

but not to hold in your hand as you patrol the streets. The illustrations are from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century pictures and prints, and so are far more valuable than contemporary photographs, for the greatest interest of Rome is her chequered career.

The Greek Language. By B. F. C. ATKINSON, PH.D. Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1931. Pp. viii+354. 15s.

Our welcome to this, the first of a projected series of books on the Great Languages, is tempered with a certain disappointment. All lovers of Greek are waiting for an authoritative statement of the latest views and the latest evidence upon the relationship between Greek and the various non-Greek tongues of the Aegean world; it is a long time since Kretschmer's *Einleitung* appeared, and perhaps we can't all read German; and we feel that Dr. Myres is a safer guide in matters of ethnology and archaeology than in linguistics. Mr. Atkinson does give us a chapter on Origins, but it is all too brief and indefinite; and one feels that in his attempt to separate out of the vocabulary of Greek those words that have no Indo-European origin he is going too far. An Indo-European origin can be suggested both for βασιλεύς and for θάλασσα, and since ὀβελός occurs also in the form ὀδελός, the probability that it is a loan-word is remote.

If the first section is too short, the following 100 pages on morphology and syntax are too long; and it may also be said that many of the explanations of points of syntax are out of date; thus, the Subjunctive and Optative are defined as the moods of Will and Wish; ellipse of a governing word is postulated in the imperative use of the infinitive, the genitive absolute, and the construction after οὐ μή; the genitive of price is explained as the same as that with verbs of filling; and although *Aktionsart* is mentioned in a footnote on p. 319 in connexion with modern Greek, its all-pervading influence in the classical tongue, seen, for instance, in χάλειπὸν τὸ ποιεῖν, τὸ δὲ κελεῦσαι ῥᾶδιον, passes without notice.

The chapter on Dialects is much more satisfactory, though it would be safer not to write accents on inscriptions in dialect; the unwary might think they were indicated on the stone; and the views put forward on the Homeric question are interesting, though, of course, they will not convince every one; and when the writer says that 'in this island (Chios) we find in Homeric times an Ionic dialect established with an underlying stratum of Aeolic', one asks for an approximate date for Homeric times.

The section on literature is rather perfunctory; the writer rapidly

surveys the development of prose and poetry from Homer to Byzantine times, illustrating each author by one or two quotations, with occasional comments on peculiarities of language or style. Such a method cannot be satisfactory and does less than justice to the great names of Greek literature—Sophocles has to be content with about 30 lines; and it is confidently asserted that one of the longest extant fragments of Bacchylides is but 12 lines in length.

An immense amount of labour has gone to the making of the book; the typography is excellent— ν for υ on p. 311 is the only misprint we have noticed—and the Bibliography strikes just the right note, between scantiness and excess; one could wish that the whole book had been as well balanced.

Everyday Things in Homeric Greece. Pp. viii+140. 73 illustrations. 1929. *Everyday Things in Archaic Greece.* Pp. viii+146. 85 illustrations. 1931. By M. and C. H. B. QUENNEL. Large medium 8vo. art canvas. 7s. 6d. per volume.

The latest additions to the 'Everyday' Series are written primarily for children, and are produced in a magnificent, and even extravagant, way, with a wealth of illustration which rather dwarfs the letter-press. They are marked by enthusiasm and appreciation for beautiful things and would certainly appeal to those gifted with imagination and feeling.

The earlier volume, unfortunately, has less to recommend it, for more than half is but a synopsis of the *Argonautica* and the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, to most of which little reference is later made, while the last fifty pages describe details of buildings (especially Tiryns), weaving, armour, ships, chariots, and agriculture, in which the authors' grasp of technical detail is admirably shown; little use is made of the *Shield of Achilles*. Sometimes a condescension of manner has led to lapses into childishness, e.g. p. 86—'how epic poems were written'.

The second volume dealing with the period 1000–480 B.C. keeps much closer to its title, and in the range of its subjects—temple and house, sculpture, dress, schools, music, and trade—even if leading to some scrappiness, it gives a very fair view of Greek life at that period. We would prefer other forms to 'Pythoness' for the Pythia on p. 8 and 'Oecus' for 'Oikos', and doubt if 'equilateral' is a Greek word (p. 101) or if eleven feet of material were necessary for a Doric chiton (p. 86). The chapter on Mathematics is disfigured by another childish remark (p. 98) and Money is very poorly treated. A map of Greek colonies which does not indicate Byzantium, or Potidaea, or any in Italy except Paestum seems rather faulty: a smaller point is to ask whether the