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***The Story of the Nations: Alexander's Empire.* By J. P. Mahaffy, D.D. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 5s.**

W. W. Fowler

The Classical Review / Volume 1 / Issue 07 / July 1887, pp 203 - 204

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00182459, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00182459

How to cite this article:

W. W. Fowler (1887). Review of R. H. J. Schlegel 'Concise Encyclopedia of Crop Improvement. Institutions, Persons, Theories, Methods, and Histories' The Classical Review, 1, pp 203-204 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00182459

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strangely enough, there is no reproduction of his head as it appears on the coins of Lysimachus. With these exceptions, however, the work is well and fully illustrated. Under 'Sculpture' ('Bildhauerkunst') a long series of important monuments is reproduced, and many of the shorter articles are accompanied by interesting illustrations. Thus, under 'Barber' there is a photograph of the quaint terra-cotta group at Berlin of an ancient hair-dresser operating upon his subject. As I have already stated, there are few antiquarian topics which are not treated of in this work; it may be noted however that there is no article 'Contorniates,' and a separate article on 'Hygieia' as well as portrait-coins of Allectus and Carausius might have been included with advantage.

An ideal criticism of so comprehensive a work as Dr. Baumeister's could only be penned by a writer of encyclopaedic knowledge having unlimited columns of the *Classical Review* at his disposal. The present article has, however, I hope indicated with tolerable fairness the principal merits and defects of the first volume of the work. I may perhaps add that my opinion has been formed not only after reading through a large number of the articles, but also after having frequently consulted the book for information on the very numerous and varied 'points' that have to be looked up by one engaged in the study of Greek and Roman Numismatics.

WARWICK WROTH.

Physikalische Geographic von Griechenland—NEUMANN und PARTSCH, Koebner, Breslau, 1885. 9 Mk.

THE Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have recently determined, at the suggestion of the Geographical Society, to establish Readerships in Geography. To all who are interested in this decision I would commend Neumann and Partsch's book as an example of the kind of work which such Readers might do with advantage.

Dr. Partsch has completed and brought up to date the important treatise on the physical geography of Greece which was the work of his teacher and predecessor, Dr. Neumann. The scheme of the book, and the leading ideas belong to Neumann; but his pupil deserves immense credit for the conscientious labour which he has devoted to its completion in detail. This is not one of those airy handbooks which give you a little art, a little history and a few commonplaces about the effect of climate upon the temper. It is a serious work, a perfect mine of facts and references; a mine, too, of ideas. Its aim is stated by Neumann in his admirable introduction to be the systematic exhibition of the physical features of Greece and their influence upon national character and institutions in ancient times. The definiteness and moderation with which he lays down the limits of his subject contrast strongly with the vague and ill-proportioned claims by which Buckle and other writers have made the name of physical environment unpopular in England. The body of the book is divided into five chapters, dealing with the climate of Greece, the relation of land and sea, the conformation of the land, its geology, and its vegetation. In the last two chapters, which form rather more than half the book, the classical reader will be chiefly interested in the sections that describe the influence of limestone rocks upon the worship of Poseidon, and of the connection between the cultivation of corn and the festivals of Athene. It appears that the cultus of Poseidon is only found in districts which are distinguished either by the presence of *barathra* or by the frequent occurrence of earthquakes.

But it is not only in these chapters that light is thrown upon myths and religious ceremonies. Researches of that kind form one of the most interesting features of the book; and their inductive method and moderate tone make them convincing as well as agreeable reading.

Another valuable part of the book is the analysis of the mountain system. No one who has not made a study of Greek geography can realise the difficulties of getting a clear conception of the structure of Aetolia and Arcadia. No existing map (not even the Vienna map) throws much light upon it: most of them represent it as mere confusion. But the third chapter of this book makes the reader feel that there is order in the seeming chaos, and that a map might show it. The same chapter states with admirable clearness and impartiality the political results of the country's peculiar formation. It contains little that is absolutely new: but its completeness and philosophical tone may make it welcome as a compendium even to those who are familiar with its doctrines.

