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***Discoveries in Hebrew, Gaelic, Gothic, Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Basque, atid other Caucasian Languages.* By Allison Emery Drake, Sc.M., M.D., Ph.D. Denver: The Herrick Book and Stationery Company. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 1907. Pp. vi and 402. 8vo.**

J. H. V.

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SHORT NOTICES

Le nozze Aldobrandine, i paesaggi con sceni dell' Odissea e le altre pitture murale antiche conservate nella Biblioteca Vaticana e nei Musei Pontificii, con introduzione del Dottor B. Nogara. Milan: Hoepli, 1907. Large folio (0.54 x 0.38 m.): pp. xv (+i) 95 (+1) with 52 plates. 250 lire.

THIS magnificent volume is the second of a series in course of publication which deals with the contents of the Vatican Museums. The first, by Kanzler, is a catalogue of the ivories of the Vatican Library, while the work now before us describes the collection of paintings of the classical period, among which the 'Nozze Aldobrandine,' a painting representing a wedding scene (found on the Esquiline in 1604-5, and placed in the Villa Aldobrandini on the Quirinal—whence its name) is the most famous, while the others include the series with scenes from the *Odyssey* found in the Via Graziosa (on the line of the modern Via Cavour) in 1848, the series of 'heroines' from Tor Marancia, and one or two others. Inasmuch as the first-named painting has been retouched, it was necessary to examine earlier representations of it in drawings and engravings, and this has been most carefully done, and all the important ones reproduced. There are others at Windsor and at Eton, which may throw new light on points of detail. In regard to the age of the painting, Mau's opinion, naturally of the highest value, that it belongs to the period of Augustus is followed, though the original from which it is derived is probably pre-Hellenistic. Dr. Nogara succeeds in removing from the series of 'heroines' the so-called Byblis, which he successfully determines to have been found on the Via Nomentana and not at Tor Marancia after all. [The mistake was made by Biondi in the monumental publication of the results of the excavations at Tor Marancia (*Monumenti Amaranziani*) and has been repeated up till now.] To the descriptions of the excavation in which this painting was really found I may add that of Guattani in *Memorie enciclopediche* vii. 83—see *Papers of the British School at*

Rome, iii. 99 n. The text is a very careful and conscientious piece of work, and forms a fitting introduction to the splendid series of plates. Of these no less than eighteen are double, and of these eight are in colours, namely the Nozze and the landscapes from the *Odyssey*: while for the benefit of those who are curious to study in detail the actual conditions of the painting, each of these coloured plates is preceded by a phototype. The other paintings are illustrated by simple phototypes. This, naturally, accounts for what may at first seem to be a somewhat high price. The publication of the treasures in the Vatican Library is proceeding, and it will not be long before the splendid Codex Barberinianus (*Barb. Lat.* 4424) of Giuliano da Sangallo appears in facsimile, with a commentary from the pen of Professor Hülsen.

Discoveries in Hebrew, Gaelic, Gothic, Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Basque, and other Caucasian Languages. By ALLISON EMERY DRAKE, Sc.M., M.D., Ph.D. Denver: The Herrick Book and Stationery Company. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 1907. Pp. vi and 402. 8vo.

'SHOWING,' adds the author on his voluminous title-page, 'fundamental kinship of the Aryan tongues and of Basque with the Semitic tongues.' On the same title-page he finds room for a text from Ecclesiastes, 'Is there a thing whereof men may say, See, this is new?' And indeed the Preacher was very likely thinking of the misguided persistency with which industrious writers compile keys to Etymology, starting from an utter disregard of phonetic laws. He also quotes Luke 10. 24, 'Many prophets and kings desired to see the things which ye see, and saw them not,' but this seems too sanguine. At the head of every page Dr. Drake prints the twelve Rules of the Game, and it is seen at once that they exactly verify Voltaire's description of etymology as a science 'où les voyelles ne font rien, et les consonnes font peu de chose.'

