

It is our intention that the Society shall have branches throughout the country, with local secretaries, united through the general secretary. Members of these local branches will then have the opportunity of hearing from time to time addresses and papers in support of the ideas which the society has been founded to uphold. We believe that these local branches will, in varying degrees of strength and numbers, play an important part in the intellectual life of the country, in reversing the present descent to vulgarization of taste and debasement of standards.

H. E. BUTLER, T. S. ELIOT, J. W. MACKAIL, MONCRIEFF,
R. W. MOORE, V. SACKVILLE-WEST, R. SPEAIGHT.

BOOK REVIEW.

AENEAS PONTIFEX

(H. J. ROSE — pp.28. — *Phoenix Press*, 1/6 net.)

This — No. 2 of the series 'Virgilian Essays' — is correctly described by its author (p. 28) as a "rambling discourse". The question into which it purports to inquire concerns the extent to which Vergil's Aeneas may be regarded as the prototype of the Roman pontiff; but the thread of argument is so often lost amid thorny digressions that when what was an 'inquiry' at p. 1 emerges as a 'proposition' at p. 28, we are but mildly surprised. Much attention is paid to Aeneas in his 'secular' or 'non-sacral' aspects, his relationship with Pallas, for example, being so minutely dissected that even the question of possible homosexuality, as between Achilles and Patroclus, is touched upon (p. 12). Why? In his artificially complex character so many heterogeneous elements obviously coexist that none can be regarded as excluding any other; hence all that this inquiry calls for is the isolation and annotation of the relevant 'sacral' elements.

The tone is unnecessarily flippant at times, e.g., '...he contents himself with making the Sibyl ordinarily write her oracles, a practice which at Aeneas' request, she does not follow when inspired for his benefit' (p. 11). The attempts at humour, also, are occasionally distressing: e.g., 'Odysseus met older ghosts than those in Vergil's underworld, for the most part; bronze was enough to frighten them, iron was not needed.' (p. 19).

The typography and general production are good; misprints are rare, though 'Numiter' at p. 8, line 4, should read 'Numitor', and 'Laomedon's' at p. 24, line 4, should read 'Laocoon's'.

A. T. DAWSON.

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