

and sharply defined. Of the many felicitous remarks in Prof. Ure's book it will suffice here to single out two. Prof. Ure aptly points out that the comparative failure of the Greeks in the field of natural science had two really serious effects: it retarded political co-ordination and it prevented that diffusion of knowledge which might have made the world safe for Greek culture. Best of all, he reminds us that to the Greeks tradition was a guide but not a strait-jacket, and that early Greek art and literature were anything but 'classical' in the bad sense of that word. Altogether, *The Greek Renaissance* is a thoughtful and a thought-compelling book, and it certainly should realise the author's hopes of 'bringing ancient Greece nearer to us than to our fathers.'

**Greek History.** By E. M. WALKER. Pp. 165. Oxford: Basil Blackwood, 1921.

This booklet contains a reprint of Mr. Walker's contributions to the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. A full third of it is devoted to a discussion of sources and authorities; in the remaining part the author characterises the principal epochs of Greek history down to the death of Alexander and discusses the key problems of each period. Mr. Walker has nothing to say on the important question whether Philip and Alexander were foreign oppressors or legitimate successors in the hegemony of Sparta and Athens over Greece. But apart from this omission he makes reference to all the chief topics of Greek political history. We may mention, *honoris causa*, his refutation of Beloch's heresies concerning the Dorians, his defence of the tyrants and of the Peloponnesian League, and his excellent summary of the strong and weak points of Athenian democracy. But the whole book is a storehouse of close-packed argument, and a model of method to students who desire to think things out.

**Olympen.** En framställning av den klassiska mytologien. Vols. I. and II. By MARTIN P. NILSSON. Stockholm: H. Geber, 1918-19.

This is a popular book, but it includes in its short chapters nearly all the important results of recent researches in ancient mythology. The facts are placed with sure appreciation of their importance, and are frequently illuminated with parallels or observations from the religions or superstitions of other peoples.

The first chapters describe the different sources of art and poetry, from which knowledge of Greek religion is derived, and trace the scientific treatment of the myths from the logographers down to modern scholars. Of great interest is the chapter on Cretan-myceanean survivals in Greek religion and myth, a field of research to which the author has lately contributed an excellent little study, *Ueber Die Anfänge der Göttin Athena* (Meddelelser af Kgl. danske Vidensk. Selsk., 1921). Subsequent chapters deal with the myths of the creation of the world, the great Greek gods, the gods of the Romans (with many valuable observations), the cult of the Roman emperors, personifications and allegories in Roman belief, and the Oriental and German gods.

The second volume contains the legends of the Greek heroes, so far as they are not told in relation with the gods, the Roman myths, and finally a list of genealogies. The whole book is finely and copiously illustrated, and well deserves translation for the benefit of other than Scandinavian readers.

F. POULSEN.

**Fishing from the Earliest Times.** By WILLIAM RADCLIFFE. Pp. 478, with numerous illustrations. London: John Murray, 1921. 28s. net.

Mr. Radcliffe's net is of fine mesh, and he has cast it very wide. He has pursued the history of fishing from A.D. 500 to its earliest recorded origins not only among the Greeks and Romans, but in Egypt, Judaea, Assyria, and China, with sidelights from other