

NEW BOOKS

LORD RIDDELL'S WAR DIARY, 1914-1918. London. Ivor Nicholson and Watson, Ltd. 1933.

This is a fascinating book. It is the intimate record, kept from day to day during the war years, by a leading English newspaper proprietor. Here and there, of course, as the writer acknowledges, a passage has been omitted, because it cannot fitly appear for some years to come.

Lord Riddell was the chosen intermediary between British Government and Press during dark days. His book is, indeed, from one point of view, a defence of the Press, but indirect rather than direct; it is the turning of a newspaper proprietor's note-books of those years out upon the table. Lord Riddell contends that the much maligned race of publishers and editors served the State with great courage and fidelity; that they would have served it still better if they had been more trusted by the nation's leaders; and that indeed from time to time the war came near to being lost through those needless precautions against the journalists which deprived them of power to help as well as power to injure. Here is a most vivid picture, for instance, of how politicians and soldiers, particularly Lord Kitchener, kept the Press in the dark about disasters, and how in consequence the newspapers often imperilled the Allied cause by making the British public think the war was already won. Lord Riddell acknowledges that a measure of censorship was needed, but points out that of the innumerable occasions on which information was given to editors confidentially, in no case was the confidence misused.

The book revolves much round the figure of Mr. Lloyd George, who represented in himself this belief in appeal to the nation through candid disclosure rather than managing of the nation by craft behind closed doors. There is many a lively anecdote by which the narrative is lit up. We get one, for example, about Lord Kitchener, whose occasional efforts at public appeal were more earnest than judicious, as on the occasion when he invited all wives of soldiers who wished to make enquiry about their husbands to apply at the War Office! Next day ten thousand wives made the approaches to the War Office impassable, and a day afterwards the "bureau" had 70,000 letters to answer. We get a reminiscence from Mr. Lloyd George of his own first political campaign, when he told his audience how poor he was: "Silver and gold have I none." A hostile newspaper remarked that his chief supply was known to be brass.

The gossipy character of this book is indeed its greatest charm. Not a few will be interested to hear that Mr. Lloyd George's special delight is still packing a picnic basket for lunch on the beaches in summer, that in moments of tension his usual resort is to sing Welsh hymns, and that his sabbatarian habits do not allow him to play golf on Sunday, but do allow him to walk round the links with a player in

action. Gossip, however, is interspersed among paragraphs which recall epoch-making events, with clear and penetrating criticism, written at the very moment by an extremely shrewd observer. It is safe to say that *Lord Riddell's Diary* will prove a document of lasting historical significance.

H. L. S.

THE LIFE OF ROBERT BALDWIN. By George E. Wilson, Professor of History, Dalhousie University. The Ryerson Press, Toronto.

The most critical years in the history of Canada were those in which her leaders groped their way towards a scheme of government that would give the colonial legislatures control of internal affairs without destroying the fabric of imperial relations. In retrospect the problem seems simple enough, but innovations in principles of government are singularly distasteful to the Englishman, and the granting of responsible government was a momentous step which cautious statesmen were reluctant to take. Many liberal-minded Canadians, who found the autocratic attitude of the executive irksome enough, felt nevertheless that self-government could mean only separation from the Empire. Some welcomed this as a solution, but the majority of influential Canadians were hostile to the idea of secession and, rather than risk such an outcome, were ready to support the governor and the executive in the struggle with the reformers.

Robert Baldwin was one of the few who saw a middle road. Through the tangle of conflicting issues he saw to the root of the trouble, and he was convinced that existing abuses could be cured in large part by making the executive responsible to the elected representatives of the people; moreover, that this could be done without endangering the bonds of Empire. Having grasped the principle of responsible government, he worked with enduring singleness of purpose to have it adopted. The Durham Report was largely inspired by his vision, and it was under his leadership that responsible government, accepted in principle, was finally put into practice.

