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European Civilization

European Civilization, Its Origin and Development

Review by: A. F. Giles

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insecure, unless he takes his 'recruitment' seriously and uses the book only as a stimulus and a starting-place. Rightly used, it will be more valuable than any text-book; misused, it may do more harm than good, but that will not be the author's fault.

Of comment in detail little can be offered here. Dr Glover's choice of matters to be emphasized and of what to omit or pass lightly over is, needless to say, highly individual. The pleasant effect of easy, rambling conversation half conceals the wealth of knowledge held constantly at command for illustration and suggestion: the obvious and familiar things are there—Pericles and *παίδευσις τῆς Ἑλλάδος*, Xenophon and *θάλαττα*, *θάλαττα*, Cineas and *βασιλέων πολλῶν συνέδριον*—but how much more that is neither familiar nor obvious and that cannot fail to whet the appetite. Caesar is, of course, credited with founding the Empire—on ideas inspired

by 'the great open spaces' of the Gallic War. Cicero is kindly and justly handled. Antony 'belongs to literature far more than to history'—which may mean much, or not. The pages on the origins and the Founder of Christianity read rather like a sermon—but a first-rate sermon. A few small slips have been noted: Zama is dated two years too soon (p. 376), the Gabinian and Manilian laws each a year too late (p. 312); and with Melos and Scione and Samos in mind, it seems rather generous to say that 'while Athens ruled, there was to be no revolution in the streets of a little town and the victims carried out next day packed criss-cross on carts' (p. 149). But these are little things. Dr Glover has accomplished his purpose and done a good service to his subject.

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EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION.

European Civilization, its Origin and Development: by various contributors, under the direction of EDWARD EYRE. In 7 volumes. Vol. i (reissue): Prehistoric Man and Earliest Known Societies. Pp. vi+844; 19 maps. Vol. ii: Rome and Christendom. Pp. 696; 9 maps, 14 diagrams. London: Milford, 1935. Cloth, 25s. and 15s.

THE only parts of these volumes that fall strictly within the scope of the *Classical Review* (or at all within the competence of the present reviewer) are those dealing with classical Greece in the first and with classical Rome in the second. Beyond these, no more than mention can be made of Professor Wilhelm Schmidt's chapters on Primitive Man (mainly a polemic against 'evolutionary preconceptions' and an enunciation of the doctrine of the 'real spirituality' and the innate monotheism of *homo sapiens*); of Professor Myres on the ethnology and early cultures of the Mediterranean and the Near East and on the Indo-Europeans; of Mr. T. E. Peet on Egypt; of Mr. R. E. M. Wheeler on the Celts; and of M. Charles Jean on the East. M. Jean's chapters,

indeed—rather rambling in structure, and not too happy in their English translation—show some inconformities with the other sections, where they traverse the same ground in the story of Egypt or Greece; and in the latter instance (however it be in the former) they suggest the question whether an editor ought to refrain from correcting statements which are not only inaccurate but inconsistent with others made elsewhere in the volume: for instance (to quote at random), that there were six Athenian *στρατηγοί*, or that Salamis was fought at the end of October, or Himera in the same year as Plataea, or that Demosthenes joined his voice to that of Isocrates in summoning Macedon to lead a crusade against Persia, or that Sparta took part with Thebes and Athens in the final struggle against Philip. The co-ordination and unification of historical views which is the avowed purpose of the series is not advanced by such avoidable discrepancies, nor is the reader's confidence in the writer strengthened.

Mr. A. W. Gomme writes on Greece and on Republican Rome, with an engaging brightness and lightness of

touch and a comprehensive range of interest that remind one of Mr. Glover (as in *The Ancient World*). Greece is excellently done, especially perhaps the fourth century and the early third. The Roman Republic is in general good, but seriously and surprisingly marred by inaccuracy of detail in the most familiar part of the story, the last century. Apart from matters of opinion—as that Marius was ‘the first soldier of genius’ produced by Rome (‘genius’ seems too good for him, and what about Scipio?)—it is not the fact (to cite a few instances) that freedman voters from 169 B.C. were ‘all enrolled in a single city tribe’ (see Livy xlv, 15); that Metellus Numidicus ‘made peace with Jugurtha because he was jealous of Marius’ (see Sallust, *Jug.* 83—an unsuccessful attempt to detach Bocchus from the enemy, but no treaty); that Sulla ‘could not enter Rome’ till after the battle of the Colline Gate (he had entered it, unopposed, after the battle of Sacriportus some eight months earlier); that Caesar was appointed governor of Cisalpine Gaul and *Noricum* (Illyricum) or Crassus of *Asia* (Syria); that one of the tribes was renamed Julia in honour of Caesar (like the Athenian compliments to Antigonids or Ptolemies), or that the title *Imperator* assumed by him was given ‘for life and to his descendants’ (see *C.A.H.* ix, p. 728); that Antony went straight to Cleopatra in Egypt after the treaty of Brundisium (he did not see her at all between the spring of 41 B.C. and the autumn of 37, and never returned to Egypt till after his Parthian campaign, in the autumn or winter of 36). Such statements as these may not seriously falsify the reader’s general

views of history; but when details—whether important or not—are given in a volume with this imprint, he is entitled to have them given correctly.

Mr. S. N. Miller on the Empire uses a different method, with much more discussion of principles and institutions, and much less narrative. His statements of fact seem invariably well founded (though one might note as controversial some points of financial administration, such as the relation between *fiscus* and *patrimonium*, or the scope of the *ιδίος λόγος* in Egypt); the discussions seem in some places unnecessarily laboured and repetitive, e.g. on the conflict between republican and autocratic principles, and might with advantage have been shortened to make room for some fuller account—not less really important for history, and perhaps more desired by those who will consult these volumes—of the *events* of the period, such as the conquest of Britain (Agricola is barely mentioned, Plautius and the Claudian conquest are hardly even referred to). With Dr. W. E. Brown’s account of Christianity to the Edict of Milan, and Mr. Miller’s of the Church, the Later Empire and the Barbarians (to about the end of the fourth century) the reviewer hardly feels competent to deal: the former is mainly concerned with the doctrinal development, the latter with the working out of the alliance between Empire and Church. A special word of commendation must be given to the admirable maps, most of them produced by the skill of Mrs. Gomme.

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A HISTORY OF DELOS.

W. A. LAIDLAW: *A History of Delos*. Pp. 308. Oxford: Blackwell, 1933. Cloth, 18s.

APOLOGIES are due from the reviewer, who is alone to blame, to the author for the delay in the appearance of this notice.

Mr. Laidlaw has written a valuable account of Delos, which, though on somewhat different lines, will be a useful companion to Gardiner’s *Olympia*

and Poulsen’s *Delphi*. The present work is, as it professes to be, a history of the island, the account of the town and its monuments being confined to a single chapter, in which indeed the writer shows considerable skill in compression, the account, e.g., of Delian domestic architecture being an admirable summary. For the rest, the history of Delos falls into well-defined periods, which the author follows.