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](#)

Bilder-Atlas zu Caesars Buchern de bello Gallico, von Dr. R. Oehler. Leipzig: Schmidt und Günther. Large 8vo. 2 Mk. 85.

F. Haverfield

The Classical Review / Volume 5 / Issue 1-2 / February 1891, pp 58 - 58

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00993260, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00993260

How to cite this article:

F. Haverfield (1891). The Classical Review, 5, pp 58-58 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00993260

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

book is readable, while dull and pompous books are often just as slovenly. But Mr. Mahaffy adroitly takes much higher ground.

'He [Longinus] rightly holds fast to the great Greek principle that nothing perfect can be produced without study, that spontaneity may suggest but will never work out what is really beautiful or majestic. But at the same time he agrees perfectly with modern criticism in recognizing that irregularities may be only a flaw in genius of the highest order, perhaps even a characteristic of such genius,

seeing that unvarying correctness is seldom, if ever, the attribute of the highest work.'—P. 386.

From this point of view Mr. Mahaffy's work will hardly pass as perfect, or really beautiful or majestic; but modern criticism may consistently rank it with the highest work of genius of the highest order. The pedant may doubt the value of modern criticism, and pray for twenty years of resolute reviewing.

CECIL TORR.

C. Iulii Caesaris commentarii de bello Gallico erklärt von FR. KRANER; fünfzehnte verbesserte Auflage von W. DITTENBERGER (Weidmann). 2 M. 25 Pf.

C. Iulii Caesaris commentarii de bello civili erklärt von FR. KRANER; zehnte vielfach ungarbeitete Auflage von FR. HOFFMANN (Weidmann). 2 M. 25 Pf.

THE excellence of Kraner's editions of Caesar is well known both in and outside of Germany: his edition of the *Bellum Gallicum* has even been translated into English, though the translation was unfortunately a miserable failure. We now have before us revised editions of Kraner's commentaries on both wars. The revisions, so far as I have compared them with the editions immediately preceding them—the 14th and 9th respectively—do not shew signs of any drastic alterations, and therefore call for no very special remark. But the work has been well done and a number of minor improvements introduced, particularly in the edition of the *Bellum civile*, for which the editor has consulted Stoffel's *Guerre civile*. The recent researches into the lexicography of Caesar, more particularly those of Meusel, have naturally been laid under contribution in both books. There are, of course, a few details which individual scholars might like to see altered. An English reader, for instance, will perhaps demur to one or two of the notes dealing with Britain. It is hardly fair to say that Caesar is *thatsächlich unrichtig* when he describes the waves in the Channel as *minus magnos* (v. 1, 2). The German editors explain that the waves of enclosed seas like the Baltic or Mediterranean are shorter and more dangerous than those of the Ocean. This is very likely true, but surely one is not wrong in talking of the 'short choppy seas' of the Straits of Dover, and in assigning the cause which Caesar unconsciously does, the peculiar meeting of the tides from north and south. Again (v. 12, 4) it is probable that the native silver and copper coinage is not entirely later than Caesar's visit, and it is certain that no Phœnician trader ever anchored in Cornish creek in search for tin. But these side issues hardly affect the general excellence of the books, which fully deserve the praise always hitherto bestowed on Kraner's *Caesar*.

Here a reflection naturally occurs to an Englishman. The great German publishers, Teubner or Weidmann frequently produce revisions of standard *Schulausgaben*, and these revisions are often very extensive. No doubt it is found profitable to do this: the demand is enormous. But the competition is also severe, and the demand itself is probably stimulated by the frequency of revision and the lowness of price. Why do English publishers never give us such revised editions?

F. H.

Bilder-Atlas zu Caesars Büchern de bello Gallico, von Dr. R. OEHLER. Leipzig: Schmidt und Günther. Large 8vo. 2 Mk. 85.

THIS book is intended to provide schools with a number of illustrations and maps to accompany their Caesar lessons up to books. It contains about one-hundred woodcuts, seven maps, and some eighty pages of introductory letterpress. The woodcuts are mostly well known, the publishers having obtained the use of the blocks used for the works of Duruy, Baumeister and others, but this was inevitable, if the book was to be sold at a reasonable price with (as I presume) a reasonable profit. The choice of illustrations seems good. The first in the series (tombstone of a legionary at Wiesbaden) happens not to be very accurate, but this can be said of very few. The book is not likely to be much use in English schools, but English schoolmasters who have to read Caesar with their boys might find it a convenient collection of illustrations. Why do not Messrs Macmillan issue a volume, similar in design but smaller in size, to accompany their 'Elementary Classics' editions of Caesar?

F. HAVERFIELD.

Tacitus: The Annals, Books I.—VI. Edited with Introduction, Notes, and Indexes, by WILLIAM FRANCIS ALLEN, Professor of History in the University of Wisconsin. Boston and London: Ginn and Company. 1890. Pp. xl. 444. 7s. 6d.

THERE are circumstances under which one might well hesitate to review the work of an editor who had not lived to see his book through the press. In the case of the volume before us, however, such hesitation is quite removed, not only by the knowledge of the generous way in which Prof. Allen would have accepted honest criticism, but also by the admirable and uniform excellence of this his most important legacy to classical students.

The notes are an excellent example of all that school-notes should be, calling sufficient attention to the historical facts which are passed in review, explaining the unusual constructions and the rhetorical phraseology, with which the reader will soon become familiar, but which cannot but trouble him at the first, and tracing out the full meaning of the historian's words. Above all they help the student to enter upon the *Annals* as upon a valuable history of a very important period in the world's history. A few places might be mentioned where notes seem to be still needed: in i. 62, 1, *sextum post cladis annum* calls for explanation, and perhaps in iii. 20, 2, *flagitii*; but it would be hard to find many such instances. There are passages also in which all