From Dr. Wilson's account of his life, there stands out, clear-cut, a man truly liberal in his ideas, scornful of compromise and the dictates of political expediency. His breadth of vision was remarkable. Even so enlightened a statesman as Lord Durham believed that the conflict of racial issues could be settled by anglicizing the French portion of Canada. It is interesting to conjecture, but fortunate that Canada had not to experience, what would have happened had the attempt been persisted in. Baldwin saw the injustice of such a move and its danger, and looking beyond the differences of race, language and creed, worked side by side with his French colleagues to establish a form of government within which the two races could work out their destinies with a minimum of friction.

When a man gives a life-time of devotion to a cause, the story of his life forms the story of the movement itself. It is so with Baldwin,

and in writing his life, Dr. Wilson has given an excellent account of the struggle for responsible government. The course of the struggle and the factors contributing to it appear in clear outline, without that abundance of detail which tends to confuse any but students of the movement. In the course of the narrative, the character of the man is revealed, his high sense of justice, his loyalty to the mother country and British traditions, his broad tolerance for the opinions of others. Dr. Wilson chose to write of the man who was probably the least picturesque of the leaders of the reform movement. But one feels on laying down the book that the high ideals of statesmanship by which he was governed were found to the same degree in none of the others.

The work was originally prepared as a doctorate thesis, and is carefully documented and indexed.

G. G. CAMPBELL.

THE UNIVERSE OF LIGHT. By Sir William Bragg, O.M., F.R.S.
The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto. 1933. Pp. 283.
\$3.75.

For over a hundred years there have been given regularly at the Royal Institution lectures on Science "adapted to a juvenile auditory." Such an audience is at once more critical and more appreciative than one made up solely of adults who have become inured to lectures. Faraday himself gave nineteen such series of lectures, and Sir William Bragg now upholds the tradition of his great predecessor. The book under review, based on lectures before such a critical audience, is a popular exposition for the general reader. It should therefore be good enough for any grown-up who wishes an authentic and interesting account of the "Universe of Light". The title is justified, for it embraces all radiation, from the long wireless waves to the short X-Rays. Most stress is laid on the fraction of an octave which we know as visible light. When this has been explained in a wealth of detail, the extension to the whole field of radiation is natural and easy.

The author is a past master in the art of the lecture experiment. He is at his best, perhaps, in illustrating the part light plays in everyday life, the colour of sea and sky and growing things, the sparkle of a gem, the use of pigments by the painter. The explanations are based almost entirely on the wave theory of light which stood unchallenged for a hundred fruitful years. The modern quantum theory has not superseded but extended the older theory. The newer developments are touched on only in the last chapter, which is too short to do more than indicate the trend.

This book is very fully illustrated by diagrams and plates, two in colour. To reassure the timid, it should be said that there is not a mathematical formula in the book, nor even the mystic symbol h , to which all good physicists do daily obeisance nowadays.

G. H. HENDERSON.

ARISTOPHANES. By Gilbert Murray. Clarendon Press, 1933.
Pp. x, 268.

This book contains ten chapters, although the table of contents solemnly cites the chronological table as Chapter XI. An idea of the development of the theme may be gained from the titles of the chapters: I. Ancient Greek Comedy: Aristophanes's Background (Daitales, Babylonians, Acharnians); II. Cleon (Knights, Peace); III. The Jury Courts (Wasps); IV. The New Learning: Socrates (Clouds); V. Literature: Euripides (Acharnians. Thesmophorizusae, Frogs); VI. The Plays of Escape (Birds); VII. The Last Effort for Peace (Lysistrata); VIII. The Beginning of the Fourth Century (Ecclesiazusae); IX. The Plutus and After. Christophane and the Ancient Critics; X. Menander and the Transformation of Comedy.

The author states at the outset that there is "little or no research in this book". It may not be superfluous to reflect that Professor Murray could write without research many books about Greek authors any chapter of which the ordinary worker in the field could produce only after much investigation, though after much investigation he need not necessarily agree with Professor Murray. Competent scholars need to be very sure of their Greek before they quarrel with any literal translation that he makes; anyone who gets the taste of Greek and the knowledge to construe an easy bit of dialogue is entitled to revile the sentimental embroidery of some of his translations of Euripides.

