

WE have in America long felt the need of such a summary of ancient philosophy as should neither be too full for the ordinary reader, nor so concise as to be mere husks—a work which should at once give us an intelligible idea of the steps by which philosophical reasoning rose from the crude guesses of Thales and Anaximander to the wonderfully complex system of Aristotle, and, at the same time, show the intimate connection which really subsists between those ancient germs of thought and the modern speculation. The philosophy of to-day has honeycombed the systems of the Stoics and Epicureans, and the honey is ours. Even Christian theology is indebted to those shrewd hard thinkers for very many of its most exquisite conceptions. Prof. Mayor, of King's College, Cambridge, England, has undertaken, therefore, a desirable work in this sketch of ancient philosophy. It is but a sketch, and yet it gives us compactly the historical data in the lives of the men, and the leading principles, in their order of development, of Greek and Roman philosophical thought. We are led judiciously from the Ionic school of Asia Minor to the Eleatic of Magna Grecia; thence through the Sophists to Socrates; from Socrates through the glorious development of philosophy in Plato and Aristotle, down to its later decay in the schools of Athens, and its final translation by the fostering hand of Cicero to the soil of Rome. The list of thinkers includes Thales, Heraclitus, Pythagoras, Zeno, Diogenes of Apollonia, Protagoras, Gorgias, Zenophon, Theophrastus, etc., and the schools embrace the Cynics, the Cyrenaics, the Peripatetics, Sceptics, the old and new academies, the Stoics, and Epicureans. The Epicureans and Stoics have full justice done to them, and the work accomplished by Cicero is amply enlarged upon. Prof. Mayor's method is admirable. His account of Plato and Aristotle, in particular, gives us a very full and clear exposition of their teachings, of their relation to each other, and their limitations, their influence also on modern thought. By the aid of this work one may read Cicero with new interest and advantage, or enter on the study of modern philosophy with some knowledge of one's whereabouts. The volume is a handbook, not only of dates and names, but of ideas.

"Second German Book."†

IN a series of twelve lessons, Prof. Worman gives us, wholly in German—notes and grammatical explanations also in German—such instruction as seems suited to beginners in the language. With a good teacher, ready to turn himself into a dictionary, this method may be fairly useful. The lessons are well arranged, systematically graded, the subjects for each chosen with a view to interesting the little pupils. The interest is eked out by abundant illustrations. Difficult points of grammar are explained in notes. If one comes to the book with such facility in German as a patient grounding in the author's First Book should give, there need be little trouble in mastering the contents.

* A Sketch of Ancient Philosophy, from Thales to Cicero. By Joseph B. Mayor, M.A. Cloth, 90 cts. Cambridge (England): University Press.

† Second German Book, after the Natural or Pestalozzian Method, for Schools and Home Instruction. By James H. Worman, A.M. Cloth, 50 cts. New York and Chicago: A. S. Barnes & Co.,