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***Charakteristik der lateinischen Sprache.* Gymnasial-Professor Dr F. Oskar Von Weise. Dritte Auflage. Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1905. Small 8vo. Pp. vi + 190. M. 2.80.**

Edward V. Arnold

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SHORT NOTICES

INCUBATION.

Incubation, or the Cure of Disease in Pagan Temples and Christian Churches. By MARY HAMILTON, M.A., Carnegie Research Scholar. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. Pp. vi + 228. 5s. net.

INCUBATION is so important in ancient religion and medicine, and it has left traces so remarkable in the modern world, that a monograph on the subject is welcome. I have myself called attention to this matter, and described the scenes observed in certain holy places of modern Greece (*Greek Votive Offerings*, 200 ff.): this notice seems to have escaped Miss Hamilton, but it is desirable to have as many independent observations as possible.

Her first part describes the practices in Epidauros, Rome and Lebene, at the oracles of Amphiaraos, Trophonios, and Dionysos, and in the cults of Isis and Serapis: she adds a useful analysis of the case of Aelius Aristides, whose morbid visions are full of light for the question. This section is done with a fair degree of success; but in such a monograph we expect a complete collection of the important inscriptions, the text at least, with or without translation, and a mustering of authorities. Here Miss Hamilton has been content with a small selection, and she has not exhausted the authorities. I do not think she is right in ascribing incubation to the Selloi mentioned by Homer (alluded to without reference on p. 7). Much of the section is scrappy, and there is a lack of thoroughness and exactness. Aristophanes' description of incubation, for example, is placed under Epidauros.

The second part, Incubation in Christian Churches during the Middle Ages, breaks almost new ground. She has searched the *Acta Sanctorum* and records of saintly miracles, and has collected a considerable amount of illustration of the ancient practice. In the third part Miss Hamilton deals with instances of incubation seen or recorded in Italy and Greece. The festival at Tinos is described in detail, and a summary account is given of a large number of other shrines in the Greek lands.

The book is a useful piece of work and deserves the study of those who would understand the life of the ancient world.

W. H. D. ROUSE.

Charakteristik der lateinischen Sprache. Von Gymnasial-Professor DR. F. OSKAR WEISE. Dritte Auflage. Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1905. Small 8vo. Pp. vi + 190. M. 2.80.

THIS charming little book, which has now reached its third edition in German, and has also been translated into French and Modern Greek, contains a general review of the Latin language from the standpoint of content and style. The author treats this language, as in a companion volume he treats his mother tongue, as a thing of beauty and interest in itself, and also as an index to the same qualities in the people who created and used it. Many of his suggestions may seem fanciful or overdrawn, but all of them are at least worthy of consideration. In the archaic period he attributes to the Romans strong family affections and a taste for pork on the ground of the large vocabulary connected with these subjects: on similar grounds he considers that love was with them a matter of intelligence rather than of feeling. He traces a clownish temperament in the naming of individuals after personal defects, e.g. Strabo, Paetus. A strong sense of discipline is, he thinks, shown in the extended use of subordinate clauses. The boundless magnificence of the new empire finds a parallel in the length of Livy's periods: the degeneracy of the first century of the Christian epoch is marked by the fantastic style of the early silver age of literature. In these judgments it is probable that prejudice plays a part; but if we are too severe on this point we shall probably need to abandon aesthetic criticism altogether. The author does justice to the extreme nicety of the style of Cicero and Caesar, and the notes almost constitute a bibliography of works on the Latin language in general and on the style of the most important Latin authors.

EDWARD V. ARNOLD.

Der Enoplios. Ein Beitrag zur griechischen Metrik. Von DR. PHIL. E. HERKENRATH. Teubner, 1906. Pp. ix + 185. M. 6.

NOT the least among the many services rendered by Blass to classical scholarship was his demonstration of the true nature of what used to be absurdly called 'dactylo-epitritic' verse. It is a sign of the sanity of his judgment that he knew the limits of his knowledge; 'utinam aliquando dicere possimus de enopliis numeris: σφύραν ἐξβαλεν προκόπτας!' (*Praef. ad Bacchyl.* xxxv). Dr. Herkenrath alas has no such misgivings; he not only knows an enoplios when he sees it but he sees it everywhere. For instance the Telesilleion, — — — — —, is a form of enoplios, and the Alcaic hendecasyllable is composed of a diiambus plus a Telesilleion. Therefore the Alcaic is an enoplian metre.