

were gradually spreading themselves through the Peloponnesus, and that the coming of the Achaeans may 'be compared, not to the Anglo-Saxon occupation of Britain, but rather to the

Norman Conquest.' A few other minor changes have been made; the accounts of the battles of Salamis and Plataea have been partly re-written.

OBITUARIES

ALBERT THUMB.

A POSTCARD from Prof. E. Schwyzer of Zürich brought me in August the news of the death of Prof. Albert Thumb of Strassburg. He died on August 14 of a constitutional complaint which I fancy was unsuspected, although a very serious breakdown some three years ago was a warning that all was not well. From Adolf Deissmann I learn that he was only fifty. Well may my friend call for a closing of ranks among scholars who love the studies in which Thumb was so unrivalled a pioneer! But alas! German scholars who are men of goodwill must accomplish much before the Indo-germanische Gesellschaft can meet again, or lives devoted to learning join forces once more in the common pursuit of knowledge.

Thumb's range of learning and research was immense, covering well-nigh everything that came under the comprehensive heading Indo-European linguistic. But of course it was Greek in which his contribution was really memorable. The prehistoric foundations of Greek he laid bare in the researches that found systematic place in his new edition of Brugmann's masterly Grammar. The ancient Greek dialects he set forth in a concise summary that left little to be desired for accuracy and clearness. And in particular he led the way from the philological side, as Deissmann from the theological, in teaching Hellenists that the 'decadence' of Greek was richly worth studying for its own sake. To complete our knowledge of the period when Greek was the *lingua franca* of the Roman Empire, he studied deeply the patois of the modern peasant, the dialects of natural

and genuine Greek of to-day, descended directly from the *κοινή*, and capable in skilled hands of revealing many unsuspected facts about the popular language of the early Christian centuries. His extraordinary power of grasping a living idiom enabled him not only to lay hold of the Modern Greek *ὀμιλουμένη* in general, but to delineate its dialects with a sureness of touch that a native might envy. In these researches he won the enthusiastic appreciation of the Greeks, whose ethnology he studied with keen insight, and with profoundly sympathetic interest.

British scholars in Manchester and Cambridge had an opportunity of making his acquaintance in October, 1913, when he came to stay with me for a week, lecturing at the University and the Rylands Library, and proceeding to Cambridge on his way home. He knew British work thoroughly. If I may put in a personal illustration, I would recall how he went through the proofs of *Prolegomena* to a N.T. Greek Grammar, and at least twice called attention to articles in my own language which I had overlooked. The trouble he would take for the improvement of another man's work was greater than many men will bestow upon their own. His judgment was unflinching, even if his touch was somewhat heavy, as was natural in a scholar of his environment. His students were happily numerous, and drawn from other lands than his own; and we may earnestly hope that some of them will successfully take up the threads that have prematurely dropped from the master's hand. There were indications, among scanty though warm-hearted communications that reached me after the great gulf opened between us, that his view of the war was that

which is normal among his countrymen. But it is also certain that his would have been a powerful mediating influence in happier days, had he lived to see them; and British and French scholarship may mourn him as a German, while gratefully cherishing the memory of his unique services as a scholar.

JAMES HOPE MOULTON.

PAUL LIEBAERT.

THOUGH not killed on the field of battle, the young Belgian Abbé, Paul Liebaert, may be called a victim of the war. War was declared when he was recovering from a severe illness. With characteristic self-forgetfulness he refused to rest and laboured unceasingly, first as chaplain and almoner in his native town of Courtrai, then, when the British wounded prisoners began to arrive, in relief of their necessities. Not until his activities were stopped by the Germans did he seek and obtain permission to return to his quiet life at the Vatican Library. The loss of his private fortune gave him much anxiety about the future; but when Italy joined the Allies he determined to stay at Rome and look after the soldiers' sons. The work overtaxed his strength. He went off to hospital at Pallanza, where he has died of typhoid fever.

The son of a wealthy business man of Courtrai, he studied Palaeography at the Vatican Library under Padre Ehrle, and was put on the list of Scrittori or Assistant Librarians, on the unpaid list; so that his time was practically at his own disposal. He had the two chief requisites of the palaeographer—a good photographic camera and facilities for visiting the libraries of Europe; and with these advantages he laid such solid foundations for his life-work, that he bade fair to become a second Mabillon. Some two thousand photographs of Latin MSS., along with methodical notes of the scribes' practices, were promising material for future publications; but, apart from magazine-articles, all that he had accomplished before his death was the co-editorship of the 'Specimina Palaeographica Vaticana.'

How far his papers admit of publication, I do not know. But it may not be out of place here to mention the chief results he had reached in his projected History of the Corbie Scriptorium, as I learned them in conversation with him last Easter. He had detected three types of minuscule favoured at different periods at Corbie. The earliest (*e.g.*, Paris 4403A, foll. 184v sqq.; Paris 12239; Paris 13047) he called the empty type, from its peculiar form of the letter *e* when in ligature with *m* (or *n* or *r*, etc.). The second is the type seen in that famous Bible in Amiens Library, which was written during the abbacy of Maurdrannus (772-780). This Maurdrannus type, as he called it, was succeeded in the abbacy of Adelhard by the ab-type. Three valuable clues for dating and locating MSS. of c. 750—c. 815 have thus been discovered by his diligence.

Primitiæ juvenis; but enough to show how much Latin Palaeography has lost by his premature death.

W. M. LINDSAY.

LEONARD CHEESMAN.

THE Vice-Chancellor of Oxford in his October address chose out for mention three Oxford men as noteworthy among the many who have died in the war with all, or nearly all, their promise unachieved. One of these had seemed about to do good work in labour problems, one in politics; the third was G. L. Cheesman. And, indeed, the study of history has seldom lost so real an 'inheritor of unfulfilled renown.'

The tale of his life is short. He was a scholar of Winchester and (1903-7) of New College. After taking his degree, he taught for a year at Christ Church, and then returned to New College as Fellow (June, 1908). With the help of the College, he gave a year to travel in the provinces of the Roman Empire. In 1910 he began regular teaching and lecturing, and began at the same time his own work on Roman history, and in particular on Roman military history. In 1911 he gained the Arnold Prize with an essay on the Roman auxilia; he wrote