

topografici che possedeva il Tibiletti, e non meno l'acutezza con cui sono stati trattati. Dopo aver letto questi due volumi - che per altro non sono unici del genere per l'Italia settentrionale dell'età romana - mi sono chiesto, quando l'Italia meridionale romana avrà un suo Tibiletti e colloqui così attuali e ben organizzati.

*Heikki Solin*

*Stanley F. Bonner: Education in Ancient Rome.* From the elder Cato to the younger Pliny. Methuen & Co Ltd, London 1977. XII, 404 p. £ 5.90.

Increasing attention has been devoted of late to the part played by education in ancient society. H.I. Marrou's *Histoire de l'éducation dans l'antiquité*, first edition 1947 has remained the standard work, well documented and clear in outline. The very extent of the subject matter has, however, somewhat inhibited any detailed discussion of the various problems. Stanley Bonner, reader in Latin at the University of Liverpool, has, therefore, performed a fine service in publishing an up-to-date book on Roman education. In its 333 closely printed pages plus 70 pages of references, indices, etc., it discusses Roman education from the early Republic up to the time of Trajan. One of the most intriguing problems of Roman education, its decline and fall during the closing centuries of Antiquity, is thus omitted. However, by restricting his subject, the author has been able to analyze exhaustively all the aspects of Roman education from upbringing within the family to rhetorical schools.

Parts II and III, devoted to the physical conditions of teaching and to the didactic methods, are especially rewarding. One may note that Bonner has a more favourable idea of Roman education than Marrou had. Though education was largely a matter of private enterprise and the contribution of the state almost nil, though there was no proper training of schoolteachers and no proper school buildings, the masters still succeeded in giving their pupils a rather thorough training in grammatical analysis, in the interpretation of poetry, in composing speeches, etc. During the Empire, standards fell. Explaining the reasons for this, the author may have been a little too modern in ascribing it largely to the growing remissness of the parents. Here, as with regard to many other aspects of ancient life, we are sadly ill-informed of the real conditions among ordinary people. The writers of the age, especially those with a moralizing tendency, usually wrote about the upper crust of society.

The book is very well documented throughout, though some readers would, no doubt, prefer to have the notes below the text. A number of well-chosen original illustrations enhance the readability of the work.

*Iiro Kajanto*

*Sylvia Diebner: Aesernia - Venafrum.* Untersuchungen zu den römischen Steindenkmälern zweier Landstädte Mittelitaliens. Vol. 1 (text), II (plates). *Archaeologica* 8. Giorgio Bretschneider, Roma 1979, 303 p., 84 tables of photographs. Lit. 90.000.

The present work is the enlarged version of a doctoral disser-