

literary technique are worth particular attention. Each play is provided with a separate introduction. (Incidentally, a complaint to the editors: it is somewhat confusing that the page headings consist of the single word "Introduction" in these cases, too; and the important Bibliography on pp. XLVII-LII is easily overlooked.) These latter introductions concentrate on information regarding the preservation of the text; hence there are only three pages on the *Dyskolos* but, for instance, nine on the *Aspis* where Arnott has found it necessary to argue in detail against Handley's (1975) tentative attribution to this play of some *Oxyrhynchus* fragments. Further information is given in notes, often extensive, and in comments to the text.

"The translation perhaps foolishly attempts the impossible", Arnott states (p. X). Rather he attempts the unnecessary. He has translated Menander's trimeters, even in isolated fragments, into blank verse. Readers of Loeb texts, especially of editions of such a high scholarly standard as has now become the rule in this series, would probably prefer a more literal, interpretative translation. And Arnott's verse, elegantly and admirably fluent as it is at times, would have found its proper audience more easily if it had been published elsewhere.

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*Philodemus. On Methods of Inference.* Edited with Translation and Commentary by Phillip Howard De Lacy and Estelle Allen De Lacy. Revised Edition with the Collaboration of Marcello Gigante, Francesca Longo Auricchio, Adele Tepefino Guerra. Istituto italiano per gli Studi filosofici: la Scuola di Epicuro, vol. I. Bibliopolis, Napoli 1978. 230 p. Lit. 18.000.

One of the many promising ventures of Italian classical scholarship to-day is the re-editing of the philosophical papyri of Herculaneum, 'La scuola di Epicuro', produced under the supervision of Marcello Gigante. The first volume of the series contains Philodemus' *De signis* (Περὶ σημειώσεων), here called 'On methods of inference'. Ph.H. and Estelle De Lacy have been concerned for nearly a half century with the restoring of this text. The present edition is probably going to be the standard one for a very long time. The De Lacys, and also Gigante and his assistants who have re-examined the papyrus with the aid of a microscope, have been able to make a considerable number of improvements on earlier readings. The text is here accompanied by a massive editing apparatus; the present reviewer merely notes the absence of a bibliography. The main body of the Greek text and the more substantial fragments are translated into English and commented upon in footnotes. The second part of the book is devoted to some very useful essays on 'The life and work of Philodemus', 'The argument and date of *De signis*', 'The sources of Epicurean empiricism', 'Development of Epicurean logic and methodology', and 'The logical controversies of the Stoics, Epicureans, and Sceptics'. The editors and their sponsors are to be congratulated on this very impressive and important achievement.

Technically and aesthetically, the book is a fine example of Italian book production at its best.

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