

The Classical Review

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'MELANDRA CASTLE.'¹

THE appearance of the handsome and profusely illustrated volume of 183 pages thus entitled should be a great and welcome encouragement to those who believe that for classical studies in this country there is a future as well as a past. It has a claim to special notice as it embodies the first fruits of the policy of local development upon which the Classical Association embarked at the end of 1904. It forms in fact the first report of the Manchester and District Branch of the Association and is edited by the Professor of Latin at the University of Manchester, to whose energy and enthusiasm the foundation of the branch is in chief measure due.

The major part of the volume is devoted to the excavations of the Roman site from which it has taken its name, but includes much other matter, as the following account will show.

First comes a 'note' by the Editor who is also chairman of the Committee of the Branch and of the Excavation Committee, the opening sentences of which we quote to show the spirit in which the work has been approached.

'If the aim of the Classical Association may be defined in a sentence, it is to preserve and proclaim the connexion of Classical studies with the larger and deeper interests of daily life. The

¹ *Melandra Castle*, being the Report of the Manchester and District Branch of the Classical Association for 1905. Sherratt and Hughes, Publishers to the Victoria University of Manchester. Price 5s. net.

history, the politics, the society, the literature, the religion of our own community, all have their roots in antiquity; and none of these can be fully understood without the help of the great ancient writers whom the Classical student learns to count among his wisest and most delightful friends. His work is to build a bridge between the life of the past and the life of the present; his ambition is to make the bridge a broad, well-trodden road. One of the means to this end is to discover and interpret the actual traces which remain in our own district of the power which the Romans held in Britain throughout the first four Christian centuries.'

Amongst those to whom obligations are recorded are—Mr. R. Hamnett 'to whose skill and enthusiasm is due the rescue of the site, the preservation of the remains and the whole possibility of any systematic study of the fort,' Mr. J. Swarbrick, A.R.I.B.A., for surveying the site, Mr. Francis Jones, M.Sc., for analysing various substances found in the camp, and Mr. F. W. Parrott for producing the photographs contained in the volume. Also to Professor W. Ridgeway and Dr. F. Haverfield for valuable advice on many important points. Canon E. L. Hicks, the President of the Branch, contributes a short introduction on the intellectual stimulus and educative value of such researches. The exploration of a small Roman fort can, he points out, 'be made a precious object lesson of Classical method.' Next follow papers on 'the Ancient Roads

connected with Melandra and the Site' by Professor Boyd Dawkins, 'the Roman Occupation of Derbyshire' by Dr. Haverfield, 'the Roman Place-names of Derbyshire' by Mr. W. B. Anderson, 'the Excavations at Melandra in 1905' by Mr. F. A. Bruton (the Hon. Secretary of the Excavation Committee) and on 'Some Features of Roman Forts in Britain' by the same and on 'the Pottery found at Melandra' by Mr. J. H. Hopkinson. After these come two short papers by the Editor on 'the Roman Coins found at Melandra' and on 'the Trade- and Coin-Weights found at Melandra' and a 'List of Miscellaneous Remains in the Custody of Mr. Hamnett' by Professor Boyd Dawkins and the Editor, and last, three papers of a historical or literary character 'Legio XX. Valeria Victrix,' (a detachment from which was at one time quartered at Melandra) by Mr. Harold Williamson and 'the Probable Date of the Roman Occupation of Melandra' by the same and 'Britain in the Roman Poets' by Miss Dora Limebeer.

There is added, as in such publications there always should be, a full index, which has been compiled by Mr. W. J. Goodrich. Two appendices containing the Proceedings of the Branch and a list of its Members complete the volume.

The book is accompanied by a large map of the excavations on the scale of thirty feet to the inch, and is illustrated by numerous photographs, engravings in the text and plans. The frontispiece shows the Roman

roads connected with Melandra and a 'pre-historic Ridgeway crossing Werneth Low.' We would gladly devote more space to a description of contents and illustrations; but we purposely refrain in the hope that all of our readers who are interested in this side of classical research will encourage the committee in their laudable efforts by purchasing the volume for themselves. Funds are greatly needed to continue the work at Melandra and to excavate new sites. In Germany, where the public support of natural, historical and linguistic science is intelligent, organised, and methodical, there is no especial need for drawing upon private beneficence. In America the public-spirited millionaire is found to take upon himself some part at any rate of the debt which riches owe to research. But in this country the shortcomings of the national administration are but too rarely compensated by the enlightened liberality of the opulent. Let the magnates of commerce at Manchester, which Canon Hicks tells us 'has never been wholly given to the idolatry of wealth,' be stirred at least by the Committee's appeal to their local patriotism, and determine that the new investigations at Toot Hill and Castle-shaw which the Committee propose, shall not languish for lack of funds. They need have no doubt as to the value of these inquiries sanctioned as they have been by liberal grants from the University of Manchester and the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

VARIA GRAECA.

I.—*A Lacuna in the Iliad.*

The Homeric text has at all periods of its existence been so jealously guarded by grammarians, editors, and readers, that, when the patina of phonetic change is scraped off, emendation in the ordinary sense has little to do. For one passage however the mere sense is difficult.

Τ 76 τοῖσι δὲ καὶ μετέειπεν ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν
 Ἀγαμέμνων
 αὐτόθεν ἐξ ἔδρης οὐδ' ἐν μέσσοισιν ἀναστάς·
 ὦ φίλοι ἦρωες Δαναοί, θεράποντες Ἄρηος,
 ἑσταότος μὲν καλὸν ἀκούειν, οὐδὲ ἕοικεν
 ὑββάλλειν· χαλεπὸν γὰρ ἐπισταμένῳ περ εἶναι.
 ἀνδρῶν δ' ἐν πολλῷ ὁμάδῳ πῶς κέν τις ἀκούσαι
 ἢ εἴποι; βλάβεται δὲ λιγύς περ εἶν ἀγορητής.

Agamemnon who was wounded in A speaks from his chair without standing up. He seems to apologise for doing so and asks for allowance to be made him. How does this come out in vv. 79, 80? 'It is right to hear a man upon his legs, and it is improper to interrupt'; but Ag. was not upon his legs: the usual speaker was and, as this was the proper posture, had no special ground to deprecate interruption. Agamemnon cannot stand, and as it is difficult to make oneself heard sitting, therefore he begs for silence. A line is wanted to contain these ideas, e.g.

ἦσθαι ἀλλ' ἔμπησ μὲν ἀκούμεν, οὐδὲ ἕοικεν
 ὑββάλλειν.

'A speaker ought to stand, not to sit: