

it will also be a storehouse of useful facts, facts hitherto scattered over the pages of periodicals and in the transactions of learned societies. A few words of special notice are claimed by the index, or rather indexes, for places, rulers, inscriptions, magisterial titles, epithets of cities, are all indexed separately, and there is a general Index Rerum to close the gaps. The indexes occupy fifty-five pages, and they are the most important pages in the book, mainly because the author has not abandoned the work of indexing to other hands, but done it himself.—P. G.

**Die Bevölkerung der griechisch-römischen Welt.** Von DR. JULIUS BELOCH. Leipzig, Duncker and Humblot. 1886.

THE aim of the author of this book is to apply the whole of the available material to determine the populousness of the various sections of the Greek and Roman world. At present we are only concerned with that part of the work which deals with the Hellenic populations. The data for the purpose are extremely slender and untrustworthy. Figures are specially prone to corruption in MSS. and cannot be recovered from the context—and moreover writers of skill and fidelity seem to have had little sense of the possible and impossible in numbers; while among later and less trustworthy authors we are given statistics of a purely fantastic kind. For example, Prokopius assigns a billion as the number of inhabitants of the Roman Empire.

The monumental materials would be far more trustworthy if we had them; but unfortunately they are very scanty, consisting of little more than a few catalogues of Ephebi.

The materials fall into the following classes :—

(1) *Direct statements about population.*—The most important is the statement by Athenaeus, on the authority of Ktesikles, of the numbers given by the census of Attica under Demetrius of Phalerum, towards the end of the fourth century. We often have information about the number of citizens of a state, and from this it is possible to estimate the whole population.

(2) *Military data.*—The numbers of the troops furnished by different states to military expeditions furnish a ground for comparison of their populations.

(3) *Area.*—The law that equal areas of equal fertility and placed under similar conditions will at any given time contain populations not very different in number, affords a means of determining by comparison the worth of statistics or estimates.

(4) *Food consumption and supply.*—In several cases we have records of the corn-production and corn-importation of states. The

amount of corn consumed per head can be calculated from the known allowances of slaves and soldiers, and from the consumption in modern times, and thus a rough estimate of population can be formed.

Attica is the country for which the best materials are available, and moreover it is there that the problem presents most interest. Dr. Beloch's treatment of the population of Attica is the most elaborate and the best example of the application of his method. Each particular section of the argument is by no means conclusive, but when the results derived from the number of citizens, the number of soldiers, the population of similar areas, the production and consumption of corn are found to produce consistent results, and moreover to show changes in the population at different periods entirely in agreement with the causes known to have been at work, it is impossible to avoid accepting in the main his conclusions. The author differs from Böckh in rejecting as incredible Athenaeus' statement that Demetrius found the number of slaves to be 400,000. Böckh defended this number, and his view was followed by Clinton, and till now has been generally accepted. But Dr. Beloch's arguments seem conclusively to show that the fourth part of this number would be nearer the mark.

We must regard as equally fabulous the 470,000 slaves which Athenaeus assigns to Aegina, and the 460,000 of Corinth, numbers which have found supporters among some of Böckh's followers, though Böckh himself did not defend them.

At the end of the book a convenient table gives the results for 432 B.C. For the Peloponnese we have a population of 890,000. 230,000 of these are in Laconia and Messenia, of whom 175,000 are slaves, including Helots. Argolis, including Corinth, accounts for 335,000. Attica has 235,000, of whom 100,000 are slaves. Boeotia 150,000, of whom one-third are slaves. The whole population of Greece, including the islands, Thessaly and Macedonia is reckoned at 3,000,000.

Dr. Beloch is thoroughly master of the materials. His arrangement is clear, and his exposition lucid. As he says himself, any one who wishes to overthrow his results must attack his whole system, and not any one part of it, for his various arguments give support to one another. His book must remain the standard authority upon the subject, unless the discovery of fresh material throws entirely new light upon the question.—H. B. S.

[*Notices of Periodicals are postponed for want of space.*]