

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

type of cactus on p. 75 is not really an American importation since 1492.

While these criticisms do call attention to flaws in the work, these volumes have a real value and will fulfil a service by their insistence on the beauty of so much Greek work, and the excellence of its technical achievement.

Musa Feriata. By FRANCIS PEMBER. Clarendon Press, 1931. Pp. iv+112. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d.

We congratulate the Warden of All Souls upon his *Musa Feriata*, the fruits of his musings, as he tells us, 'in vacation or other leisure times; on hill-sides, even on railway journeys'. The choice of passages for translation into Latin and Greek is of itself an index to a fine mind, and Dr. Pember is lucky not only in his power of detachment but also in the calmness and clearness of that sea of thought in which he voyages alone. Scholarship like this is perhaps rather born than achieved, but it is a wealth of which no Chancellor can rob us, a gold standard we can never go off. His versions show not only a mastery of Greek and Latin but, what is essential to translation, a living insight into the English meaning and a spiritual sympathy with the original. Even this currency cannot be inflated without losing its value, and, if we were to indicate a dislike, we should bashfully suggest that the Lucretian mannerisms are spread a little too thick, and that he has dipped, generally, into too archaic a mint. But we must honestly confess that this criticism is largely born of envy and that as we dip into his charming volume we are like little urchins, flattening our noses wistfully against the rich window of his scholarly equipment. We hope he will take care of himself at Carfax and other our infernal *compita* where an affronted Trivia broods: before he has given us more fruit we grudge him to the shade of George Dyer.

Roman Britain: the Objects of Trade. By LOUIS C. WEST, LITT.D. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1931. Pp. 108. 5s.

This volume represents the result of intensive search among the literature which has grown up round Roman Britain and has been until recently buried in the records of local societies, in the many volumes of *Archaeologia* and in the Victoria County Histories. To all of these, and many others, Dr. West makes reference in his lists of objects found—these range from forest products and drugs through precious stones, animals, mines, metals, potteries, textiles to imported objects—and each individual discovery is tabulated with place and authority.