
SCHNITZLER, A. ‘Rilke und A.S.; ihr Briefwechsel’, *Wow*, xiii, 4 (see RILKE, supra).


WALSER, R. *GLL*, xii, 1 (see GENERAL, supra). J. C. Middleton, ‘The Picture of Nobody’, *RLV*, xxiv, 5, is clearly a preliminary attempt to fill a gap. It describes W.’s life and surveys the work, soberly.


II. DUTCH AND FLEMISH STUDIES

By P. K. King

LANGUAGE

I. General

An outstanding contribution to philological studies is A. Weijnen, *Nederlandse dialectkunde* (Assen, van Gorcum). This contains an exhaustive, systematic collation of previous research on the subject together with Professor Weijnen’s own most scholarly opinions characterized, particularly in the 5th chapter, by its epigraph quoted from Meillet—‘il n’y a pas d’histoire de la langue sans une dialectologie complète et bien établie’. Yet the historical interpretation of this agglomeration of diverse material and theories leaves the impression that the upsurge of dialectal research in the last fifty years has succeeded in undermining earlier theories about the autochthonous origins of the language without providing the data
needed to construct a satisfactory general thesis. Despite the vast scope of the book, embracing inter alia a comparative analysis based on the W. Germ. forms (phonology, grammar, syntax, compound formations and vocabulary) and specimen texts of 13 dialects, every particular is readily accessible, thanks to the arrangement under apposite and self-explanatory headings and sub-headings.

The three main branches of historical linguistic studies are now well served by recent standard works in Weijnen (supra), Schönfeld and v. Loey (Hist. Grammatica v. h. Nederlands, 5th ed., 1954) and C. G. N. de Vooy, Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse taal, 5th ed. (Groningen, Wolters, 1952). This work is such an improvement, both in scope and presentation, on the original (1931) ed. ‘in hoofd-trekken geschetst’, that it should be regarded as superseding it.

A somewhat prolix and confusing preamble on principles (claiming one-third of the whole book), and in particular the section which the author calls ‘a cursory discussion [sic] of the syntactical characteristics of the form’ provides a rather discouraging introduction to the actual analysis of the synchronic structure of Standard Dutch in H. F. A. van der Lubbe, Woordvolgorde in het Nederlands (Assen, van Gorcum). The study itself, however, consists of a methodical and well-tabulated investigation of syntax, following closely the theory evolved by L. Bloomfield. A summary in English is appended.

R. B. Ten Cate-Silfwerbrand, Vlees, bloed en been. Synoniem-vergelijkend onderzoek van drie Germaanse woordformaties (Assen, van Gorcum) is such an imposing tour de force that the writer may well be excused some unnecessary repetition in her interpretation of the otherwise compact analyses. Her conclusions are (i) that flesh and the N. Germ. kjöt forms of comparable meaning are both derived from IE roots of verbs of cutting or cleaving; (ii) that blood can be traced to a past part. related to the IE root *bhel-, meaning ‘a state of tension or potential effluence’; (iii) that bone derives from pre-Celtic *bno (horn, antlers). Dr Ten Cate has supplied Eng. and German translations of the Introduction on her method of investigation and of the résumé of each section.

H. Beem, Jérôsche. Jiddische spreekwoorden en zegswijzen uit het Nederlandse taalgebied (ib.) offers much more than its sub-title implies. For this collection of over 100 Yiddish sayings recorded from oral tradition from a large number of informants over a wide area, preceded by a short philological introduction, provides