

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](#)



***Introduction à l'Étude Comparative des Langues Indo-Européennes.* A. Meillet. One vol. 9" × 5½". Pp.xxvi + 496. Paris: Hachette et Cie., 1915. 10 fr.**

E. Purdie

The Classical Review / Volume 30 / Issue 5-6 / August 1916, pp 172 - 173

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00010532, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00010532

How to cite this article:

E. Purdie (1916). The Classical Review, 30, pp 172-173 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00010532

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

contact between his own race and the Greeks and Romans down to the moment when Christianity became dominant. I hope that his other readers will find his book as illuminating as I have done.

The Greeks were impressed by the philosophic turn of the Jewish nation, the Romans by the 'superstition,' their obstinate clinging to usages irreconcilable with the life of the rest of the world. As to the former quality, 'an exclusive monotheism was in every sense a philosophic and not a popular concept' (p. 84). But this monotheism was associated with customs which formed a barrier difficult to pass by the Roman proselyte. And yet the impulse towards religious satisfactions became so urgent that even the conservative Roman not seldom made the sacrifice necessary if he was to join the ghetto.

Part of Mr. Radin's hostility towards the Hellenising Jews arises out of his quite praiseworthy sympathy for those communities, synagogues, which were protected by penury from some at least of the temptations offered by the outward splendour of Greek art and life. The Jewish catacombs outside the Porta Portese at Rome enable us to reconstruct in outline the history of the Roman ghetto across the Tiber for the first four Christian centuries, a history to be traced in the admirable pages of Dr. N. Müller, who recently carried out the excavations. Dr. Müller supplements with his intimate detail the more general outlines which Mr. Radin traces. We are enabled to see the poorer Jewish synagogues across the Tiber with their close adherence to the national lan-

guage and customs over against those wealthier and more cosmopolitan synagogues who buried their dead in the Vigna Randanini. But in neither case do we find that shrinking from artistic representations which we might at first sight have looked for, at least among 'Hebrews.' We find anticipated, where we least expect, the painting and sculpture which marked the very beginnings of Christian history at Rome. Since the real life of Judaism flowed most strongly among the poor, the passing notices of Horace and Persius, and Juvenal and Martial, take on an unsuspected importance. We make a mistake if we refer the famous lines of Juvenal merely to an external incivility:

non monstrare vias eadem nisi sacra colenti,
quæsitum ad fontem solos deducere verpos:

The ways which the Jews kept hid from those who neither were circumcised nor practised their religion were the ways of life and death. For we may see in the plural an allusion to the Two Ways on which was based the Teaching of the Apostles. And the fountain was that of the living water which was, among the Jews, the traditional symbol of divine truth. This interpretation accords, better than the usual one, with its context. For it furnishes a suitable climax to the passage in which these two lines occur. We must leave here the fascinating task of tracing out to their conclusions the suggestions of Mr. Radin's volume. Enough, however, has been said to show its value to the student of classical antiquity.

FRANK GRANGER.

University College,
Nottingham.

SHORT NOTICES

Introduction à l'Étude Comparative des Langues Indo-Européennes. A. MEILLET. One vol. 9" x 5½". Pp. xxvi + 496. Paris: Hachette et Cie., 1915. 10 fr.

THIS, the fourth edition of this work, claims to be little more than a reimpression of the third edition, published in

1912. The chief changes in the original form of the book (first published in 1903) were made in the second edition, after the publication of Brugmann's *Kurze Vergleichende Grammatik*, when, in addition to many corrections on points of detail, a new chapter was added, 'Sur le Développement des Dialects Indo-

Européens.' This affords a summary of the general conclusions that may be drawn from the facts stated in the body of the book, the most interesting sections being those that trace the dislocation of the Indo-European morphological system caused by the transformation of the original phonetic system, and instance a variety of causes that led to the simplification and unification of inflexion and 'la perte du sentiment de la racine.'

The book makes no pretensions to being more than a textbook, designed to indicate the main lines of the Indo-European linguistic system through the parallelisms than can be adduced between the different languages. Viewed as a textbook, it may be called above all comprehensive. It contains an excellent chapter, 'La Notion des Langues Indo-Européennes' (considerably modified in the third edition from its original form), on the theory of linguistic science. Chapter II., 'Les Langues Indo-Européennes,' contains a useful summary of

the literary records on which our knowledge of the several languages is based, while in the Appendix we have a historical account of the development of comparative grammar. There is further a special chapter, 'Sur la Vocabulaire,' in which much valuable information is collected in a convenient form. The remaining chapters, devoted to 'Phonétique,' 'Le Verbe,' 'Le Nom,' etc., are of a formal technical character, and present little matter for comment, except perhaps as regards the sections on 'Ablaut,' which leave a very confused impression on the mind and seem to contain much that is more than disputable.

The absence of a detailed index of forms detracts immeasurably from the practical utility of a great part of this work, but the more theoretical chapters have a decided value in their clearness of grasp and exposition, in addition to being eminently readable, clear, and on the whole convincing.

E. PURDIE.

NOTES AND NEWS

BOOKS FOR BRITISH PRISONERS ABROAD.

REGIMENTAL Care Committees, and relatives and friends of British prisoners of war, will do them a good service by bringing to the notice of the interned, in their letters to them, the fact that, if they are desirous of carrying on serious reading, they can obtain, free of charge, educational books on almost any subject by writing to Mr. A. T. Davies at the Board of Education, Whitehall, London, S.W. To facilitate the despatch of parcels of books and, if possible, the organisation of an educational library in every camp, all applications for books should, as a rule, be sent through, or endorsed by, the senior or other responsible British officer or N.C.O. in the camp. Where for any reason (which should be stated in the application) this course is impracticable, requests from individual prisoners will as far as possible be acceded to.

The last meeting for the session of the Northumberland and Durham Branch of the Classical Association was held on June 2nd at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and was a joint one with the local English Association to hear and discuss a paper by Mr. T. W. Moles, B.A., B.Sc., on 'Science and Humanities in School and College as affected by the War.' Mr. Basil Anderton, M.A., was in the chair; and a part in the discussion was taken by Mr. J. Talbot, M.A., B.Sc., Headmaster of the Grammar School, Dr. J. Wight Duff, the Rev. Canon Cruickshank and others. On the part of both scientific and classical representatives who spoke there was general agreement on the unwisdom of magnifying any antagonism between Arts and Science and on the need for avoiding 'panic' legislation, which might foster unripe specialism in either direction.