

# CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

*Continued from page viii*

times, and to the Egyptian, Babylonian, Cretan, Jewish and Persian civilizations. In Vol. II he proceeds to the Greeks and Romans, with glances at the Indians and Chinese. His work is the product of twenty-five years of study, and is marked by an immense learning and a steady flow of interesting and ingenious ideas. It is clearly written, and the translation by Margaret M. Green is adequate. There is no documentation, but there is a good index.

## IRELAND IN AMERICA.

By Edward F. Roberts. G. P. Putnam's Sons  
\$2.50 7¾ x 5¼; 218 pp. New York

There are fifteen essays here dealing with the influence of the Irish in the political and social history of the United States. Mr. Roberts does little more than touch the high points, and his discussion is not marked by unusual information or sharp insight. The Irish played an important part in the founding of the Republic, both from the military and political standpoints. From about 1850 to the signing of the new immigration law, their influence increased proportionately to their increasing numbers. The Irish vote was then a telling factor in the politics of many American cities, particularly along the Atlantic Coast. It is still a significant factor, but it is decreasing in force because of the dwindling Irish immigration. In the Civil War period one-fourth of the population of New York City was Irish. Today it is probably not one-tenth, and more and more Jewish, Italian, and Slav names are appearing on the Tammany lists. Culturally, the Irish have probably given less to the Republic than any other dominant race. Claude G. Bowers contributes a harmless introduction. There is an index.

## VENICE & BONAPARTE.

By George B. McClellan. The Princeton University Press  
\$3.50 9½ x 6; 307 pp. Princeton

The first eight chapters of this book deal with the life and government of the Venetian Republic in the Eighteenth Century; the other eleven are concerned with the causes which led to its downfall in 1797 and the part Napoleon played in them. Venice, an unarmed neutral state at the time, lay between the French lines and the Austrian lines, and in order to conquer Austria in the quickest and surest way Napoleon had to cross it. The problem presented to him was very similar to that which faced Germany in

Belgium in 1914. Napoleon offered his alliance to the little Republic four times, but was rebuffed, so he marched through by force, and thus put an end to the city's independent existence. "The task did not cost him a qualm, for he believed that Venice had by the incompetence of her rulers and the collapse of her government forfeited her right to live. . . . Can we be greatly surprised that Bonaparte should have sold Venice to win the world?" Dr. McClellan is professor of economic history at Princeton. A bibliography and an index are appended.

## PHILOSOPHY

### LUCIAN, PLATO & GREEK MORALS.

By John Jay Chapman. The Houghton Mifflin Company  
\$2 7½ x 4¾; 181 pp. Boston

Mr. Chapman is for Lucian and against Plato. The former, he says, was a man of sound common sense, a lover of every sort of decency, including the intellectual. The latter was a spinner of pretty gossamers, and without too much conscience. His writings are full of contradictions and other absurdities. He never grappled seriously with a problem, whether moral or philosophical. His Symposium, which pedagogues now force upon schoolboys, is in reality an elaborate apologia for the worst vices of the Greeks. It has become a sort of Bible in those circles wherein such vices are being revived today. Plato interested the early Christian Fathers because of his very lack of intellectual integrity; in his blowsy speculations they found support for their theology. But Lucian, in disposing of the Greek gods, disposed at the same stroke of all other gods, and thus got the bad name among Christians which he still holds. Mr. Chapman writes very plausibly, and has made an interesting book. He knows more about Greek literature than many of its professors.

### OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY.

By Edward Zeller. Harcourt, Brace & Company  
\$5 8½ x 5½; 324 pp. New York

Zeller's *Grundriss* was first published in 1883; like his earlier and larger work, "Die Philosophie der Griechen" (1844-52) it has long been a standard text. The present translation, by L. R. Palmer, of Cambridge University, is from the thirteenth German edition, revised after Zeller's death by Dr. Wilhelm Nestle of Stuttgart. The merits of the work are too well known to need statement. It is well arranged, it is simply and clearly written, and

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