

should serve as clues to the general conditions which underlie events. In this sense Legrand's book is a contribution to history as well as to criticism.

THE NEW GREEK COMEDY. By Philippe E. Legrand. Translated by James Loeb. Putnam's; \$4.50.

This book, which in the original French is entitled "Daos," has been familiar to scholars since 1910 as a most valuable comprehensive study of Greek New Comedy. Mr. Loeb has made it accessible to the general reader in somewhat abridged form, and there is a brief introduction by that brilliant Hellenist, the late John Williams White. Professor Legrand deals with the subject in the competent and thorough manner which we expect of the French critic; he divides his work into three main sections, which treat of the subject matter of New Comedy, the structure of the plays, and their purpose.

Probably the most interesting pages are furnished by the sketch of the dramatis personæ of New Comedy, of the strange types which made up the stage world of Menander and his less famous fellows, and which were so meekly borrowed by Plautus and Terence. Here they all are: foreigners, rustics, sycophants and parasites, old men virtuous or lecherous—rich or poor, young men in love, courtesans of every hue, the pander and the omnipresent slave, the boasting soldier and the misanthrope. The adventures of such characters were excellently adapted to amuse the Athenians, now that the Athenians could no longer indulge in political satire; and the career of New Comedy in Rome, and on the modern stage through Molière, Goldoni, Dryden, Shakespeare, and a host of other imitators, is ample proof of its viability. But there is in the original comedies, as Legrand points out, an undercurrent of piety for which nothing in the modern imitations would prepare us; we find throughout the New Comedy a tone of resignation in the midst of the fun, and a belief that salvation is an individual and not a social concern, which serve as a reminder that the days of Christianity were coming. Such documents are too often neglected by the political historian; they