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are inconsequences of arrangement, there are doublets upon doublets, proofs enough in all conscience to sustain Gassendi in his thesis that the *Kóρται δόξαι*, like the *Enchiridion* of Epictetus, was a selection from the various works of the philosopher.

To these four important documents Usener has added not only all the fragments of Epicurus that have come down to us from antiquity, but also the various references to his doctrines. Needless to say the fragments of Philodemus have had a special fascination for the editor of the *Epicurea*, who says with the openness of a great scholar, 'fateor hic illic me cum litteras sensu cassas adponere taederet, ultra probabilitatem lusisse potius quam restituisset,' and actually indulges in a laugh at an exploded conjecture of his own.

In fine, the work is the fruit of many years of labor, and that the labor of a great master. It is the bulkiest book that bears the honored name of the editor, and the meagre outline given here fails utterly to do justice to the importance of the work in matter and in method.

B. L. G.

Schriftsprache und Dialekte im Deutschen nach Zeugnissen alter und neuer Zeit. Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache von ADOLF SOCIN. Heilbronn, Gebr. Henninger, 1888.

The relation of the various German dialects to a generally recognized *Schriftsprache*, their struggle for supremacy as affected by political, religious and other circumstances, presents one of the most interesting and difficult problems of philological criticism. Twice in the earlier history of the German language an approximate unity seems to have been attained, and the final supremacy of the present New High German as the dominant literary speech cannot be dated earlier than the German classics of the eighteenth century. A book which undertakes to give the history of this gradual development can be written from two points of view. The author may give us his own results, based upon extensive investigation of the subject, with due recognition of the work of those scholars who have labored in the same line. But he may also refrain from making original investigations, simply presenting what others have thought and discovered concerning the problems in question. The present volume belongs to the latter class. It is agreeable to notice that its young author does not impose upon us immature views of his own, which in the face of the vast material would at best be the repetition of others. We find in a careful and diligent manner here recorded the results of the work of leading investigators in the field, and beginners in the study of German philology will doubtless read Socin's book with much benefit. The author's shyness in the expression of original opinions should not, however, have been carried so far as to cause him to refrain from pointing out new fields of inquiry, from propounding new problems and opening up suggestive perspectives. The book is written in a singularly circuitous style, which makes it a task to struggle through the 536 pages.

J. G.