are frequently less than helpful with such questions. Yet with these a Bible translator must often need help.

The Geography of the Bible meets a distinct need at this point. It is designed to give the Bible student an intimate knowledge of the Land of the Book in its physical aspects. To this end, in twenty brief but well-planned chapters, the author discusses basic geology in relation to topographical regions; the significant features of climate and soil distribution in these regions and the effect of these upon occupancy; and the distribution of routes of communication and the location of settlements as these depend upon geographical factors. In the course of these discussions, many topographical features of biblical reference are described in their broader geographical contexts.

The author, a trained geographer and long-time resident and student of Palestine, shows an expert and sympathetic knowledge of his subject—biblical no less than geographical. He knows how to impart his knowledge in an interesting style free of unnecessary technicalities. His purpose, to make the Land of the Book intimately known to students of the Book, has been admirably fulfilled. The text is helpfully augmented by many maps, charts, and revealing photographs. To increase the usefulness of the volume, a glossary of geological terms; a section of notes; a complete index of nearly one thousand biblical references; and an index of names and subjects have been added.

A clear style of type on good quality, non-glare paper increases readability. Maps of both O.T. Palestine and N.T. Palestine, in airplane view relief, grace the front and back end-papers, respectively. This volume is of potentially great usefulness; and the reviewer is glad to recommend it for a place on the field worker's shelf of translation aids alongside E. W. Heaton's *Everyday Life in Old Testament Times.*

Henry R. Moeller

All the Birds of the Bible, by Alice Parmelee. London: Lutterworth Press, 1960; 30/-.

We are fortunate in having in this book the work of one who combines a keen and informed enthusiasm for birds with sound and detailed Biblical scholarship. Miss Parmelee claims in her preface: "I have quoted or referred to all the verses about birds in the Bible and many in the Apocrypha". These amount to well over three hundred and they are all indexed, as also are the names of the birds themselves.

The lists of birds in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 are carefully examined and on page 106 there is a useful table giving the birds listed in the first of these chapters as they are identified in the A.V., the R.S.V. and by Professor G. R. Driver. Another useful section for the translator is the chapter on Job "an Old Testament naturalist", with special reference to Job 39.

There are few readers who will not find something new and fascinating in the accounts given by Miss Parmelee of the nesting, flying and migratory habits of the birds of Palestine. If we are tempted to complain that the Hebrews apparently made one word serve as a name for two or more different birds and were not as careful to dinstinguish between them as modern naturalists are, the author reminds us that the writers of the Bible were dependent on their own unaided vision to identify birds which modern watchers can observe through binoculars.

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.