Many years ago Antoine Meillet, reviewing a linguistic publication that gave far-reaching outlooks outside the purely linguistic domain, somewhat ironically declared himself unable to follow the author in his lofty flight: "simple linguiste que je suis". Far "simpler" linguist as I am than the universal French scholar, I must avow, without any irony, that the experimental study of "stød" in Danish, made by Svend Smith, lies far outside my competence. Chapter 5, dealing with earlier opinions on "stød", opinions of mainly "ear-experimental" observers as Thomsen, Verner, Storm, Sweet, Jespersen, gave me a familiar feeling amidst the heavy and unfamiliar technical and physiological expositions of the other chapters. So I am inclined to judge the whole work after the qualities of that 5th chapter, and I cannot but highly appreciate its accuracy and critical attitude. From the purely experimental part also a "simple linguistic" reader gets the impression that Smith has taken every precaution possible to make his records reliable and to avoid errors. His method is the more suited to reassure the non-experimental reader's mind, as the author himself, on many pages of his book, proves to be thoroughly informed in linguistic matters. The whole investigation is, to a certain extent, conducted on linguistic principles: the recorded persons generally have spoken sets of two words differing only in having or not having "stød", e.g. sejlet 'sailed' (part.) and sejlet 'the sail'.

All this is apt to inspire confidence in the author's conclusion that "stød" is not, as the fairly common opinion was up to now, a glottal stop, but a particularly dynamic accent, a ballistic stroke, defined by Smith in his English summary as a "stress-accent, a special marking movement made by a thrust-like emphasizing of sounds."

Utrecht, University. C. B. VAN HAERINGEN.