

ABBOTT'S PERICLES.\*—The teaching of history by means of biography is in accordance with modern methods of pedagogy. But the second title of this book more truly describes it ; it is a history of the age of Pericles. One might almost call it a

\* *Pericles and the Golden Age of Athens.* By EVELYN ABBOTT. "Heroes of the Nations" Series. Pp. 379. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1891.

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history of Greece during the fifth century B. C., excepting the Peloponnesian war. The first seventy-five pages are introductory, and the last hundred pages form a sort of appendix to the account of Pericles. Many particulars make clear the nature of the work as a history rather than a biography. Only incidentally is the first marriage of Pericles mentioned, and for one of the later pages is reserved the question in what capacity he not only directed armies but conducted diplomatic negotiations, sent out colonies, built temples, and fostered all art. The traditions with regard to the personal appearance of the great leader are gathered only in the last chapter, which oddly unites the following topics: "Slavery at Athens—Athenian Women—Pericles; his appearance and manners—His character."

The author is not an unqualified admirer of Pericles. Without discussing his military record, he speaks slightly of his skill as a general. In speaking of the fall of Plataea, the author says, "Nothing but an effective Athenian army could have saved the town, and the Athenian army in the hands of Pericles became eminently ineffective,"—yet he remembers very well that Pericles was out of office at this particular time. In general, he does not make clear (apparently, even to himself) the limitations under which Pericles worked, but holds him to account as if he were an autocrat. In some points the criticism seems unjust. Certainly the charge that "the guilt of the final outbreak [of the Peloponnesian war] lies decisively at his door," is not sustained by the story here told. The portrait of Themistocles, too, is not idealized. Ephialtes, however, who attacked the prerogatives of the court of Areopagus, receives somewhat more distinction than is usually accorded to him.

The book is illustrated by nearly fifty woodcuts, of which perhaps a third have not been published heretofore in this country. Not all of these illustrations are closely connected with the text. Several seem to be introduced because of their general interest rather than on account of any relation to Pericles or his age, and some are widely separated from any portion of text which could suggest them. They seem to have been hastily gathered, and the titles are sometimes incorrect; e. g. the view of Bassae is taken from a photograph by Baron des Granges, not by Mr. Clark; in the view of the great theatre at Athens, it is not Hymettus but a hill only a few rods away, which forms the background; the bust of Euripides which is here figured, is at

Mantua, not in the Museum at Naples ; while the bust of Socrates is in the Villa Albani at Rome, not "near Naples." The view of Delphi is far the best that has been published.

But though exceptions may be taken to some details, this book is a good book. It tells in a satisfactory and pleasant way (without burden of learned material) the story of the most brilliant age of the world's history, with chapters on the constitution of Athens, the Greek drama, and plastic art. The arrangement of the work could have been improved, but, as it stands, this history is one which will be read and enjoyed. The author clearly knows his subject, and has a pleasant style of narration.

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