much more clearly put than heretofore (pp. 596-600). Succeeding this is a useful addition (pp. 606-609) in a description of affairs in *τὰ ἐπὶ Θράκης* after 421. No change is made in the author's earlier views on the Hermocopidae (pp. 633-645). He still seems to regard the event as the result of a combination of men of all political parties, with the object of ruining Alcibiades. He still regards Pisander and Charicles, the leading members of the committee of *ζητητα*, as disguised enemies of the constitution, 'directly or indirectly responsible for the mutilation itself.' It seems strange that the author has not been able to adopt the views of Gilbert (*Beiträge*, pp. 250-260), who places the whole matter in a far more probable light. Scarcely any alteration is made in the account of the Decelean war. Professor Curtius still maintains (with Herbert and Gilbert) his view of the innocence of the generals at Arginusae, in opposition to Grote's refusal to believe anything evil of a democracy. A useful map of the tribute-paying allies and the *κληρουχίαι* of Athens, divided into their proper sectional groups, concludes the volume.

A. H. COOKE.

Histoire de la Littérature Grecque. Par A. CROISSET et M. CROISSET. Tome I. Homère; La Poésie Cyclique; Hésiode. Par M. CROISSET. Paris: Thorin, 1887. 8 frs.

THIS is the first volume of what promises to be an excellent history of Greek literature. It contains ample evidence of acquaintance with modern work on the Homeric question, it shows a fresh and independent appreciation of the original Greek, and it is written with the grace and lucidity which we are accustomed to look for in French work. Add to this that the work is eminently sober and you will have a fair idea of the good points of the volume. The author is, as regards Homer, a Separatist. But, let me hasten to add, he is a very reasonable Separatist. He does not believe that the *Iliad* for instance is made up of a number of rhapsodies composed independently of each other by poets working in ignorance of each other's productions. He does not believe that the elements out of which the poem is composed were put together once for all on one definite occasion. On the other hand he does not believe that the original poet of genius left a sketch of the future poem for his successors to fill in. Nor do we hear from M. Croiset of diastemata or revisers. If he cannot believe in the very simple theory that the *Iliad* is the work of one author, neither can he believe that it is a fortuitous concurrence of lays or the mechanical production of a commission. His creed is that of organic growth. The way in which he pictures this organic growth is somewhat as follows: we have first to imagine that the tale of Troy was fixed in its main outlines as a matter of tradition or legend before poets began to embroider on it. The *Iliad* itself presupposes that the tale of Troy is known to the listener, and we have a still more pertinent example afforded in *Odyssey* VIII. of the circumstances in which epic poems grew up. In this book of the *Odyssey*, Demodocus when bidden to sing chooses as his theme an incident in the Trojan war, a quarrel between Achilles and Ulysses. Subsequently, the disguised Ulysses suggests that Demodocus should take as his theme another incident in which Ulysses figured, that of the wooden horse, and thus we have an example of the way in which a bard was naturally and necessarily led to embroider on two subjects which, though not connected, still as being drawn from the same tale might come to be connected. In the next place, a careful examination of the *Iliad* shows that different parts are of different ages, that the oldest are the fewest, and that they bear the marks of a common origin. Further, the parts thus shown to have a common origin do not form a continuous poem (this is an instance of M. Croiset's sobriety—he could just as easily have obtained a residuum which did form a continuous poem), though they are connected by the order which they observe and by the fact that they are developments of one and the same situation (this situation I should say is the Quarrel of Book I.; the other primitive parts which develop it are the Exploits of Agamemnon, Book X., the Patroclia, Book XVI., and the death of Hector, Book XXII.). These rhapsodies were evidently composed to be sung singly; at the same time the author when he composed the first, the Quarrel, had the rest vaguely in his mind; and with a very few lines introduced for the purpose these lays, though originally designed for separate recitation, could be strung together so as to make a tolerable whole. This rudimentary epic, however, does not constitute the whole of the inheritance bequeathed by the first great poet to his successors. He seems also to have composed certain