

scholastic philosophy where "form" combined with "matter" (or Clerk Maxwell's æther) produces "substance" which in turn supports "accidents," which latter alone constitute the subject-matter of inquiry of modern physical science. They give rise to the three indefinables of nature, weight, time, and space. A void by definition contains no "matter," and therefore no "accidents," and is without dimensions. It is dismissed by Aristotle as an absurdity, as a hole in the æther.

As regards the religious philosophy of the Greeks, they were groping for the metaphysical essence of "Actus Purus," or of God. Whether or no the chief attributes of God are explicitly known to every modern, it cannot be denied that they are enshrined in the English language, and form the subject of some of the finest passages of the English classics. To name a few of those not to be found in the Greek classics, self-existence, infinity, unity, simplicity, immensity, omnipresence, immutability, eternity; it was of these that Plato said, when asked as to his doctrine of the Good, "There is no writing of mine on this subject, nor ever shall be," words suitable for those times before the power that created the universities of Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, and eke St. Andrews, had come into the world.

Some hundreds of sentences in the book begin with the word "now," and on p. 118 we are told that Hippias's curve, the quadratrix, would solve the problem of squaring the circle by a geometrical construction if it could be mechanically described. It is well known that Hippias himself made an instrument to draw his curve, and any schoolboy can imitate it. J. H. HARDCASTLE.

A NORTH AFRICAN RACE.

The Eastern Libyans: An Essay. By Oric Bates. Pp. xxii + 298 + xi plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 42s. net

IN this excellent monograph Mr. Bates has collected a rich store of facts relating to the ancient Libyan people, which will be of the greatest value to workers in many fields. Besides the strictly archæological side of his subject, he has also treated fully the physiography of the region, so that the whole subject is given a definiteness and actuality which may be imitated with advantage by writers on similar subjects.

The region over which these people formerly moved is a wide one, and eastern Libya, with which this work is concerned, extends from the west of Tripoli to the Nile Valley. This part of Africa is crossed by many routes of caravans and travellers, yet few portions have been seriously examined by qualified investigators, but from the

material available and from his own observations Mr. Bates has produced a very accurate account of this area, which geographers will find of real worth.

In treating of the ethnology and ethnogeography the author has been able to come to certain conclusions from a discussion of Egyptian, classical, Berber, and Arabic data, which seem to indicate that the Libyans were pushed back from the seaboard, and from the oases to the westward, and the outcome of this was the periodical aggressions on the Nile Valley whenever that country was weak and the prey of contending factions.

Living in an arid region where vegetation was of the scantiest, the Libyans were nomadic, as are their modern representatives, and the few representations of them which exist in their deserts are largely scenes of hunting or of cattle. Routes followed by caravans, then as now, ran north and south rather than east and west, and even in early times the Libyans were in connection with the Sudan to the southward, and received the produce of that region, doubtless by means of ox-transport until the camel was introduced.

The Egyptian records are closely discussed in order to derive a clear idea of the social development of the early Libyans, and while holding that they were regularly and extensively polygamous, the author contests the charge of promiscuity which classical writers have brought against them. Their dress, and their material culture and art, is fully described and illustrated, so that the meagre records of these primitive people are made to furnish a fairly adequate picture of the state of civilisation at which they arrived. Their possessions were few and of a simple type, as is to be anticipated among a nomad people, and metals were rare, stone implements being principally used in their arrows, javelins, etc.

A careful summary of their history, drawn from all available sources, completes a most valuable monograph for which the material has been largely collected by the author in the field, and thereby it has gained a reality and a truthfulness of colour to which a compilation can never attain. In an appendix Mr. Bates refers to the so-called "C group, Middle Nubians," of Dr. Reisner in the Nile Valley, and these he would class as a Libyan race which established itself there. Besides furnishing the anthropologist and the geographer with valuable data for their studies, the author by his careful treatment of place-names, has put at the cartographer's disposal material for improving existing maps of North Africa, and the map included in the volume might with advantage have utilised the information so given. H. G. L.