

**GREEK AND ROMAN STOICISM AND SOME OF ITS DISCIPLES.** By Charles H. Stanley Davis, M.D., Ph.D. Cloth. Pp. 269. Price \$1.40 net. Boston: Herbert B. Turner & Co.

Several years ago, after an evening's discussion on the philosophy of Stoicism and the lives and characters of some of its noblest representatives, I was urged by some friends present to prepare some papers dis-

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

cussing Stoicism and some of its leading exponents, because, as one of the party observed, "the present-day Christian world seems to be strangely ignorant of the principles of Stoicism and of the lives and practices of the greatest Stoics." Acting on this suggestion I prepared a series of articles, one embracing the lives and teachings of Socrates, who though antedating Stoicism as a philosophical system, embodied in a large way the essential ethical teachings of this noble sect. This paper appeared several years ago in the ARENA. Later, for the Greenacre Summer School of Philosophy I prepared and delivered papers on the lives and teachings of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius and of the slave Epictetus, and for the Massachusetts Metaphysical Club a paper dealing with the philosophy and ethics of Stoicism. I am, therefore, in a position to especially appreciate this extremely able and valuable work by Mr. Davis.

The author is a thinker well qualified to clearly present his subject and one who possesses a charmingly interesting style—something very important but unfortunately very rare among those who attempt to elucidate philosophical concepts. The book is a distinctly important contribution to the literature that makes for high thinking and worthy living. It not only acquaints the reader with the beliefs, teachings, and lives of the greatest of the Stoics, but it shows how the philosophy was in a real way the John the Baptist which prepared the Roman world for the exalted ethics of the Great Nazarene. The fundamental ethical truths are the same yesterday, to-day and forever, and they have been given to the world more or less clearly in all great periods of humanity's history, though perhaps never so luminously (save in the teachings of Jesus and his apostles) as in the philosophy of Stoicism and in the Upanishad and other of the greatest religious books of India.

There are in this volume fourteen chapters, in which the author discusses "The Greek Religion;" "Greek Philosophy;" "Socrates;" "Founders of Stoicism;" "Doctrines of Stoicism;" "Roman Stoicism;" "Roman Jurisprudence;" "Relation to Christianity;" "The Lives of Epictetus, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius;" together with extended selections from the writings of the above philosophers.

This is a work which every thoughtful parent and teacher should not only carefully peruse, but bring before the serious attention of their children and pupils, for no one can read its pages without having his moral nature materially strengthened and his ideals exalted.