But the book has one serious fault. It is undeniably dull, both in style and in arrangement. Gratitude for much information cannot blind the reader to the fact that a catalogue of trees which fills a hundred pages is excessive when thirty are found sufficient for the mountains. And catalogues are too prominent in other parts; while those single instances, by which many writers at once relieve and illustrate a long argument, are strangely wanting. Dr. Neumann's style is clear and often forcible, but it lacks brightness and variety. Dr. Partsch is neither clear nor forcible. And neither style gains by the arrangement which presents them in a kind of irregular sandwich. But, despite its faults, this is a book which no student of Greek history can afford to neglect.

M. G. GLAZEBROOK.

The Story of the Nations: Alexander's Empire. By J. P. MAHAFFY, D.D. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 5s.

EVEN if this book were much less cleverly put together than it is, it would be impossible for a critic to withhold his sympathy from the author. He has undertaken to write a story without a plot, and with hardly any unity of scene or of national character. He repeatedly betrays his own discomfort under these trying circumstances, by explaining and apologising for omissions and curtailments. He has to tell something reluctantly of wars and quarrels which carry little human interest with them, and lead only to results which were soon in their turn obliterated; and he has to cut short chapters evidently written *con amore*, where his wide reading and great knowledge of antiquity must have often tempted him to pause and talk at leisure to his readers. His progress through the two centuries that followed Alexander's conquests must have been a somewhat dreary one, and we seem to see signs in the latter part of the book that he was glad to get to the end of it.

It may be useful to give a brief indication of the contents of a book which in 300 pages covers so long and complicated a period of history. The story of Alexander's conquests is compressed into forty pages, with plans of his three great battles; brief as the account is, it is full of suggestive comment, and the only thing wanting seems to be some explanation of the way in which the notion of a great attack on Persia, which originated in Greece, was transferred to Philip, and through him to Alexander; Isokrates is not even mentioned. Seven chapters follow, on the period of the Diadochi, and these are some of the best in the book. The two figures of greatest human interest,

Demetrius and Eumenes, are handled (the former especially), with due appreciation of the importance of their lives by Plutarch; we have two or three interesting pages upon Hellenistic city life, and wish for more, for we do not learn anything about the method of government of these cities, nor does the author make it clear to us (see p. 95), whether he agrees with Droysen or Grote as to the number of foundations attributed to Alexander and his successors. A brief sketch of the philosophy of this period, given in chapter xi., is written in Dr. Mahaffy's most lively and original style, and the strange contrast of Aristotle's political thinking and his great pupil's political actions is skilfully touched. Leaving the Diadochi, the author faces the most difficult part of his task with surprising coolness, and the chapter on 'the three young kings' is a model of the art of marshalling complicated facts in a very short space; it is followed by a valuable chapter, one of those which must have greatly tempted its writer to give himself rein, on the *litterati* and scientists of Alexandria. Thence we pass to the further history of the three great kingdoms, to the age of the Achæan League, the reign of Philip V., and the first interference of Rome in Greece and the East, where the young reader will find himself once more on ground with which he is tolerably familiar. In this last part of the book it must be confessed that even Dr. Mahaffy has not always been able to make the narrative perfectly lucid or really interesting; but he has probably done all that could well be done in the space allowed him. The chapters on Pergamon and Rhodes, and on the influence of Hellenism on Rome, contribute some relief to the rapid narrative of events.

The book is copiously illustrated with maps, and cuts of statues and coins; and the only real blemish I have found is on p. 50, where a strange blunder has been committed which the author must have already noticed. It is all the more to be regretted that we are occasionally offended by faults of taste, which betray a tendency to loose historical thinking, and a desire to make the book readable by means which a judicious writer would on second thoughts reject.

W. W. FOWLER.

The Story of the Nations: Carthage. By Professor A. J. CHURCH. T. Fisher Unwin. 5s.

PROFESSOR CHURCH has used his story-telling powers to great advantage in this excellent little book. It is a melancholy tale of continuous defeat and disaster, but by going to the original authorities, and selecting from them what best suits his purpose, he has contrived to make it really interesting. Even an unpretentious book, written for young readers, gains greatly by being the work of a scholar; and this one has also the advantage of numerous cuts of Carthaginian coins and monuments, together with plans of Carthage, Utica, &c. and a rough but pleasant-looking map of the Carthaginian empire. A good map of Sicily might well have been added.

