

This new series opens with a study to commemorate the bimillenary of Varro. The analysis by Gelsomino of the concept the *septem colles* of Rome is useful in many ways: it not only discusses the origin of the concept, but also its presentation by many Roman authors and the variations in the meaning of the concept. Gelsomino has a solid, as he calls it, geomorphological basis. But one is perhaps entitled to certain doubts concerning the main thesis of the study, that the origin of the concept must be sought in Varros L.L. 5,41-54; I agree that the feast Septimontium is the decisive argument in the matter, but I do not care for the hypothesis of Adams Holland, that the real name of the feast was Saeptimontium and that Varro, using a false etymology, was the first to connect it with *septem*. I would have expected a more comprehensive discussion of the nature and origin of this feast by Gelsomino, and see in this the worst deficiencies in an otherwise complete list of modern works on the subject (why has e.g. Gjerstad's *Early Rome* not been consulted?).

Jorma Kaimio

Maria Bellincioni: Cicerone politico nell' ultimo anno di vita. Antichità classica e cristiana 12. Paideia Editrice, Brescia 1974. 300 p. Lit. 5000.

This is a penetrating and profound reappraisal of the eventful final year of Cicero's life, viewed in the light of his correspondence. Maria Bellincioni deals not only with the specifically political aspects of Cicero's activities in 44-43 B.C. to which the title refers, but also more generally with his personality "nella pienezza della sua umanità" (Preface, p. 7). The body of the book, "I fatti", is preceded by a survey of Cicero's basic ideas, "Le idee". Most of this interesting first part is devoted to the conceptions of *pax*, *libertas* and *concordia* (pp. 13-45) and to a characterization of *optimus civis* (pp. 47-85). The tragedy of Cicero, who was repeatedly faced with the task of readjusting his high ideals to conform with a rapidly changing reality, is presented with great clarity (e.g. p. 31). Stylistically Bellincioni's book is remarkably good, although on occasion unnecessarily prolix (p. 31, referred to above, provides an example of admirable terseness).

Saara Lilja

Apicius: L'art culinaire. Texte établi, traduit et commenté par Jacques André. Édition nouvelle. Collection des Universités de France (Association Guillaume Budé). Société d'Édition "Les Belles Lettres", Paris 1974. 235 p.

The new Budé edition of Apicius' cookery book by Jacques André is, in its essential points, the same as the first edition published in 1965 (*Études et Commentaires* 58), although it includes due acknowledgement of the most recent studies. André's text (like that of M. E. Milham's Teubner edition, Leipzig 1969) is based on MSS. E and V — or rather V and E, to emphasize the superiority of V in that almost all other extant MSS depend on it. The detailed commentary on pp. 133-214, scientifically more reliable than that of the edition by B. Flower and E. Rosenbaum (London 1958), is of that order of excellence that one has been led to expect from the author of *L'alimentation et la cuisine à Rome* (*Études et Commentaires* 38, Paris 1961). The Indices are outstanding as such, although one questions whether the division into as many as five separate parts is the most feasible solution; for instance, the fact that *acetabulum* is found on p. 217 (among the measures) as well as on p. 224 (among the utensils) may disconcert the reader.

Saara Lilja

Ammianus Marcellinus: Das römische Weltreich vor dem Untergang. Sämtliche erhaltene Bücher übersetzt von Otto Veh. Eingeleitet und erläutert von