Professor Murray says that he has long been dissatisfied with the generally accepted accounts of Aristophanes, "and notably with the chapter upon him in my own *Ancient Greek Literature*—published in 1897". He dedicates the work "To my old friend, G. B. S., lover of ideas and hater of cruelty, who has filled many lands with laughter and whose courage has never failed." As an Aristophanes, G. B. S. is perhaps a rather fragile miniature, but the parallel is worth noting.

The book is obviously written with present world conditions in mind, and one is never allowed to forget that in the time of Aristophanes as at present there was a very grave question whether civilization could endure. It has never been a secret that Aristophanes did not like the Peloponnesian War; "In politics he, as well as Cratinus and most of the poets of Attic Comedy, inclined to the party of peace and order," said Müller's *Handbuch* in 1911, when there was no excitement about the question. Professor Murray says: "If Aristophanes disliked the ascendancy of the mob as heartily as the *Morning Post*, he hated militarism and cruelty as much as the *Manchester Guardian*, and he exposed the absurdity of the world's solemn façades as vividly as a "Low" cartoon. But the plain fact is, of course, that he does not fit into any of our present-day pigeon-holes, and has to be considered by himself as a new specimen." This critic seems sometimes to read back into Aristophanes his own attitude toward war at the present time; we are, of course, entitled to say so much for Aristophanes only as regards fratricidal strife among the Greeks. It does not appear that he had any horror at the thought of Marathon.

The question of obscenity in Aristophanes is well and sanely treated. If a man once understands something of the conventions of Greek

Comedy, his mind must be very small or very dull or very dirty to be shocked at anything in Aristophanes. So far as this element in the plays exists, it must be taken as part of the scenery; it has no bearing on the problems that are really concerned.

There will be argument about the poet's relation to Socrates and to Euripides. Perhaps Professor Murray is not so unfair as some expect, in the case of the standard modern interpreter of Euripides, to the semi-literate crowd. "It is mere blundering to say that Aristophanes thinks Euripides a bad poet and Aeschylus a good, or that he hates the one and loves the other. He sees that both are great poets; he admires both, loves both, but at the end of the count, old Aeschylus, with the glow of Marathon still upon him, Aeschylus who had triumphed with Miltiades and Aristides the Just, remains on his throne, shaken a little, but not displaced." As for Socrates and the Clouds: "The whole trouble and danger came from the change of atmosphere. In 423 these charges were jokes. In 399 they were not jokes at all".

There is a flavour that is left behind by Gilbert Murray's work, whether one has been annoyed by his too docile attitude to the latest theory of the anthropologist, or stimulated by the play of his mind about a great writer. Some may remember that in his inaugural address he spoke of the characteristic note of the English school of classical study as the "clean and definite understanding of the language". However controversial his subject, his treatment is always that of one who knows that it is much more important to read and understand and love the great writers of antiquity than to gain one's point in argument or to elucidate some obscure point in research; and no one can deny to him competence in research and skill in argument. One is reminded of something that he wrote in the preface to Rogers's edition of the *Thesmophoriazusae* in 1920. Speaking of the quality of Rogers's work, he says: "What is one to call this quality of scholarship? It is old fashioned, and it is very English. It belongs to an age when scholarship was not a highly-specialized form of research, but a spirit and a way of life; an age when a scholar was not *methodisch* or *wissenschaftlich* or up to date; did not use card-index or tabulate results, but simply steeped himself in Greek literature until it became a sort of instinct to him, a life-companion and a permanent joy." His Aristophanes is much concerned with parallels to present conditions; and that fact may well make it popular, as far as such a book can be popular, at the present time; but its greater contribution is this flavour and taste that no change in popular fancy can cheapen or destroy.

E. W. NICHOLS.

THE NORTHERN ELEMENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE. By Sir William Craigie. University of Toronto Press. 1933. Pp. 135.

