

Aristotele: I Topici. Traduzione, introduzione e commento di *Attilio Zadro*. *Filosofi Antichi*, 4. Luigi Loffredo Editore, Napoli 1974. 623 p. Lit. 13000.

This translation with full commentary of Aristotle's *Topica* stands in the best Italian tradition. Both the philological and the philosophical aspects are duly considered, account is taken of international research from Alexander of Aphrodisias to the Oxford symposium in 1968, the style is elegant (though expansive, of course), and the printing is accurate. Zadro follows modern interpreters in regarding the *Topica* as, essentially, a systematic whole. He accepts the early date ca. 360 B.C. (and hence, the connections with e.g. Plato's *Parmenides*). The translation is based upon the text of Ross (1958); reasons for occasional divergences are discussed in the commentary. At the end there are two appendices on the logic of the *Topica*. The volume abounds in fresh observations, most of these on minor details however. *H. Thesleff*

Jürgen Wiesner: Ps.-Aristoteles, MXG: Der historische Wert des Xenophanes-referats. Beiträge zur Geschichte des Eleatismus. Verlag Adolf M. Hakkert, Amsterdam 1974. 442 p. Hfl. 74.-.

Wiesner's study (orig. Diss. Freie Univ. Berlin 1973) of 'De Melisso Xenophane Gorgia' is essentially concerned with the doxographic stemmas of the chapters on Melissus and Xenophanes; it has also an extensive appendix on the text tradition (p. 331-388). He argues in considerable detail, against Untersteiner, Steinmetz, von Fritz and others, that the author of the tract has used Theophrastus and, independently, a 'late Eleatic' source. Unfortunately the latter remains a very vague construction. The author, according to Wiesner, was a Peripatetic writing in the 3rd century B.C. The reliability of the tract seems again doubtful in the light of Wiesner's criticism. His refutations of earlier views are largely pertinent and often convincing, and he is obviously well informed. But he has not managed to find much indisputably positive evidence for his theses. And the problems connected with Peripatetic pseudepigraphy are not faced. *H. Thesleff*

Ben Zion Wacholder: Eupolemus. A study of Judaeo-Greek literature. Monographs of the Hebrew Union College No. III. Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati 1974. 332 p. \$ 15.-.

The Jewish-Greek historian Eupolemus (FGrH 723) who lived in the second century B.C., has received little notice so far. In the erudite monograph of Wacholder he and his milieu become subject to a scrutiny which reveals many interesting traits. Wacholder for instance argues convincingly for an identification of the historian Eupolemus with the priest and member of the Maccabean party who was sent to Rome in 161 B.C. to negotiate Roman support. He adopts and further elaborates the view of Hengel that there was a vigorously expansive Jewish literature written in Greek in 2nd and 1st century Palestine; his chapter on the Graeco-Palestinian literature contains important additions to Hengel's 'Judentum und Hellenismus' (1969). Discussing the sources of Eupolemus, Wacholder makes some observations on language and style — Eupolemus seems to have written a specific Judaeo-Greek 'pidgin' koiné which was very unlike the literary Greek of Alexandrian Jews — but he notes that Eupolemus apparently was the first Graeco-Jewish author to make extensive use of classical and Hellenistic historians. The volume contains, of course, a lot of second-hand statements. But it is very useful to anybody concerned with Hellenistic prose. *H. Thesleff*