Of Basque phonetics I am not competent to speak, and I am willing to admit that e.g. the Basque *odol* (which strangely enough means 'blood') is the same word as the Heb. *dam*, or that Basque *lo* = Heb. *num*, because they both mean 'sleep,' and, we may add, if further confirmation were needed, because there is a 'b' in both; but when I find that Sk. *gā*, Lat. *bos*, and Engl. *cow* are derived from three different roots, viz., HNQ, BQR, and GH⁴H² respectively, I begin to lose confidence in my guide and I even get to doubt whether Engl. *spank* is derived from Heb. *sāpaq*, or *gosh* (in 'By Gosh!') from *qodesh*, 'holiness.' It is easy to laugh at this book, if one were not more inclined to weep. It represents two years' hard work, its price is 25s. net, and its value is precisely nothing.

J. H. V.

SOME TRANSLATIONS.

A CORDIAL welcome is due to James Rhoades's verse translation of the *Aeneid*, of which a new edition is out (Longmans, 3s. 6d. net). By common consent, this is an admirable translation of Virgil, perhaps the best in existence; and it is written in blank verse, not in the modern hurry-scurry gabble-metres. A new prose translation has just appeared, by J. Jackson (Clarendon Press: 3s. 6d. net), of which it is possible to speak with sincere praise.

Calverley's Theocritus and his Eclogues are reprinted in a pocket volume and edited by Prof. Tyrrell (Bell, 2s. cloth; 3s. leather), and J. W. Mackail's prose version of the select poems of the Anthology comes in a companion volume to the Greek (Longmans, 2s. net cloth; 3s. leather). These need no bush.

E. D. A. Morshead completes the translation of Aeschylus in a new volume, one of the Golden Treasury (Macmillan, 2s. 6d. net). His Oresteian Trilogy is known and admired by all, and the new volume may dispense with any further introduction. A. S. Way translates the *Prometheus* and the *Suppliants* in another volume (Macmillan, 3s. 6d. net). A charming volume of the Oxford translations is W. H. Fyfe's Tacitus

Dialogus, Agricola et Germania (Clarendon Press, 3s. 6d. net). This book will certainly find a ready sale for its intrinsic interest; and the dialogue on oratory will be novel to most readers. There are maps and notes for English readers. The translation is excellent. A new translation of Lucretius i.-iii. in verse, is by Dr. Egan of King William's Town (Maskew Miller, Capetown, 5s.), to which English scholars will offer a welcome as first fruits of the Cape vine. It cannot be said to be very distinguished as verse, but the substance of the poem is satisfactorily given, and there are a few necessary notes. A. E. Street, of Eton, publishes 120 selected epigrams of Martial in Latin and English verse.

Prolegomena ad Aristophanem: scripsit J. van LEEUWEN, J. F. Lugduni Batavorum apud A. W. Sijthoff. MDCCCVIII. Pp. 445. 10 M.

THE 170 pages of easy and agreeable Latin in which Prof. van Leeuwen writes *de poetae vita et operibus* are pleasant reading, but can hardly be said to contain anything new. Perhaps what comes nearest to it is the hypothesis about the birth of Aristophanes in connexion with the lines referring to Aegina, *Ach.* 653 foll., a hypothesis more precise than was given in the note on that passage itself. It is suggested that the poet's father was one of the Aeginetans who betook themselves to Attica (Herod. 6. 90), and that they probably became Athenian citizens without forfeiting their Aeginetan properties: then that children born to them in and after 451 were not recognized as citizens, because their mothers would not now satisfy the legal requirement. For this there is a good deal of conjecture required, and the writer himself admits that it is not a very satisfactory explanation, even if accepted. The sketch of the life and works might have been much compressed without any loss. What need is there now for instance of a Latin account of the contents of the *Frogs*, occupying some 12 or 13 pages, and including some metrical versions by Prof. J. J. Hartman? (I notice in the latter by the way some errors in prosody, *lacinia*, and *dilaniabit*.) There follow parallel texts of the Greek lives of the poet, texts of the various *excerpta de comoedia* (re-edited not long ago by Kaibel in the first and unhappily the only volume of his *Comic Fragments*), a brief account of Aristophanes' metres with a metrical analysis of the plays, a structural analysis of them on different lines from those given by Zielinski and Mazon, a few pages on the history of the text in antiquity and on our MSS., and a long account—75 pages in all—of errors classified and illustrated from *codices* R and V.