

cessor A.B. Lord had done. The editors of *Oral Poetry*, Norbert Voorwinden and Max de Haan, have written an introduction which provides a lucid, though extremely brief, general account of the work of Parry and his successors in the field of oral poetry. The book also contains an article by William Whallon, published in 1965, in which a comparative study is made of the epithets used in the descriptions of heroes in the *Iliad* and *Beowulf*. Furthermore, the collection contains material for the study of medieval Latin versification.

The usefulness of both works is somewhat vitiated by the absence of indexes. The *Oral Poetry* volume contains no name or general index at all, and *Emblem und Emblematisierung* merely a brief list of modern scholars.

Hannu Riikonen

*Giovanni Casertano: Parmenide, il metodo, la scienza, l'esperienza. Esperienze 48. Guida Editori, Napoli 1978. 341 p. Lit. 12.000.*

The author of this work is noted for several well-informed studies in Greek and later philosophy. His *Parmenide* at once rewards and disappoints the reader. It gives the Greek text of the fragments (but not the testimonies) with Italian translation, a comprehensive discussion of them (partly in the form of a running commentary) and more than 100 pages of detailed notes and references. The chief line of argumentation amounts to showing that Parmenides, far from being a metaphysician, was a pioneer of scientific method. This of course is not a very revolutionary idea, but I have not seen it so ably vindicated before.

Casertano makes many important points and observations. Yet, even allowing for the traditional expansiveness of Italian scholarly style, the book includes much that is superfluous and also an unnecessary number of mistakes and dubious statements. The contrast between metaphysics and 'science' is probably over-emphasized and is seen in an anachronistic perspective. And indeed, the fact that the A section of *Diels* receives very little consideration in Casertano's exposition, gives it a serious bias.

H. Thesleff

*Rainer Nickel: Xenophon. Erträge der Forschung, Bd. 111. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt 1979. VI, 163 S. DM 31.50.*

Das Buch ist "ein knapper Überblick für Schüler, Studenten, Lehrer oder auch für Nichtfachleute, die an der Diskussion fachwissenschaftlicher Detailfragen nicht so sehr interessiert sind und schnelle Orientierung wünschen" (S. 1). So weit so gut. Aber man kann noch fragen, Orientierung worüber?. Über den Inhalt dürfen wir lesen: "In den folgenden Kapiteln stehen die Fragen im Vordergrund, die für die künftige Auseinandersetzung mit Xenophon besonders ergiebig zu sein versprechen und einen Beitrag zu seiner besseren Einschätzung leisten." (S. 2). Diese künftige Auseinandersetzung bekommt eine