

# The Classical Review

FEBRUARY 1901.

THE first year of the twentieth century is the fifteenth year in the existence of the *Classical Review*. Arrived at the age of maturity according to just classical standards, it would be wanting in piety if it deferred the acknowledgments due to its father and first editor Prof. J. B. Mayor, to its second parent Mr. G. E. Marindin and to its tutor Mr. Alfred Nutt: not forgetting the numerous friends and supporters, both British and American, without whose generous aid it must have died in infancy. All these it asks to join in its wish: *At tu, natalis, multos celebrande per annos, candidior semper candidiorque ueni.*

The publisher of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* has asked us to state that the editing committee were in no way responsible for the English prospectus of the work, upon which some strictures were passed in the last issue of the *Classical Review*. We are glad also to hear that a revision of the prospectus is contemplated; and we take this opportunity of adding that subscribers to the *Thesaurus* may find it convenient to know that they can obtain temporary covers, specially designed for the purpose of preserving the current parts until ready for binding, for the moderate sum of two and a half marks each.

*Hermathena* has lost none of its old verve. The last number deals almost exclusively with matters of interest to Classical scholars. A special feature in its vigorous editing is the number of reviews, of which the majority are unsigned. The new series of Oxford texts comes in for a large share of attention, the texts of Aeschylus, Thucydides, Plato, Xenophon, Apollonius Rhodius

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and Tacitus receiving more or less favourable notice. When the reviewers find fault, it is generally for excessive conservatism.

The thirtieth volume of the Transactions and Proceedings of the *American Philological Association* includes two noticeable papers; an attack successful up to a certain point upon current views on 'the Origin of the Latin letters G and Z' by Prof. G. Hempl of Michigan, and one on 'the Scepticism and Fatalism of the Common People of Rome as illustrated by the Sepulchral Inscriptions' by Prof. A. G. Harkness of Brown University. We shall await with interest the promised second paper which is to show 'that Juvenal was right when he said (I. 149) that only children believed in the existence of the Manes.'

We have received from the compiler Mr. E. Cutler Shedd of the Lewis Academy, Wichita, Kansas, a booklet which embodies a useful idea. His 'Word Lists for Livy Books i., xxi., xxii., are arranged on the principle of relative frequency of occurrence. First come those words which occur over 100 times, in which list we find the seven verbs *ago, capio, do, facio, habeo, mitto* and *sum*, then those that occur over 75 times and so on. Information of this kind is not merely of considerable value to those who wish to acquire a knowledge of a vocabulary of a writer or a people with the greatest expedition but it furnishes linguistic and literary students with highly instructive data. It is a pity that Mr. Shedd has to a certain extent impaired the usefulness of his little book by including in it several unattested forms.

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