Memorial lectures in universities are beset with difficulties. Is the lecturer to risk losing his audience by being learned and original? Is he to trust his personality and delivery to hide a thinness and staleness of material that will be painfully obvious when the lectures

appear in book form? Although he had a difficult and elusive subject, Sir William Craigie, who gave the Alexander Lectures at the University of Toronto in 1931, avoided both dangers. The result is a small volume, consisting of four lectures, that appeals by its freshness of point of view and of treatment.

Sir William first notes the absence of the northern element—by which he means what is peculiar to the people of northern England, Scotland, and Scandinavia—from the literature of England until the latter part of the 18th century. The second lecture is a beautifully discriminating analysis of the peculiar qualities of Scottish literature. The remaining two lectures deal with the discovery of the north by the English, and their indebtedness to it.

Sir William, who is the greatest living authority on Scottish literature and language, wears his learning lightly. He does not seek to rival such detailed studies as Farley's, Smart's or Burchardt's; he prefers to range from Anglo-Saxon to Gaelic, from Scottish to Old Norse, paying his respects to these scholars in passing, but always adding something of his own. He laughs kindly at the pseudo-Gaelic of Macpherson and Scott. He is too wise to seek a simple solution for the fact that southern Europe dominated English literature for so many centuries. He emphasizes the discovery of the north as one of the prime elements in romanticism. One wonders why Sir William did not note, when he discussed the Scottish love of place-names in poetry (pp. 51-52), the typically Scottish practice of calling a person in ordinary life by the name of his estate. He suggests (p. 64) that the absence of Gaelic influence on Scottish literature for so many centuries was due to the barrier of language; but surely ulterior to this was the Lowlander's contempt of the Highlander. Sir William is right in his view (p. 90) that Smollett was the first novelist to use Scottish characters; surely, however, we need not wait for *Humphrey Clinker*, for Smollett employed them in the opening chapters of *Roderick Random*. On p. 7 is an unfortunate spelling: *Spencer* for *Spenser*. The book can be confidently recommended not merely to those interested primarily in Scottish literature, but to all who like to follow the development of English literature.

B. MARTIN.

CEYLON UNDER BRITISH RULE, 1795 TO 1932. By Lennox A. Mills. Oxford University Press; 1932. Pp. 312. Price \$4.50.

Ceylon has been an important colony since its acquisition by the East India Company from the Dutch in 1795, but until the appearance of this volume there has been no modern scholarly account of Ceylon under British rule. Its history since 1795 has turned largely on the development of tropical agriculture. Cinnamon was the staple export under the Dutch, and continued in importance for the first three decades of British rule, but the trade was ruined by competition from the Dutch islands and by unwise export tariffs. Coffee eventually took

its place, but the coffee industry fell before a fungus growth which destroyed the plantations. Tea came to the front in the eighties, and rubber with the turn of the century. While other crops are of importance, the prosperity of Ceylon to-day depends largely upon these two commodities.

British imperialism in Asia has perhaps its most creditable record there. Rule by the East India Company quickly proved a failure, and the island came directly under the Crown in 1802. Conquest of the native kingdom of Kandy followed shortly, but its pacification had to wait on the development of roads and a competent civil administration. In both these respects it preceded British India. As respects native policy, Professor Mills concludes that British rule has "no occasion to be ashamed." Mistakes were, of course, inevitable, both in method and in the choice of administrators, but almost from the first British rule has acted on the assumption that it was a trustee of native rights and interests, an assumption not always accepted by British residents or the native nobility. Native agriculture has been assisted and encouraged; irrigation works have been developed on a wide scale, to the advantage both of the white planter and of the native owner; and village self-government, particularly responsibility for local irrigation works, has been encouraged. Of particular value have been the scientific research in tropical agriculture and the measure of success of the Government in getting native planters to adopt scientific methods.

