
The 19th Century was not a favourable climate for the appreciation of Cicero. An age of *utilitas* gave lip service to *usus* but without steady conviction. It elevated *usus* on a pedestal where it could be respectfully saluted and then ignored. The shock of two world wars in the 20th Century has subtly changed all this. Though utility still rages, more furiously than before, it has lost its old confidence. There are many signs of a return to *usus*. One is the re-awakening of natural law jurisprudence, exemplified in the terrible justice of the Nuremberg trials. Another is the resurgence of interest in the Platonic dialogues, not as a merely academic study, but in terms of the new image of Plato, a practical Plato, revealed by such writers as Friedländer and Schuhl. A third is the incipient revival of interest in Cicero.

The Cicero of the coming decades is not likely to be the stylist, or the orator, or the letter-writer, or even the republican. It will be the Cicero who wrested philosophy from the failing grasp of Greece and infused it into the stream of Roman life. It is this Cicero who prepared the way for the Augustan settlement; who showed the Romans how to be in the world yet not of the world; how to be at once committed and detached. This Cicero sounded a note which has ever since been heard in our institutions and manners when at their best.

If Cicero is to be effective in contributing to a restoration of genuine education in the later 20th Century, his works must be rescued from the holes and corners of industrious specialists, and put into the hands of ordinary people who are going to do the ordinary work of the world in the professions. Cicero is not an adequate substitute for Plato and Aristotle (a mistake too often made in the past). But Cicero is an indispensable complement to the study of Greek masters if we are to enter more fully into historic *humanitas*. Hence the present volume is especially welcome, and we hope that the author will follow with more of Cicero’s works presented in similar style.
The translation is in good clear English, avoiding the pitfall of pedantic fidelity to the Latin on the one hand, and of transient vernacular on the other. There is, of course, a difficulty about this procedure: distinctions in the original tongue cannot always be conveyed in a translation. There is something to be said for the judicious introduction of key Latin terms in brackets. Alternatively, elucidation can be left to the teacher (for presumably few will study *De Officiis* without the inspiration of one who has gone before).

Mr Higginbotham provides an introduction of just the right length, explaining Cicero's indebtedness to the earlier philosophers, the circumstances in which he set about diffusing philosophic thought amongst the Romans, and the fortunes of his influence through the centuries down to our day. A prefaced analytic table sets out the topics taken up by Cicero for treatment in the *De Officiis*. Twenty pages of notes at the end explain Cicero's references to historical figures, places, events and laws. There is a useful diagram of Cicero's varied writings and their dates of appearance. And the book ends with an index of proper names in the text. There is no index of subjects, but this deficiency is partly made good by the aforementioned table. The book is attractively printed and bound, and makes a very workmanlike contribution to the Ciceronian revival.

Mr Higginbotham is the senior classical master at an English public school. Presumably he had his own upper sixth form in mind in publishing this book, an example which could well be followed by schools generally. In view of the current tendency for university departments of classical studies to broaden their bases, the book should be equally applicable to the early years at the university. And not only for students of the classics: those reading philosophy and European history and literature could take it up with profit.

*G.W.R. Ardley*

*The Greeks and Persians*. Hermann Bengston and others. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 70/-. (NB: H. Bengston is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Munich).