

up and the drawing of conclusions, but if there is such it has eluded the present reviewer.

As for the net result of the investigation, we learn (p. 45) that 'Seneca employs the supernatural for motivation of action, revelation and prophecy, melodramatic and spectacular effects, and mere convenience in handling the plot.' It is surely not unreasonable to suggest that anyone who read even casually the Senecan tragedies would probably reach *ambulando* precisely the same conclusions, only one of which after all, motivation of action, would seem to merit discussion; the rest are rather obvious. The net result therefore is almost purely negative; Seneca has not really developed anything in the use of the supernatural in drama beyond what the Greeks had already realized. If this conclusion is valuable, the thesis has demonstrated it factually in the minutest detail.

The proof-reading has been excellent and nothing seems to have slipped by except *sum-misa* for *summissa* in the quotation on p. 12. One is a little surprised however in the third footnote on p. 35 to find M. Léon Herrmann referred to as Mr. Herrmann. This is a case where Herrmann is neither a German nor yet an Englishman. As the citations from the literature of the subject are numerous, a bibliography might well have been added. It is the fairest way to let the reader or the reviewer see at a glance what authorities have been consulted; otherwise a laborious scanning of footnotes becomes necessary.

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The Scriptores Historiae Augustae, with a translation by DAVID MAGIE, Ph.D. Vol. III. Pp. x+529. (Loeb Classical Library.) London: Heinemann (New York: Putnam), 1932. Cloth, 10s.; leather, 12s. 6d.

DR. MAGIE here concludes his useful translation of the *Historia Augusta*. He has naturally based his text mainly on that of Hohl, but has made some emendations of his own, such as *illa* for *in* Aurel. 26. 3, *poenam* for *poene* (*paene* edd.) Firm. 11. 1, *ciuium* for *ciuitium* Car. 1. 4, *tumebat bonis* (for *boni*) ib. 2. 5. Select readings are given in the apparatus: we should have expected to find *dono* Trig. Tyr. 11. 5 noted as a conjecture of Salmasius (*dona* P, *donat* Σ). The translation is careful and reads well: but 'prince of the Senate' is not a happy rendering of *princeps senatus* Valer. 5. 4; nor does 'since in this district the water was less cold' correspond well with *quod aquae frigidioris copia illis deesset* Aurel. 45. 2. In the following chapter *oxyphaederotinas* is translated 'of an opal hue.' It seems to mean 'bright pink' or something similar, to judge from the use of *παίδεως* in certain papyri. The notes are concise and practical. On p. 398¹ there is a cross-reference to a passage in Trig. Tyr. where no comment is to be found. Misprints are few: we notice *Sugusio* for *Segusio* p. 236. The volume is a welcome addition to the Loeb series.

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EDWIN MAYSER: *Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit*: Band II 2, Satzlehre; analytischer Teil, zweite Hälfte, 1. Lieferung. Pp. xiv+336. Berlin and Leipzig: de Gruyter, 1933. Paper, RM. 40. MAYSER's monumental work, the first volume of which appeared in 1906, grows even fuller as it proceeds, successive publications of papyrus texts offering ever more abundant material. This instalment, which is Part 2 of Volume II (Part 3 is promised shortly), shows the same erudition and abundant citation of examples as its predecessors. This wealth of reference is justified in dealing with papyrus texts since, as many of them are incorrectly written, it is often impossible except by a multiplicity of instances to decide whether a particular form is a genuine grammatical phenomenon or merely a scribal error. The work will rank as a classic example of German scholarship, and it is to be wished that someone would do for the later papyri what Mayser has done for those of the Ptolemaic period. H. I. BELL.

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Die Systeme des römischen Silbergeldes im IV. Jhdt. n. Chr. Ein Beispiel zur Anwendung der variationsstatistischen Methode in der Numismatik. Von GUNNAR MICKWITZ. Pp. 70; xxiii diagrams. Helsingfors: Akademische Buchhandlung, 1933. Paper, M. 31 (Finnish).

NUMISMATISTS will welcome this noteworthy little book with gratitude. The silver coinage of the fourth century presents problems which in spite of much learned discussion have hitherto remained unsolved. The vague and conflicting statements of the old metrologists, for the most part undatable themselves and describing undatable systems, have helped but to convert knots into tangles. It is a relief to find Dr. Mickwitz dismissing these shadowy 'authorities' at the start, and turning to the evidence of the papyri and the coins (or perhaps we should rather say 'coin-records') themselves.

An outstanding difficulty has been to identify the silver of Constantine's reform. Its existence is vouched for by an inscription of 323 A.D., but it seemed never to occur in coin-finds, which comprised only coins of Diocletian's obsolete standard. M.'s solution is, we think, brilliantly successful. By proving a ratio between the values of gold and silver, unsuspected for the early part of the century, he shows that Constantine in fact adopted Diocletian's coin into his new system, unchanged except in name.

The perplexing fluctuations in the weight of this coin after 360 A.D. are the theme of the greater part of the book. They depend on the fluctuating ratio between gold and silver. M.'s theories are ingenious and novel, and most ably set forth. We disagree with his dating of *vota*-coins, but this does not affect the validity of his method.

The book is wonderfully stimulating and leaves one with the feeling that a distinct advance has been made and hopeful of further advance. J. W. E. PEARCE.