Not only do the pages of the text abound with literary and legendary references to the birds of the Bible, but in addition there are dozens of well chosen pictures, ranging from the plaster cast of a prehistoric bird to a photograph of a Golden Eagle, taken by a present-day ornithologist.

B. F. Price

The Text of the New Testament, by Vincent Taylor. London: The Macmillan Co., 1961. 113 pp.; 15/-.

This "Short Introduction" to the subject, as it is called, serves admirably to present the purpose, materials and method of textual criticism of the New Testament. After a brief chapter on the purpose and methods of textual criticism, the author proceeds to explain the types of text and the notation used to identify them. He then devotes a chapter apiece to the papyri manuscripts, the uncials, the minuscules and lectionaries, the versions, and patristic and other early quotations. In each of these chapters he identifies and comments upon representative examples of each group. The next four chapters deal with printed editions of the Greek text, the textual theory of Westcott and Hort, the contribution of B. H. Streeter, and further developments since Streeter.

For the translator the most valuable chapter is the last one, "Notes on Select Readings," in which Dr. Taylor examines thirty-four different passages, presenting the various readings with their supporting evidence, considering the arguments advanced, and finally giving his own judgment. His final statement is worth quoting: "Textual criticism is an objective scientific study. For this reason, I believe, it is a tonic in times of religious depression, and a source of confidence in the solidity of Scripture testimony."

We are indebted once more to the broad and discerning scholarship of Dr. Vincent Taylor, and warmly commend this book to translators of the New Testament for study and use.

Robert G. Bratcher

Hoi Psalmoi tou Dabid *(The Psalms of David)* translated by A. Kalambousis, Athens, 1953. Pp. 168.

Bought in a book store in Athens, this was probably the only portion of Scripture in print in spoken Greek at the time. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kalambousis and of discussing his translation with him. He is a retired army officer and makes no pretense of knowing Hebrew, or of any special training in Biblical scholarship. He is, however, a poet, and has done a splendid job of rendering the Psalms in the spoken language.

He started his translation from the LXX, but found the state of the text unsatisfactory and changed to Bambas. Bambas' version, completed in 1838, and distributed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, is the only modern Greek Bible in print.[1] Its antiquated form of the language is far from the present spoken idiom. However, the Bambas Bible is, in the OT, a fairly literal rendering of the Hebrew.

The Kalambousis Psalms are in unrhymed decapentasyllabic verse, the common meter of modern poetry, though most verse is rhymed. The metrical feature is rather unobtrusive in Kalambousis' work, and does not give the impression of monotony which might be feared. It may be noted that dactylic hexameter is also unrhymed, yet no one complains of monotony in the Iliad. Kalambousis' translation resembles the Homeric poems not only in being unrhymed, but also in the absence of other forms of assonance. It is thoroughly colloquial in both vocabulary and grammar, in the best tradition of modern poetry.

J. Merle Rife

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[1] A revised edition of the New Testament in modern Greek is due to be published within the next eighteen months. Ed.