It is to be regretted that Professor Mills found himself unable to treat more fully the development of the demand for self-government and the advances toward self-government since the War, though material on this phase is relatively accessible. With this exception, the book fills a long-felt want. It is based largely on original materials, and chapter and verse are carefully cited throughout. The treatment is topical rather than chronological, a method which leads to some repetition, but which makes for clarity. A simple and direct style, and the usual good workmanship of the Oxford Press, add to the attractiveness of the book, and an excellent index to its utility.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. By J. Holland Rose. Cambridge University Press. Pp. xi, 184. 1933.

The author of this interesting but all too brief treatise occupies the chair of Naval History at Christ's College, Cambridge. He is a classical scholar of no mean attainments. He is thus eminently well fitted for the task that he has undertaken—that of demonstrating the nature of the relations of the Mediterranean with the men who, in early times, dwelt by its shores or sailed on its bosom.

The book is addressed to the general reader rather than to the scholar. Professor Rose refuses to tread those methodized paths so dear to the pedant. Rather, he has chosen to discourse pleasantly,

almost light-heartedly, of the Mediterranean world and those who, in remote antiquity, went down to the sea in ships. If he does not always adhere to strict accuracy of expression (more than once he replaces the Christian name of Dick Deadeye with Jack), and this is not his most serious offence, we need not feel annoyed thereat, for there is much to instruct as well as charm in his book.

The author tries his hand at reconstructing the story of the origin of navigation, and bringing it down to the golden days of Homer's Achaeans. The Graeco-Phoenician rivalries of the eighth and seventh centuries in the eastern Mediterranean are succeeded by the great clash, in the fifth century, between Greek and Persian interests, with the ultimate blow dealt to the Persian and Phoenician fleets at Salamis. Professor Rose manifests a somewhat grudging spirit of approval for the Greek peoples, but he is impatient of their politics. The "monkey-like feuds of the Greek cities" are particularly annoying to him; the Romans, for all their stodginess, have at least the grace of common sense in their political connections. His attitude towards Rome's maritime activities is unusual, perhaps unique. "Rome," he writes, "is the only State of antiquity which deserves to rank as a great and efficient sea-power. Accordingly, I have traced in some detail her maritime progress. How greatly the influence of Rome rested on sea control has, I believe, never been adequately set forth; and to contrast it with the relatively weak and fitful efforts of earlier peoples is my chief object." It should not, however, escape the mind of the historian that, once Rome had dealt faithfully with Carthage, she preferred to fight on land. Once her troops had occupied all the Mediterranean ports, little remained for her fleet but to continue to nip incipient piracy in the bud.

To express it paradoxically, Professor Rose is on the firmest ground when he deals with ancient shipping, and one only wishes that he had chosen to go further than he has in this field. His wide technical knowledge of ship-building enables him to point out several structural defects in the vessels of the ancient world. It is interesting, e. g., to have it pointed out by an expert that their cordage was weak, their calking imperfect, their timber-construction unsound, and their masts feeble in comparison with the weight of the hull. As a result of these shortcomings, they could not sail, close hauled, in a high wind without running the risk of over-strain.

Professor Rose has not failed to take account of the two classic narratives of extraordinary voyages that we have from antiquity. Lucian's description of the cruise of the great Alexandrian grain-ship, blown off her course and ultimately making port at the Piraeus, is largely fanciful. But the author of the *Acts of the Apostles* writes, with all the intimacy of an eye-witness, of the last voyage and the shipwreck of St. Paul. It is not difficult to discern in these men—the Conrad and the Russell of the ancient world—a genuine interest in the things of the sea, even if that interest was, from the nature of the case, pelagic rather than oceanic.

A. D. FRASER.

DENMARK'S RIGHT TO GREENLAND. By Knud Berlin. Oxford University Press. 1932. Pp. 185.

This is a statement of the Danish case in the recent controversy between Norway and Denmark as respects the sovereignty over East Greenland. It is intended as a reply to various Norwegian arguments, and particularly to one by Professor Skeie recently published in English. Though decidedly *ex parte* and written with some heat, the book is of value to students of colonial history and international law, since it is concerned with the occupation and settlement of Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands, and their constitutional relations with Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. The Greenland Case, now happily settled, is of special interest to Canadians in view of Canada's claims to the Far North.

