

REVIEWS

Hellas Revisited. By W. MACNEILE DIXON, M.A., LITT.D. (Regius Professor of English Literature, University of Glasgow). Edward Arnold & Co., 1929 (repr. 1930). Pp. xi+209; 16 reproductions of pencil sketches. 10s. 6d.

Professor Dixon has written a delightful account of a six-weeks' holiday in southern and eastern Greece, full of keen observation and fresh comment, with an eye for the picturesque and an ability to relate past and present in a charming way. One feels occasionally that by travelling in so apolaustic a fashion he missed contact with some of the humbler and naïve sides of Greek life, but his diary would be a pleasant companion for any one intending to visit Greece. His interpretation of Greek character, his brief but suggestive views on sculpture and architecture, and his gift of description make this record singularly attractive.

Did Homer Live? By VICTOR BERARD; translated by BRIAN RHYS. Dent, 1931. Pp. 234. 6s. net.

An attempt by the Directeur à l'École des Hautes Études to summarize the researches of thirty years on the authorship of the *Odyssey*. The author is mainly interested in the sources of the plot, the tales of wonder brought from Egypt and the East to the Ionian settlement in Asia Minor, the sailors' yarns and the log-books and Periplus of Phoenician navigators. He tries to identify the sites of the adventures of Odysseus, and finds in place-names a clue to the Semitic origin of a great deal of the narrative. He claims that when exploration in Iraq has had the chance which Turkish dominion denied it, it will be found that Greece in the period following the Dorian invasion was very intimately connected with Semitic civilization. The book cannot be said to justify its title, for the personality of Homer is lost sight of in the discussion of his environment. But we are grateful to M. Berard for giving us plenty of food for speculation, and if some of the conclusions are unsound or unnecessary, we have learnt much that we did not know before. The book has no index.

Rome. By F. S. BURNELL. Arnold, 1930. Pp. 303; 8 illustrations. 7s. 6d. net.

A guide-book written with commendable enthusiasm, which, indeed, runs riot in a feverish first chapter. But when the author sobers down, he has a fund of information and a genial method of imparting it which makes him an entertaining guide as we ramble through the centuries. A book to read before you go to Rome and to re-read after your return,