

task well and thoroughly, and though it is possible that further epigraphical or papyrological discoveries may necessitate some additions and modifications, yet this will undoubtedly remain for very many years to come the standard work upon the subject with which it deals.

---

**The Provinces of the Roman Empire from Caesar to Diocletian.** By THEODOR MOMMSEN. English translation by the late Prof. W. P. Dickson; reprinted with corrections. London: Macmillan & Co., 1909. Two volumes, 21s. net.

The thanks of English readers are due to the reviser, Prof. F. Haverfield, and to the publisher for this improved and cheaper reprint of the late Prof. Dickson's translation of Mommsen's standard work, which has for some years been unprocurable except at a prohibitive price from the second-hand bookseller. It is not a popular work. It does not appeal even to so wide an audience as the earlier volumes to which it forms a pendant. Nevertheless it was an epoch-making book which revolutionized current conceptions of the character of the Roman Empire to an extent hardly realized by the younger generation of students who have grown up in the new light shed by the master-hand, and we are glad to see it on the market again in a better form and at a reduced price. A mere reprint would scarcely have been defensible. Prof. Dickson's translation was, unfortunately, much less happy than his rendering of the earlier volumes had been. It was marred by errors—some of them curious and serious—and the very frequent retention of the 'mould of the German,' which the translator himself felt he had at times followed too closely in his desire 'to reproduce the form as well as the matter of the original,' was not only irritating to the English reader but often obscured the meaning, and this was the more unfortunate because Mommsen's abstract style of itself makes his exposition by no means easy reading. The only real remedy for these defects would have been a new version; but the adoption of such a heroic measure was hardly to be expected in view of the necessarily limited sale of a book of this kind, and the reviser's task has been restricted, as Prof. Haverfield explains, to the introduction of such alterations as the stereotyped plates allowed. These alterations we are told run into several hundreds. Slips, like 'Poetovio on the middle Danube' (p. 23), have been corrected, though some have inevitably been overlooked, such as the printer's favourite 'Cicilian' for Cilician (I. p. 335), *λησθην* (p. 351), and Trogodyte and Trogodytic several times in ch. xii. Besides smaller improvements involving the change of one or two words, dark places have been made light, and glaring mistranslations have disappeared. The reader is no longer startled by the remark that the Roman government dared not introduce in Asia Minor 'the formation of poor-clubs and of *voluntary fireworks*,' or by the statement attributed to Fronto that 'the *crecents* were regarded by the Roman soldiers as giving the signal to run away' (a blunder which might have been avoided by a reference to the Latin *tubas quasi fugae signum canentis*), nor need he call his critical faculty into play to emend the remark that Plautius, the conqueror of Britain, was 'the last private' who attained the honour of a triumph. An effort has also been made to embody the not very considerable changes made by Mommsen in the later German editions, of which an example may be found at the end of ch. iv. We regret that the references to older collections of inscriptions, not generally easy of access, have not been replaced by references to the later volumes of *C.I.L.*

The question how far Mommsen's conclusions have been affected by later research is answered only in the case of Britain, which has a special interest for those to whom the translation is addressed. The Appendix of eight pages devoted to it will suffice to stay the hunger of the expectant crowd that awaits the publication of the editor's Rhind and Ford Lectures. We should have liked the same sort of thing for other provinces, but we can sympathize with the editor's plea that it was too large a task. For the Germano-Rhaetian frontier and for Syria the need is to some extent supplied by the

references given in the Prefatory Note. The list might have been extended with advantage to several other provinces where investigation has been actively and successfully pursued.

---

**Zum ägyptischen Grundbuchwesen in römischer Zeit.** Von OTTO EGER.  
Pp. viii + 212. Leipzig und Berlin : B. G. Teubner.

With the constant multiplication of the number of published papyri it grows increasingly difficult for any single student to master all the problems presented by them, and the monograph becomes more and more a necessity. The present volume is a further addition to the already not inconsiderable literature devoted to papyrological questions and will take its place by Waszyński's *Bodenpacht* and Otto's *Priester und Tempel* as an indispensable authority on the subject which it treats. That subject is the official registration of land in Roman Egypt. The volume, with the exception of the last chapter, which deals with ἀπογραφαί or declarations of landed property addressed to certain other officials, is concerned exclusively with the βιβλιοφύλακες ἐγκτήσεων and their functions. Beginning with a tabulated list of all the papyri dealing either with these officials or with the δημοσία βιβλιοθήκη, the author proceeds to examine in detail the evidence thus collected, and after distinguishing the δημοσία βιβλιοθήκη from the τῶν ἐγκτήσεων βιβλιοθήκη and determining the sphere of the latter's activities (which he is probably right in regarding as confined to private property and γῆ κατοικική) he proceeds to a careful examination of the whole process of registration. The evidence bearing on this subject is rather more abundant than is the case with some other papyrological questions, and though there are naturally many points which cannot at present be conclusively settled and others in regard to which the author's views will be disputed, it seems likely that his main conclusions are substantially sound. Besides its value as a general statement of the process of land-registration through the τῶν ἐγκτήσεων βιβλιοθήκη, the book contains many useful suggestions on matters of detail. Its value as a work of reference would be greatly enhanced by a full subject index ; it contains only an index of sources.

---

**Studies in Roman History.** By E. G. HARDY. Second series. Pp. xii + 307.  
London : Sonnenschein. 1909. 6s.

This is a less valuable volume than its predecessor, but every fair critic must recognize that it has real uses. Its contents fall into three parts. Rather more than a third deals with the armies and frontier relations of the German provinces. This was written fifteen years ago and laid aside : it is now printed at a time when failing eyesight has made the author unable to bring it up to date, and as it is full of detail—references, measurements, proper names—this is serious. Every one will regret deeply the cause. When, however, we have to deal with the result, it is no kindness to the author to shelter him behind his infirmity. It is better to say what we believe to be the truth, that while the article in general is both too detailed and too old to benefit ordinary scholars, it contains incidentally a great deal that may benefit specialists. The second section, which is rather longer than the first, discusses the history of the reigns of Galba, Otho, and Vitellius and is valuable particularly because of its military sections, which are very well worth the historian's attention. The third and shortest section discusses the civil war between Caesar and Pompey, down to the battle of Pharsalus. Altogether, students of Roman History will find that this volume has not been issued in vain. There are two maps, which the publishers seem to have viewed with an unfriendly eye.

---