R. A. MACKAY.

HORACE. A Return to Allegiance. By T. R. Glover. Cambridge University Press.

This book consists of two "Lewis Fry Memorial" lectures delivered before the University of Bristol.

In the introduction to the first lecture the author tells how his return to Horace happened. Just before a voyage across the Atlantic, he bought a copy of Horace at a bookstall in Cambridge. The poet proved such a pleasant travelling companion that in future journeys he invariably took with him the selfsame copy.

These lectures are written in a somewhat conversational style, and might possibly be criticized for their discursiveness. However, we may say that Dr. Glover always makes his discursiveness interesting and profitable to the reader. The lectures appeal rather more to the person whom Mr. Baldwin has called the "plain man" than to the exact classical scholar. No mention is made of readings or texts or any of the things that are associated with what is generally called scholarship. A slight allusion is made to the metres, emphasizing the fact that Horace borrowed his metres and gloried in having naturalized Alcaeus and Sappho in Latium.

The first lecture is largely biographical, and bristles with quotations from the poet's works. So skilfully are the quotations selected that one comes to realize that Horace has virtually been made to write his own autobiography. For example, he spent two years abroad on military service, and he gives his comparison between foreign countries and his own in Odes I, 7:

Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon aut Mytilenen

quam domus Albunee resonantis

*et praeceps Anio ac Tiburni lucus et uda
mobilibus pomaria rivis.*

The second lecture is devoted more to a consideration of the poet's style and thought. Wherein consists the charm of Horace that has been felt by successive generations to the present day, and influenced so much the poetry of the eighteenth century? Dr. Glover gives an adequate answer in this lecture. The greater part of the poet's

life was spent during the period of the civil troubles at Rome which ended in the battle of Actium and the supremacy of Augustus. "Life is so uncertain" says Horace, "that one had better enjoy the good things as one goes along, and so live from day to day."

But the judgment of the centuries is not questioned. It is the *curiosa felicitas* of Horace which defies alike imitation and translation. If we regret anything in Dr. Glover's little book, it is his omission in pointing out another side to Horace's Epicureanism, that side namely which is emphatic in Ode 3 of Book III:

*Justum et tenacem propositi virum
non civium ardor prava jubentium,
non vultus instantis tyranni
mente quatit solida neque Auster,*

*dux inquieti turbidus Hadriae,
nec fulminantis magna manus Jovis;
si fractus illabatur orbis,
impavidum ferient ruinae.*

How fitting such a sentiment is when some people think they see the world crumbling round them!

This little book may be heartily commended to people of general culture who are interested in classical literature, and we even think that the philologist might read it with pleasure and profit.

S. J. MACLENNAN.

REMINISCENCES OF CAMBRIDGE. By Henry Gunning. A Selection chosen by D. A. Winstanley. The Cambridge Miscellany, No. 8. Pp. xvi-156. Macmillan. Toronto. 1932. \$1.00.

Henry Gunning was elected Esquire Bedell in the University of Cambridge in 1789, and held that position until his death sixty-four years later. The duties of his office, which is still extant, were largely of a formal nature—attendance on the Vice-Chancellor and the examiners. These duties called for long hours at the dinner table and over the port in Combination Rooms, where Gunning's talents as an amusing raconteur made him a well-known figure. He had a keen eye for the frailties of human nature, and a taste for academic scandals. Towards the close of a long career, in which he had ample opportunity of knowing the weaknesses of many of the leading lights of the university, he wrote his Reminiscences. Their publication was awaited with trepidation by certain circles, but the book dealt only with the earlier years of office. It gives a lively picture of an age, now happily past, in which sinecures and deputies were common, and the main concern of Fellows lay in securing enough influence to obtain a Church living. The two volumes of Reminiscences have been long out of print. The Senior Tutor of Trinity has done good service in making a judicious selection for this convenient little volume, which he has prefaced by an excellent introduction.

G. H. HENDERSON.