The author has wisely broken the long record of the campaigns which constitute almost all we know of Carthaginian history by three short but useful and interesting chapters on the discoveries, the constitution, and the trade of Carthage, the first of which contains a translation, with geographical notes, of the *Periplus* of Hanno. In the second, as indeed throughout the book, he has carefully steered clear of all controversy, in order to give as clear an outline as possible of the really salient facts. This is by no means an easy matter, in a history bristling, like that of Carthage, with points of doubt and controversy; but the result is quite successful. Incidentally it is interesting to note that Professor Church (in spite of Mommsen) accepts the date 509 B.C. for the first treaty with Rome, following Polybius, for whom he evidently has a great liking; that he takes Hannibal over the Alps by the Little St. Bernard, and has not become a convert to Mr. Freshfield, and the Durance theory (here again he follows Polybius rather than Livy); and that he places the battle-field of Trasimene (rightly perhaps) to the *west* of the long defile under the hills.

The book may be heartily recommended to readers of all orders and ages. It brings together in a single volume of 300 pages some of the most vital and interesting events in the history of Phœnicians, Greeks, and Romans, and tells the story of them with much skill in arrangement, and in perfectly simple language.

W. W. F.

NOTES.

ÆSCHYL. *Agam.* 301.

πλέον καίονσα τῶν εἰρημένων.

Mr. Paley translates the words τῶν εἰρημένων 'than those hitherto described.' Others have thought the line in some way corrupt. But why may it not mean 'than what had been commanded?' τὰ εἰρημένα is found in this sense in Soph. *Antig.* 215 ὥς ἂν σκοποὶ νῦν ἦτε τῶν εἰρημένων. The poet, wishing to describe the eagerness with which the watchmen carried out their orders in transmitting the glad intelligence by means of a fire, says that they kindled a bigger fire than had been ordered.—ALEX. PALLIS.

ARIST. *Ach.* 100. The following note has been communicated to me: 'That the words of the ambassador must belong to some real language has been recognised by most scholars; we should have expected them to be Old Persian, but the attempts at explaining them from that language by the eminent authorities Brockhaus and Spiegel (see W. Ribbeck's edition) are obvious failures. I do not know whether it has been noticed that the verse with (practically) no alterations will translate as old Sanskrit; we may thus transliterate

ιαρταμαν εξαρεν απισσωνα σατρα

(the reading of most MSS., see A. Müller's note)

iyarti māh xarxā nā piṣuna satrā

'mittit me Xerxes, o scelerate, nequaquam.' Each of these words, with the exception of *xarxā* (a proper name), may be verified with the aid of Grassmann's Concordance from the Rig-Veda:

iyarti, Gr. col. 99.

piṣuna, Gr. col. 819; frequent in later Sanskrit.

nā-satrā, 'not at all,' Gr. col. 1454; nā vindāmi satrā, 'I can by no means find!'

Vesprae 355. μέμνησαι δῆθ' ὅτ' ἐπὶ στρατιάς κλέψας ποτὲ τοὺς δαείλσκοις

ἴεις σαυτὸν κατὰ τοῦ τείχους.

On the nature of these δαείλσκοι and the object of stealing them, the commentators (Richter, Mitchell, Green) offer no suggestions; Voss (1821) renders the word by 'Bratspiesschen.' Müller-Strübing, A.H.K. p. 615, 599, notices the difficulty and suggests δαείλτας, a reading apparently represented by the 'Spiesskuchen' of Droysen, ed. 3.—I am inclined to think that a passage of Diodorus (xix, 45, 4) may throw some light on the passage in the *Vesprae*: εὐθὺς (at the flooding of Rhodes) τὰ ταπεινὰ τῆς πόλεως ἐπληροῦτο, τῶν μὲν ὀχρεῶν διὰ τὸ δοκεῖν παρεληλυθέναι τὸν χειμῶνα, κατημελημένων, τῶν δ' ἐν τοῖς τεί-