

Rome and inspected for heresy; when changes were suggested, he graciously refused.) The reader traveling with Montaigne shares the author's melancholy sense of the vanities of prelates, kings, and travelers alike.

THE AENEID

by Virgil
translated by
Robert Fitzgerald
Random, 1983
403 pp. \$20

Some translations seem so "right" as to be set forever. John Dryden's 286-year-old "Arms, and the man I sing . . ." stands as the classic English rendering of the opening words of the *Aeneid*, announcing straight-away the poem's central conflict: between the iron demands of war and the more "human" demands of love, family, and comrades. Fitzgerald's "I sing of warfare and a man at war" comes as a rather lackluster successor translation. But despite the inauspicious beginning, Fitzgerald's handling of Virgil's poem proves to be as sure and (to the American ear) as natural as his earlier versions of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. This is no small feat, since, in an epic, naturalness must not be gained by sacrificing the necessarily elevated tone. The epic, after all, speaks for a whole people, a nation. Readers must be made to feel the full weight of Aeneas's sacrifice when he leaves the beautiful Dido to get on with the brutal but necessary business of founding Rome: "*Duty-bound, / Aeneas, though he struggled with desire / To calm and comfort her in all her pain, / To speak to her and turn her mind from grief, / And though he sighed his heart out, shaken still / With love of her, yet took the course heaven gave him / And went back to the fleet.*"

Science & Technology

FROM ARISTOTLE TO ZOOS: A Philosophical Dictionary of Biology
by P. B. Medawar &
J. S. Medawar
Harvard, 1983
305 pp. \$18.50

Anyone who confuses meiosis with mitosis, believes theories and hypotheses are virtually the same thing, or simply savors odd bits of scientific arcana, such as the fact that the king crab, belonging to the *Arachnida* group, is closer to the spider than to the blue crab, will be well served by this unusual "dictionary." It is also a pleasure to read. Written by a husband-wife team, both Oxford biologists, the short-essay entries reflect the authors' un-