

*The Iliad: A Commentary.* General editor G.S. Kirk. Volume I: books 1–4. Cambridge University Press, 1985. XXV, 409 p. £ 35.00.

One of the most prominent Homeric scholars of our age, G.S. Kirk, has undertaken a project which will excite great expectations and undoubtedly much praise: a six-volume commentary on the Iliad. The first volume, which also includes introductory essays on the Homeric question, verse technique, scholia, etc., is written by the editor; as will the second volume. The writers announced for the subsequent volumes are J.B. Hainsworth, R. Janko, M.W. Edwards, and N.J. Richardson. All six volumes are expected to be published during the 1980s.

The need for a medium-size up-to-date commentary on the Homeric poems is more than obvious. And the combined scholarship of the five writers, who will probably contribute to all the six volumes (this is not expressively stated), should be regarded as a further guarantee of quality. Of course users of a commentary of this kind will always disagree about various points of emphasis, inclusion and exclusion. It would be futile to enumerate such points. On the whole, in the opinion of the present reviewer, there is a good and sufficiently complex balance obtained between the linguistic, verse-technical, literary, religious, geographical, archaeological, etc., aspects. The mass of information and suggestions that the first volume contains is very impressive. My only complaint of a more general kind is this: would it not have been possible to give a few more references to earlier discussions (especially non-English ones) and alternative interpretations? As it is, the commentary is admirably useful for university teaching; but using approximately the same number of pages it could have been made even more helpful for scholarly work. A few more references on each page would have made a great deal of difference in this respect. Yet, even this complaint is perhaps unfair in view of the editor's achievement.

Regarding the Homeric question, Kirk's own position is now somewhat more conservative and 'unitarian' than it used to be. This is understandable in a reference work. However, he is certainly on the modern side of the 'Milman Parry revolution' (p. XXIII).

The Commentary will evidently be of very great service to different types of readers all over the world.

H. Thesleff

*Carmina Anacreontea.* Edidit M.L. West. Bibliotheca scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana BSB B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig 1984. XXVI, 65 S. M 28.50.

Martin West has applied his inexhaustible energy on producing a full-scale scholarly edition of the 60 Palatine Anacreontea. The work follows the new B.T. heavy-apparatus pattern. Since these curious poems have been rather neglected in modern times, and all previous editions, including Preisendanz (1912), have been in various ways defective, one has to be very grateful indeed for West's work. His eminent knowledge of Greek poetry