
Kunitzsch' book is a comprehensive manual on the different Arabic versions of the astronomical Syntaxis of Ptolemy, including the translation from Arabic into Latin by Gerhard of Cremona (the two existing translations from Greek into Latin are considered only in passing). As such it is a very notable contribution to the history of learning. The synoptic Catalogue of stars, with comments and indexes (p. 165-370), is probably its most important part, but the reader will find a mass of information and interesting notes throughout the book. From the philological point of view the terminological and syntactical difficulties faced by the Arabian translators — and the poor performance of Gerhard — deserve particular notice.

H. Thesleff


Gigante's Italian translation of Diogenes Laertius first appeared in 1962. The new edition is thoroughly revised, the introduction is partly re-written and includes a useful essay 'Per una interpretazione di D.L.', and the notes (now all at the end of the second volume) have received numerous additions. The result is an up-to-date scholarly commentary to the text of Diogenes. Gigante discusses various points of textual criticism besides the interpretative notes; but he does not on the whole enter on the complicate questions of Diogenes' sources. To write a 'full' commentary to Diogenes Laertius would be a quite impossible task owing to the wealth of disparate problems involved in this compilation and the dispersed treatment of them in modern special literature, and probably no two scholars would agree on the minimum amount of details worth commenting on. Gigante is notably well informed, and his references are usually well chosen and accurate. In view of what he has done it would be unfair to reproach him for his omissions.

H. Thesleff


Heikki Solin