

Preface

this ubiquitous deity—now thirty or forty questions scratched on slips of lead and addressed to his oracle at Dodona, now a contract for the building of his temple at Lebadeia, now again a list of his priests at Korykos, odd details of his rites at Iasos, a hymn sung in his service at Palaikastro, and votive offerings to him from half the towns of Greece. Such information, fresh and relevant, accumulates apace. Moreover, those who can neither dig nor travel carry on the quest at home. Year in, year out, the universities of Europe and America pour forth a never-ending flood of dissertations and programmes, pamphlets and articles, devoted to the solution of particular problems in ancient religion; and a large proportion of these is more or less intimately concerned with Zeus.

To cope with an output so vast and so varied would be beyond the strength of any man, were it not for the fact that intensive study follows hard upon the heels of discovery. On many aspects of what K. Schenkl called *die Zeusreligion* standard books have long since been penned by well-qualified hands. And more than one admirable summary of results is already before the public. Greek and Latin literature has been ransacked by writers galore, who have sketched the conceptions of Zeus to be found more especially in the poets and the philosophers: it would be tedious to enumerate names. Others again have dealt with the worship of Zeus as it affected a particular area: recent examples are Maybaum *Der Zeuskult in Boeotien* (Doberan 1901) and E. Neustadt *De Jove Cretico* (Berlin 1906). Yet others have written on some specialised form of Zeus: C. J. Schmitthenner *De Jove Hammone* (Weilburg 1840), H. D. Müller *Ueber den Zeus Lykaios* (Göttingen 1851), and A. H. Kan *De Iovis Dolicheni cultu* (Groningen 1901) will serve as specimens of the class. Notable attempts have been made to cover parts of the subject on more general lines. Inscriptions about Zeus are grouped together by W. Dittenberger *Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum* (ed. 2 Leipzig 1898, 1900, 1901), C. Michel *Recueil d'inscriptions grecques* (Paris 1900, 1912), and H. Dessau *Inscriptiones Latinae selectae* (Berlin 1892, 1902, 1906, 1914). Descriptions of Zeus in Greek and Latin poetry are analysed by C. F. H. Bruchmann *Epitheta deorum quae apud poetas Graecos leguntur* (Leipzig 1893) and J. B. Carter *Epitheta deorum quae apud poetas Latinos leguntur* (Leipzig 1902). The festivals of Zeus in Athens and elsewhere are discussed by A. Mommsen *Feste der Stadt Athen* (Leipzig 1898) and, with greater circumspection, by M. P. Nilsson *Griechische Feste von religiöser Bedeutung mit Ausschluss der attischen* (Leipzig 1906).