

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

A History of Greece for High Schools and Academics. By GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD, Ph.D., Instructor in the History of Greece and Rome in Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1899. Pp. xiii, 381.)

THE real test of a school history is use in the class. If the book in the hands of a good teacher interests pupils, and gives notions of the subject that are correct as far as they go, and so far as young minds can comprehend the complex life of a people, then the book is a good one. Whether it is good in that sense is very hard for one who is not actually teaching such classes to say beforehand. The volume named above receives a distinct character from the fact that in it are combined three traits, which, when thus combined, should go far to make it good in the sense described. These are, first, close adherence to primary sources; second, free use of good translations of ancient Greek authors; and third, illustrations that are for the most part excellent.

It is clear that the author is not merely a compiler. He looks at the subject for himself and knows whereon his belief rests; this, of itself, gives a certain freshness to his pages. A high degree of originality is not to be expected; and occasionally one may question whether, in adopting a view that differs from the traditional one, the author has given due weight to all the evidence. The complete explaining away of what is known as the Dorian migration raises that question distinctly. But the merit of Dr. Botsford's general method outweighs an occasional error in application. The use made of translations from Greek is well exemplified in the account of the battle of Salamis, where Aischylos, in a good verse translation, is allowed to tell about all that is told. One could hardly do better. In like manner good versions from Thukydides, Pindar, Aristophanes, Herodotos, are pressed into service, with excellent effect. Something like direct contact with the sources, and with a great literature, is thus secured. If such pages are a little less easy to question a class upon in the old-fashioned way, the gain is nevertheless apparent. The illustrations are largely process cuts from recent and good photographs, with numerous outline maps and plans. Colors are so applied on the maps as to make the main facts clear, without excess of detail. By such a map the distribution of "Mycenaean" civilization, as revealed by remains, is clearly exhibited; so of the Greek settlements in the age of colonization; two maps present Greece and Persia at the time of their great conflict; others are no less good. Some of the cuts from

photographs are too small and indistinct to have any value, but most are good, some strikingly so. The frontispiece is a view of the Athenian Acropolis, in its present condition, taken from nearly east, with the gardens along the Ilissos in the foreground and the columns of the Olympieion at the left. Akrokorinthos, the fort at Phyle, modern Sparta with Mt. Taygetos, are excellent views. Ancient portraits and some famous pieces of sculpture are also shown.

Of course, there are things to criticize. It is not possible to give children any notion of early Greek philosophy, and one had better not attempt it. Some phrases seem to imply a lower idea of the intellectual level of the Greek poets than the author probably intended; to say of Isokrates (p. 290), "His literary style lacked freshness and vigor, but was the perfection of art," implies a false, though common, notion of what constitutes art; on p. 179 the plan of the "Acropolis of Athens" is a partially inaccurate plan of the whole city; the grave *stele* on p. 122 is older than the battle of Marathon. This last fact Dr. Botsford doubtless knew; but the only hint that the monument cannot represent a "warrior of Marathon" is in the quotation marks enclosing the title. But these are minor blemishes. The book on the whole lays the stress where it should be laid, on "the character and achievements of the great men," "the development of the social and political life," "the spirit of the civilization." As helps in the use of the work are given marginal topics and references to Greek writers; "Sources" and "Modern Authorities" are grouped at the end of each chapter; and in a final chapter, after a brief summary of each period, are some examples of outline studies of special topics, suggestive hints for many similar studies, and a list of events in chronological order. Last is an index, in which proper names are accented.

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The Medieval Empire. By HERBERT FISHER, Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1898. Two vols., pp. viii, 348; vii, 308.)

NOT since the first appearance of Mr. James Bryce's *Holy Roman Empire* has any one attempted to give in English, or in fact in any other language, so complete and careful a study of the great medieval institution as is here offered. Mr. Fisher deprecates, in almost too modest language, any intention of "trespassing" or "infringing" upon the field of his predecessor, but that field is certainly large enough for two laborers whose methods and aims are so different. Bryce's work was an essay, following a generally chronological scheme and aiming to give a consistent picture of the singular institution it describes. Fisher has discarded the chronological method. He aims at no dramatic consistency and he is not concerned with any theory as to the precise nature of the imperial system. Bryce attempted to cover the whole history of the Empire, even adding a chapter on the present utterly distinct institu-