RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE

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I. GENERAL

Die großen Deutschen, Berlin, Propyläen-Verlag, a substantially revd. and rewritten version of the 4-vol. work first publ. 1935/6, contains biographical articles each some 15 pages long on 'great' Germans. Half of vol. 1 is devoted to the period under review. The selection is interesting and significant. Of the 20 Germans chosen 6—Hutten, Luther, Paracelsus, Boehme, Gerhardt and Grimmelshausen—are literary figures, while no less than 8 are artists. The selection of Hutten is questionable, while that of Paracelsus and Boehme rightly reflects the interest in them; the omission of Gryphius is regrettable. The articles, all written by experts in their field, are uniformly good, those on Grünewald, Grimmelshausen and Wallenstein by R. H. Stoll, Julius Petersen and Wilhelm Wostry respectively, are outstanding. The book is luxuriously produced and through the biographies provides an outstanding general introduction to the period.

2. RENAISSANCE

HUMANISM. Johannes Reuchlin 1455–1522, Pforzheim, Selbstverl. d. Stadt, 1955, is a handsomely produced vol. ed. by Manfred Krebs and publ. by the city of Pforzheim to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Reuchlin. It is a worthy tribute. The articles, by Hans Rupprich, Manfred Krebs, Karl Preisendanz and others, represent valuable contributions to research on humanism, of particular interest being the learned article by Karl Preisendanz, 'Die Bibliothek Johannes Reuchlins', which by investigating the composition of Reuchlin's library throws light on the whole world of humanistic learning. Also of note is the book by Josef Benzing, Bibliographie der Schriften Johannes Reuchlins im 15. und 16. Jahrhundert, Bad Bocklet–Vienna, Krieg, 1955. Walther Köhler's 1938 ed. of Erasmus' letters appears in a 3rd ed., Briefe, Sammlung
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Dietrich 2, Bremen, Schünemann. The letters are transl. into German. This ed. has some additional letters and is, like the earlier ed., outstanding. Rudolf Padberg, Erasmus als Katechet, Freiburg, Herder, deals with Erasmus’ two catechisms and their influence on Catholic theology. While primarily theological in tone, the book has some useful background information and links Erasmus up with John Colet and the English humanists. Other work on Erasmus includes a lecture by Johannes Linde­


REFORMATION. As usual Luther has attracted much attention. Two good selections of his letters have appeared. Luthers Werke in Auswahl. Bd. 6. Luthers Briefe, Berlin, de Gruyter, 1955, is the 2nd revd. ed. by Hanns Rückert and contains 331 Latin and German letters, each complete, on the basis of the Weimar text. The selection concentrates on certain periods of Luther’s life,