

inscriptions in syntactical study. The book is well analyzed and neatly printed. She calls attention to the fact that the forms have received much more attention than the syntax in the work on the inscriptions so far. Some of the notable points brought out are the following: the scarcity of the dual, the common use of the demonstrative *τοῦ* (intensive iota), the use of the nominative in the midst of accusatives (cf. Revelation), the absence of *εἰς* and the use of *ἐν* with locative and accusative like Latin *in*, the rarity of the passive voice, the absence of the past-perfect and future-perfect indicative, the absence of the future participle, the absence of the negative *οὐ*. The student of the New Testament Greek will recognize a familiar note in these and other points in the vernacular *κοινή*. The Boeotian Dialect made a distinct contribution to the vernacular *κοινή* though not all the points named above can be claimed as peculiar to the Boeotian as distinct from the other early dialects. It is by careful work like this of Dr. Clafin that we make steady progress in our knowledge of the Greek language.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

A HISTORY OF CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE SIXTH CENTURY B. C. TO THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

By John Edwin Sandys, Litt.D. Second edition. Cambridge, England. The University Press. 1906. Pages 702. Price, 10 S. 6 d net.

This is now the standard work on a very important theme. It looks at first as if a hopeless undertaking confronts one who attempts this task. Dr. Sandys has not only mastered it, but has given us a really readable discussion of what might have been the very driest of themes. There is no real reason why scholarship should be dull and stupid. The student of the history of language will find this work invaluable. The indexes are helpful and all the details are worked over to the last degree of finish. Both the Greek and the Latin student

will here find much to interest and delight as well as instruct. Dr. Sandys is the well-known lecturer of St. John's College, Cambridge. A. T. ROBERTSON.

DIE LITERATUR DER BABYLONIER UND ASSYRER, EIN ÜBERBLICK.

Von Otto Weber. Leipzig. J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung. 1907. Ss. 312. Price, 5 M.

For more than half a century oriental scholars have been finding, deciphering and translating Babylonian and Assyrian texts and from this material rewriting the history of Western Asia and Egypt. A literature of considerable compass, written on clay tablets, monuments, etc., has been discovered and made available for use. The conception of Asiatic history has been revolutionized. And yet this knowledge, especially of the literature as such, has been confined largely to Assyriologists. There has been no adequate popular account of this great Eastern literature in so far as it has been developed. Such a book Prof. Weber has given us in his "Die Literatur", etc. He states his purpose, p. vi, as follows: "The following presentation is intended for those who are not Assyriologists; to provide a view of Babylonian-Assyrian literature for them was my task. It was, therefore, advisable to present as far as possible the very words of the texts, to make large use of compressed summaries and not to give space to details." This purpose the author has carefully carried out, using and revising the best German translations of Assyrian texts. Beginning with an account of the origin and development of the cuneiform writing, the language and writing material used, the author treats briefly but adequately the poetic literature in general, the epic literature, the literature of creation, the flood, oracles, ritual texts, historical inscriptions, the literature of law, letters, scientific texts, popular literature, and other forms. In the case of each form of literature there is a brief historical introduction, a summary of the contents, and then more or less extensive