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***Cours d'épigraphie latine.* René Cagnat. 8vo. Pp. xxvii + 504. Illustrations: 28 plates and 21 other illustrations. Paris: Fontemoing, 1914**

F. H.

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advocated the reintroduction of scythed chariots! That must have been the idea of an antiquary who had been reading about Arbela!

C. O.

La République Romaine. Les conflits politiques et sociaux. Par. G. BLOCH, Professeur à la Sorbonne. 8vo. (7.3"×4.5"). Pp. 333. Paris: Flammarion, 1913. Fr. 3.50.

IN recent years Continental scholars have been displaying praiseworthy activity in writing popular books on ancient history and culture. The volume before us is a recent addition to the list. It describes in plain language the political and social development of the Romans from the beginning of the long struggle of the lower classes for civil and political equality to the establishment of monarchy; and it is interesting to note that it belongs to a series which very rightly regards *Philosophie scientifique* as embracing the great movements of history no less than the progress of philosophic thought and of scientific knowledge in the narrower sense. Professor Bloch is distinctly successful in the rôle of *vulgarisateur*. His book has the characteristic French qualities of bright style and lucid treatment. Considerable detail is woven into the narrative without impeding its easy flow. The perspective is good: no one factor in development is exaggerated at the expense of others, and the personal element is given due prominence. It is popular work of the right sort, based on sound learning, and characterised by sane judgment. The scholar will not, indeed, always find himself in complete accord with the author. In some matters divergence of view is, of course, inevitable. But there are not a few cases where the author does not seem to have taken account of corrections or modifications of older views suggested by later discussion. Leaving aside smaller points, we may instance the exaggerated weight still attached to the importation of corn into Rome as a factor in the decline of the Italian middle classes, and the not wholly satisfactory accounts of the legislation of the younger Gracchus and the younger Drusus. Such details

do not, however, seriously affect the general merit of the exposition, which can be commended to the attention of those who desire to get a clear survey of the broad lines of development unencumbered by extraneous matter.

J. G. C. ANDERSON.

Christ Church, Oxford.

Cours d'épigraphie latine. RENÉ CAGNAT. 8vo. Pp. xxvii+504. Illustrations: 28 plates and 21 other illustrations. Paris: Fontemoing, 1914.

It is now nearly 30 years since Professor Cagnat first issued in the *Bulletin Epigraphique* the first draft of his *Cours d'Épigraphie*. A second edition, 'entièrement refondue,' appeared in 1889, a third edition in 1899, and a small supplement in 1904; the fourth edition is now before us. These dates of themselves declare the great value which scholars and students have always attached to the book. Its unfailing lucidity, its great learning, its extraordinary usefulness alike to the beginner and the expert, do not need to be emphasised at this time of day; of it, if of any learned work, it is really true to employ the hackneyed phrase that it should be in every library which recognises classical history and antiquity. In his preface, Professor Cagnat describes this new edition as 'pas une œuvre nouvelle . . . mais une œuvre très sérieusement renouvelée.' It has indeed been carefully revised throughout, errors and misprints corrected, new details inserted, and the text generally brought up to date. As compared with the second edition, which will perhaps be the most familiar to my readers, it has grown from 436 to 488 pages, including the index. The largest increase in any single section occurs in the valuable list of Roman Emperors with the dates of their tribunicia potestas, consulships, etc.; this has grown from 47 to 74 pages, partly by the use of a clearer type and arrangement, and partly by the addition of new matter. In the rest of the volume, the increase of pages is largely due to the very welcome addition of illustrations. One notes also with pleasure that at the end of the whole

work Professor Cagnat has added 28 new plates, containing 86 half-tone illustrations of inscriptions. Of these, some are arranged in chronological order so as to show the styles of lettering which obtained at different periods from the Niger Lapis to the sixth century A.D.; others illustrate varieties of small objects. The important appendix of abbreviations remains at very much its previous length, but rare or doubtful items have been corrected or omitted and a few new items introduced. Altogether, Professor Cagnat has markedly increased the value of what was already an exceedingly good book.

F. H.

The Quinquennales; an historical study.

By RALPH VAN DEMAN MAGOFFIN.
pp. 49. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1913.

DR. MAGOFFIN'S careful examination of the epigraphic evidence as to these officials deserves the thanks of all students of Roman History on its administrative side. He wisely confines his enquiry to the political *quinquennales* with presumably censorial duties. Of these duties however there is, it seems, hardly any evidence in the inscriptions. The suggestion on p. 34 that the title *quinquennalis juvenum* implies a *regimen morum* is very doubtful. Dr. Magoffin has discovered the names of 937 *quinquennales*, among whom there are 62 pairs of colleagues. Of the 937, 251 are *duoviri quinquennales*, while 132 are *quattuorviri quinquennales*. In almost all these, and indeed in the great majority of cases it is clear that these officials were citizens of the towns, and had passed through the municipal *cursus honorum*. The question which troubles Dr. Magoffin about these, is whether they were elected by the towns or appointed by the central government. His conclusion (p. 47) is that at first appointments were made by the central government, that later, candidates suggested by Rome were elected by the towns, and that finally free election became the rule. I cannot here discuss this view, which seems to reverse the order we should expect, but I would suggest that the title '*duovir quinquennalis ex s.c. et d.d.*' only means that

the man was elected *duovir* by the town, and that on a decree of the Roman and local senates he took the census, and assumed the title of *quinquennalis*. It is pretty clear however, from the cases collected by Dr. Magoffin that *quinquennales*, sometimes men with distinguished imperial careers, were often appointed from outside the towns, and that some of these persons held the office, or perhaps only the title, in three or four different towns. These 'ubiquitous office holders' need more discussion than Dr. Magoffin gives them. That the practice of electing emperors or members of the imperial family to this post, involving the discretionary appointment of a *praefectus quinquennalis*, was due to a desire on the part of the towns to avoid having *quinquennales* thrust on them by the central authority, is a suggestion which seems to imply a certain confusion of thought. It is almost inevitable that a minute examination of inscriptions of this kind will raise almost as many questions as it answers, but the questions are themselves useful and suggestive, and to have drawn attention to them is not one of the least merits of Dr. Magoffin's essay.

E. G. HARDY.

Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum: vol. i. fasc. 1. Recensuit Carolus Thulin.
Leipzig: Teubner. M. 7.

It is not so long since a writer on early Britain (who shall here be nameless) could state without a twinge of conscience that England was once covered with Roman centuriation, *i.e.*, with the division of land into square plots of two jugera each, a hundred of which plots formed a centuria. I mention this to show how little we in Britain know, or used to know, about the Roman *agrimetatio*: for the truth is beyond doubt that *centuriatio* is hardly ever found outside of Italy. I am not sure that Dr. Roby's masterly article in the second edition of the Dictionary of Antiquities was available when the book I speak of was published, and no doubt Lachmann's *Gromatici* was hard for an amateur to understand. There may have been some little excuse for