GERMAN

GERMAN LANGUAGE

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I. GENERAL WORKS

The main trends of linguistic research have remained unchanged, and work has been concentrated mainly on dialects, onomastics and lexicology. Few important contributions on phonology, morphology, syntax and the more recent periods of the German language have come from German scholars, although Scandinavians and others are working in these fields. The development which has led to the present stagnation in German linguistics is traced by H. Arens, Sprachwissenschaft, Der Gang ihrer Entwicklung von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart, Freiburg, Alber, a history of linguistics illustrated by passages from important works. The author has been eminently successful in showing how German scholars have come to neglect much of the work done abroad, both by structuralists and by those with a purely sociological approach. The same fundamental problem is approached from the Stalinist point of view by G. Pätsch in Grundfragen der Sprachtheorie, Halle, Niemeyer, where a critical review of linguistic doctrines from Humboldt to Bühler is followed by an exposition of Soviet theory on the lines of Chikobava’s work. The relation between diachronic linguistics and the history of culture is discussed by A. Fröhlich, ‘Zum geistesgeschichtlichen Aussagewert der Sprache’, WW, v, 193–8.

A new German grammar intended for students and for reference has been published by W. Jung, Kleine Grammatik der deutschen Sprache. Satz- und Beziehungslehre, Leipzig, Bibliographisches Institut. Starting with suitable quotations from Marx and Stalin, it then gives a descriptive and normative grammar of present-day German taking the sentence as the unit...
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of utterance. The English student may not find enough attention given to the stylistic value of different constructions.

No new history of the German language has appeared but a 2nd and enlarged ed. of H. Moser’s excellent little *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte mit einer Einführung in die Fragen der Sprachbetrachtung*, Stuttgart, Schwabe, is now available. A. Lindqvist has published an expanded German version of *I språkets spegel* (1942) as *Deutsches Kultur- und Gesellschaftsleben im Spiegel der Sprache*, Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz. Of special interest is the 3rd chapter on the contribution of dialects and professional languages to the formation of Standard German.

An extremely useful reader for seminars and classwork is F. Tschirch, *1200 Jahre deutscher Sprache. Die Entfaltung der deutschen Sprachgestalt in ausgewählten Stücken der Bibelübersetzung vom Ausgang des 8. Jahrhunderts bis in die Gegenwart*, Berlin, De Gruyter. The passages are arranged in the manner of the old polyglot bibles and both the Vulgate and Septuagint are included for comparison.

In an important article ‘Zur Grundlegung einer Geschichte der deutschen Sprache’, *BGDSLH*, lxxvi, 401–534, Th. Frings replies to H. Kuhn’s criticisms and at the same time provides a commentary on his earlier book of which a 3rd ed. is in preparation. E. Schwarz, *Goten, Nordgermanen, Angelsachsen*, is criticized by H. Kuhn, ‘Zur Gliederung der Germanischen Sprachen’, *ZDA*, lxxxvi, 1–47. He deals with the vexed question of the langobardic dialect but, in spite of an unjustified attack on Bruckner, cannot produce any satisfactory new evidence and repeats his doubts about a former gotho-nordic unity. H.-F. Rosenfeld, however, in ‘Zur sprachlichen Gliederung des Germanischen’, *ZP*, viii, 365–89, sets the North Sea dialects with their common innovations against the gotho-nordic group.

K. Brooke has produced an *Introduction to Early New High German*, Oxford, Blackwell, a selection of texts with literary and linguistic introductions. A 2nd ed. might usefully expand the linguistic section or add to the inadequate bibliography. The influence of the activities of the *Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft* on the spoken language of the aristocracy is investigated by K. Bischoff, ‘Anhaltisch um 1700’, *ZMF*, xxiii, 14–22. He finds