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Histoire de l'Antiquité. Par Eduard Meyer. Tome I., traduit par Maxime David. 8vo. Pp. viii + 284. Paris: Librairie Paul Geuthner, 1912. 7 fr. 50.

A. J. B. Green

The Classical Review / Volume 27 / Issue 07 / November 2013, pp 244 - 245

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00005965, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00005965

How to cite this article:

A. J. B. Green (1913). The Classical Review, 27, pp 244-245 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00005965

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'*Graeci autem dicunt hanc artem (i.e. astro-nomicam) ab Atlante prius excogitam; ideoque dictus est sustinuisse caelum.*'

Isidorus' derivations are interesting if uncritical, e.g. 'Nox a nocendo dicta, eo quod oculis noceat. . . . Tenebras autem dictas, quod teneant umbras.'

'Mane lux matura et plena, nec iam crepusculum et dictum mane a mano; manum enim antiqui bonum dicebant. Quid enim melius luce. Alii mane aestimant vocari a Manibus, quorum conversatio a luna ad terram est. Alii putant ab aere, quia manus, id est rarus, est atque perspicuus.'

A study of Isidorus is not unprofitable, and here we have an edition admirably adapted for the convenience of the reader. S. E. JACKSON.

*Paddington and Maida Vale
High School, W.*

A History of the Ancient World. By GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD. 1 vol. 12mo. Pp. xviii+588. 37 maps and plans. 171 illustrations, including many reproductions from photographs. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1911. 6s. 6d. net.

PROFESSOR BOTSFORD has compressed into this volume a narrative of general history down to the times of Charles the Great. It is intended for use as a text-book in secondary schools, and the author claims that his book 'meets new demands in the study of ancient history in secondary schools by laying stress on causal relations and the significance of events and on culture and social life.' But if causal relations and the significance of events are written down in the text-book, they become facts to be learnt in precisely the same way as the events themselves. They can become the subject-matter of intellectual exercises only when the pupil is made, under the teacher's guidance, to discover them for himself. Again, when stress on cultural activities means such bare statements as these, 'The *Letters* of Pliny the Younger are valuable for the study of the times, but show a decline in style,' 'The *Lives of the Caesars* from Julius to Domitian, by Suetonius, is a chaotic mixture of useful facts and foolish

gossip,' 'Appian of Alexandria wrote a narrative *History of Rome*, which we find very useful,' these literary judgments can have no value or real meaning to a pupil who has not read the books.

The guide to historical literature at the end of each chapter will be useful to students more advanced than the pupils of our secondary schools. English readers will be interested in the references to American methods in politics, e.g. 'the power of Augustus was exercised, not as a magistrate, but as a political boss,' 'people called upon the Emperor to right all their wrongs, in some such way as the people of the United States are more and more inclined to depend upon the President.' The numerous maps and illustrations are excellent.

A. J. B. GREEN.

98, Hills Road, Cambridge.

Histoire de l'Antiquité. Par EDUARD MEYER. Tome I., traduit par Maxime David. 8vo. Pp. viii+284. Paris: Librairie Paul Geuthner, 1912. 7 fr. 50.

PROFESSOR MEYER began the publication of his *Geschichte des Alterthums* in 1884. He was then able to write the history of the East, and of early Greece in two volumes; but when a new edition was needed a few years ago, he felt that he could not do justice to the results of recent historical research except by re-writing entirely this early history. The first two volumes of the first edition are now replaced by four volumes, three containing the actual history, and one containing a preliminary discussion of the problems of anthropology and of historic method. It is this preliminary volume that M. David has translated into clear and concise French. Translations of volumes II., III. and IV. of the new edition are in course of preparation, and volumes V. to VIII. will be translated as soon as the new German edition of them has been published.

Two chapters (pp. 1-199) of this volume deal with the problems of anthropology, which Professor Meyer defines as 'the theory of the universal forms of human life and evolution.' The first of these universal forms both

in time and importance is the State: inside the State grow up ideas and practices relating to marriage, law, custom, property, rank, warfare, commerce, art, science and religion. Professor Meyer takes these subjects one by one, and traces the origin and development of these ideas and practices, everywhere basing his statements on authentic evidence. He explains that he has tried in this part of his work to vindicate the rights of sound historical research against the naïve and fantastic speculations of many recent ethnologists, students of religions, anthropologists and others.

The third chapter (pp. 200-273) explains Professor Meyer's conceptions of the subject-matter of history, methods of scientific study, and the artistic presentation of the results of research. The clearness and moderation with which Professor Meyer treats of these difficult subjects make this volume a welcome contribution to the literature dealing with the study of history.

A. J. B. GREEN.

98, Hills Road, Cambridge.

USENER'S COLLECTED PAPERS.

Kleine Schriften. Von HERMANN USENER. Bd. I., 1912, M. 12; cloth, 13; Bd. II., 1913, M. 15; cloth, M. 18; Bd. IV., 1913, M. 15; cloth, M. 18.

THESE volumes contain papers on Greek philosophy and rhetoric, with a few grammatical and critical; on Latin language and literature; and on the history of religion. The author's last corrections and additions are inserted. Scholars will probably not be familiar with all the papers collected, which indeed are not all of equal value; but those which relate to philosophy were well worth preserving. His textual conjectures in the poets do not seem to be so happy. The first volume contains two important papers, *Zu Theophrasts metaphysischem Bruchstück*, and *Epikurische Spruchsammlung*, with others on Anaximenes, Aristotle, Philodemus. The Scholia of Hesiod and of Horace are discussed. The author finds a con-

genial subject in *Ein altes Lehrgebäude der Philologie* (ii. 265); he puts us in the ancient professor's lecture-room, and shows us the wide influence of the 'four Tools,' *γλωττηματικόν, ιστορικόν, μετρικόν, τεχνικόν*. It is impossible to give a list of the other contents of these books, still less to offer any criticism, they are so miscellaneous and for the most part so short. Some reviews are amongst them.

Probably all will agree that in the history and criticism of religion Usener was in the first rank; and vol. iv. contains twenty-two papers, all on this topic. It is preceded by a bibliography of his works on religion. Several of the papers in this volume are of considerable length: *Kallone, Italische Mythen, Der Stoff des griechischen Epos, Göttliche Synonyme*, are the longest; besides which may be mentioned *Zwillingsbildung, Zu den Sintfluthsagen, Milch und Honig, Heilige Handlung, Keraunos*. I do not know whether he will win general approval when he sees in the eagle of Zeus a representation of the thunderbolt, as an embodiment of its flying. But *Heilige Handlung* is in his best manner, a comparative study of *δρώμενα*, or drama. In the *Zwillingsbildungen* he tries to examine philosophically a principle of which the Dioscuri are an example. The epic paper deals with the growth of the saga, the beginnings of the epos, *Axylos* and *Kalesios*, *Adrastos* and *Amphiaraios*, *Thersites* (with a discussion of the stem *θεσσ-* in compounds). The *Italische Mythen* contains a comparison of modern with ancient customs, and an analysis of their matter. In all these papers the reader will find an unusual fulness of knowledge, which enables the writer to illustrate and to criticise with effect: there is much to enlighten even if it does not always convince.

W. H. D. R.

Antike Porträts, bearbeitet von RICHARD DELBRÜCK. Bonn: Marcus und Weber, 1912. M. 12.

THIS belongs to the useful series '*Tabulae in Vsum Scholarum editae sub cura Iohannis Lietzmann.*' Scholars