

chapters the author deals with the elements of electrostatics, magnetism, electromagnetic induction, resistance and Ohm's law, and the construction and use of primary cells. The eighth chapter gives some information on sound vibrations and waves, while Chap. ix., headed "Preparatory Mathematics", provides a short summary of arithmetical procedure. The explanation of principles throughout the book is, in general, quite clear, and the reader is helped by some easily understood graphical illustrations. The treatment is not, however, carried to the stage of dealing with alternating currents, a knowledge of which will be essential before the reader can proceed to the consideration of the production of electrical oscillations and wireless waves. On the subject of elementary electricity and magnetism, the reviewer was not aware of the need of a further book on this subject, and at the published price of 12s. 6d. this volume would seem to be somewhat dear.

R. L. SMITH-ROSE.

### Early Europe

*The Early Age of Greece.* By Sir William Ridgeway. Vol. 2. Edited by A. S. F. Gow and D. S. Robertson. Pp. xxviii + 747. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1931.) 30s. net.

IT is not usual for two volumes of the same work to be published thirty years apart. In Sir William Ridgeway's case the reason is that he began to write about the prehistory of Greece and found himself drawn into writing a prehistory of Europe; for the wide range of his theories led him to consider one district after another, Illyria, Italy, Central Europe, Ireland. The material to be studied was vast and constantly increasing; the angles from which he studied it were many, archaeological, sociological, religious, and literary. It is not to be wondered at if it grew unmanageable, especially for one of advancing years and failing eyesight. A lesser man would have given up the task altogether; but Ridgeway struggled on, wrote two or three lesser works dealing with fragments of his material or with subsidiary problems, and finally left behind at his death in 1926 an immensity of half-written work, in all stages from notes to proof-sheets, from which at last a selection has been published by the editors of this volume. Nearly seven hundred and fifty pages, illustrated with 158 figures, are by no means a contemptible fragment; we may judge how enormous the complete work would have been if it had ever seen light in the form the author meant it to have.

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As Mr. A. J. B. Wace points out in a short but excellent introduction, much of what now appears was written thirty years ago, and must be judged accordingly. There are echoes in it of controversies now dead and buried, and also, it must be admitted, passages which are instructive chiefly as showing what strange things passed for sociological evidence at the beginning of this century. This is particularly the case with the first chapter, "Kinship and Marriage". Ridgeway's general theory was that Greece was inhabited in very early times by a matrilineal population, of the race he terms Pelasgian, who were the authors of the Mycenaean culture on the mainland and were invaded by the Achaeans, a fair, tall people from the north, whose social structure was of the patrilineal type and whose nearest kin were the Kelts. It is difficult to say whether Ridgeway shows more acuteness here in refuting the opinion of M'Lennan that mother-right existed in historical Greece or lack of critical judgment in the arguments he advances for its presence among the 'Pelasgians'.

With regard to the other chapters, "Murder and Homicide", "Fetish, 'Totem', and Ancestor", and "Ireland in the Heroic Age", much the same criticism may be made, with this difference, that the material is more largely archaeological, and when archaeology was his subject, Ridgeway had an almost unique power of making the dullest details interesting. To say that his interpretation is often doubtful is not to deny that he gives his critics something definite and clear with which to agree or disagree. About half his ideas were magnificently right; and for these we may honour his memory and pass quietly over the other half, which were enormously wrong.

H. J. ROSE.

### Dr. Huxley and Mr. Arnold

*Brave New World: a Novel.* By Aldous Huxley. Pp. v + 306. (London: Chatto and Windus, 1932.) 7s. 6d. net.

IT is difficult to resist the conclusion that the writing of 'Utopias' is far more entertaining than reading them. This is probably due to the fact that the planning of a novel of the future gives an author an enhanced sense of power unobtainable from a novel of the present. The present is too full of the past not to limit that pleasant sensation; which is probably why so powerful a creator as Mr. Wells turned more than once to the future for his material.

It was inevitable that Mr. Aldous Huxley should sooner or later write a novel of the future. "Brave