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***The Works of Aristotle.* Translated into English. De Coloribus. De Audibilibus. Physiognomonica. De Plantis. Mechanica. Ventorum Situs et Cognomina. De Melisso, Xenophane, Gorgia. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1913. Price 5s. net.**

F. H. A. Marshall

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περαίνει 4 ll. *infra*), and slurs over the *καί* to boot.

The *de Spiritu*, like the *de Mundo*, is a spurious production, and, as Mr. Dobson justly observes in his Preface, 'No amount of emendation will remove the incoherence of the work, which must be regarded rather as a collection of Problems than as a finished treatise.' The translation is adapted to the new Teubner text of Jaeger, though in several cases dissent from Jaeger is recorded in the foot-notes, and occasionally new conjectures are adopted. At 483<sup>b</sup> 23 ff. the translation runs: 'It is also proved both by dissection and by the fact that the veins and air-ducts . . . connect with the intestines and the belly,' with the foot-note 'Here again there seems to be a dislocation, for it is not clear what is proved by dissection.' The Greek (Bekker) is: *φανερὸν δ' ἔκ τε τῶν ἀνατομῶν εἶναι, καὶ ὅτι εἰς τὸ ἔντερον . . . αἱ ἀρτηριαὶ συνάπτουσιν, κ.τ.λ.* Why not excise the *καί*, together with the preceding comma, so that the sense is 'dissections prove the connection between veins and belly,' etc.? Another place where the rendering seems open to doubt is 484<sup>b</sup> 38 ff.—'for perhaps some, e.g. the spine, have little or no function except that of bending . . . others are bound together by sinews.' The Greek runs: *ἐνίοις γὰρ ἴσως οὐδὲν ἢ ἐπ' ὀλίγον, οἶον ἢ ῥάχιδι· ἀλλ' ἢ κάμφει . . . τὰ δὲ καὶ συνδέεται νεύροις, κ.τ.λ.*, except that Mr. Dobson corrects *ἀλλ' ἢ* to *ἀλλ' ἢ*. Where, then, does Mr. Dobson get his 'function' from? For it looks from the context as if the sentence ought to run 'some have little or no need'—viz. of sinews for connecting purposes. *ἀλλ' ἢ κάμφει* is difficult, but by a slight correction, reading *ἀλλ' ἢ κάμψαι*, we can get the meaning which, I take it, is required, viz. 'except for the purpose of bending.' Further, the translation entirely skips the *καί* in the last clause, which seems to mean 'also,' as if the connection was by sinews as well as by serum; while, if that is an impossible sense, we should like to know what the translator makes of it. Of the new readings adopted, that by Mr. W. D. Ross (485<sup>b</sup> 27), *λίαν ἀπλῶς . . . <ἐπεὶ> εἴπερ* (for *αἰτίαν ἀπλῶς*) strikes one as specially neat

and attractive. By way of general commendation, it is needless to say more than that the translations of both these treatises are well up to the high standard already set in the earlier sections of the Oxford Aristotle.

R. G. BURY.

*The Works of Aristotle.* Translated into English. *De Coloribus. De Audibilibus. Physiognomonica. De Plantis. Mechanica. Ventorum Situs et Cognomina. De Melisso, Xenophane, Gorgia.* Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1913. Price 5s. net.

THE present volume consists of translations of the above-mentioned short treatises which, though they have been ascribed to Aristotle, are all of them almost certainly the work of other and later authors. Some (or perhaps all) were probably Peripatetic products. The *De Coloribus* has been ascribed to Theophrastus and to Strato. The *De Audibilibus* has also been attributed to Strato. The *De Plantis*, alone of these treatises, was possibly in its original form written by Aristotle, and the meagre references to botanical science in Aristotle's accredited works, which otherwise are so inclusive, lends some support to this view. The first three treatises in the present volume, and also the last, have been translated by Messrs. T. Loveday and E. S. Forster, of the University of Sheffield. The translations of the *De Plantis*, the *Mechanica*, and the *Ventorum Situs et Cognomina* are the work of Mr. Forster alone. The *De Plantis* is translated from a Latin text dating from the thirteenth century, the original Greek and the Arabic translation from which the Latin text had been rendered having been lost. It is noteworthy that the only existing Greek edition of the treatise is one which is three times removed from the original.

Excepting for the *De Plantis* the treatises contained in this volume are of relatively small scientific interest. The *De Coloribus* and *De Audibilibus* show little evidence of that extraordinary insight into natural phenomena which gained for Aristotle for many centuries

the foremost place among scientific authorities. The *Physiognomonica* is full of fantastic statements which have little or no basis in fact. The *Mechanica* belongs to a different category. It is a technical treatise on the principles of Mechanics, and deals with many practical applications. The *Ventorum Situs*, which is usually attributed to Theophrastus, is a very short work, describing the charts of the winds. The concluding treatise is philosophical in character, and deals with the views of Melissus, Xenophanes, and Gorgias upon Being and Not-being.

Of all the works collected in this volume, to a man of science the *De Plantis* is the most interesting, if only for the remarkable anticipation of the results of later investigation into the phenomena of sex among plants. The author not only clearly recognised the separate existence of male and female elements in vegetable organisms, but also the essential similarity between the reproductive processes of plants and those occurring in animals. In the same chapter we read that 'plants are only created for the sake of animals, and animals are not created for the sake of plants.' This statement is noteworthy

because, taken in conjunction with its context, it seems to indicate something more than a dim perception of the fact that animals are dependent, either directly or ultimately, upon plants for their source of energy, whereas plants can obtain their necessary supply of energy without the help of animals. In a later part of the treatise the author describes the influence of the environment upon plants, and refers to the effects of cultivation on wild species. He states further that one kind of plant may, under certain conditions, change into another kind, and thus he appears vaguely to have foreshadowed the Lamarkian doctrine of specific mutability as a result of changes in the surroundings.

Whether or not the authorship of this treatise is that of Aristotle—and most authorities agree in attributing it to another hand—the work is truly a remarkable one and well worthy of study. The present translation is very readable, and together with those of the other treatises contained in this volume, constitutes a valuable addition to the series in which it appears.

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#### E. WALSER, POGGIUS FLORENTINUS LEBEN UND WERKE.

*Poggius Florentinus Leben und Werke.*  
By E. Walser. Pp. 1-567. Leipzig:  
Teubner, 1914.

It is somewhat singular that the correspondence of Poggio should never have been properly edited. An attempt was made in the last century by Tommaso Tonelli, who drew most of his material from a very important MS. in the Riccardiana Library at Florence. The first volume, which appeared in 1839, is a well-known work. The two other volumes, which were printed after his death, met with a singular fate. There is a copy in the National Library at Florence, somewhat soiled and defaced by various borrowers, and another passed into the possession of Dr. Wilmanns, the late librarian at Berlin. No other copies are known to exist, and it is supposed

that the impression must have been retired from circulation owing to some quarrel between Tonelli's family and the publishers. Dr. Wilmanns made preparations for a new and enlarged edition,<sup>1</sup> but found the task beyond his powers. Consequently, while the letters of several minor humanists have found capable editors, those of Poggio, the greatest Italian researcher, the prince of letter-writers in the fifteenth century, the Secretary of eight Popes, are still inaccessible except in a very imperfect form.

Dr. Walser of Zurich has set himself to repair this deficiency, and has issued this preliminary volume upon the life of Poggio, to be followed by a complete

<sup>1</sup> His results appear in *Central-Blatt f. Bibliothekswesen*, xxx. (1913), pp. 289-331, 443-463.