

The Classical Review

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IN the recent important discoveries in the centre of ancient Rome, in the active resumption of the design, unavoidably and temporarily suspended, for establishing a British School which we may hope will take its proper share in helping and turning to account such discoveries in the future, and in the issue of the prospectus, followed almost immediately by the first fasciculus of the new Latin *Thesaurus*, we have to chronicle events of no ordinary interest to the classical scholar.

The discoveries will be dealt with in the February number by a well-known and valued contributor. Some of our readers may wish to visit the scene in the Christmas vacation and to such an announcement of the Managing Committee of the British School will be welcome. 'The Director,' (Mr. G. McN. Rushforth, address the British Embassy, Rome) 'will be happy to explain the principal recent discoveries relating to Ancient and Mediaeval Rome to any university graduates, and members of the Teaching Staff of Public Schools who may be visiting Rome during the Christmas or Easter vacations.' Applications should be made to the Director as soon as possible. Those who intend to study at the School are requested to apply to Prof. Pelham, Trinity College, Oxford. The outlook seems fair for what we trust will be a worthy and friendly rival of the flourishing American School.

The great *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* is published by Messrs. Teubner under the auspices of five universities, Berlin, Göttingen, Leipsic, Munich and Vienna. For its completion fifteen years and twelve volumes of two thousand pages each are allowed by the prospectus: and it is thought that these

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limits will not be exceeded. The price is fixed at 7 marks 20 pf. for the parts, from six to seven of which will appear every year.

To speak first of externals, which in a work of this kind are of the very greatest importance. The size is quarto, there are two columns to the page, and the lines are numbered down the centre of the page. So far so good. The type is bourgeois, clear enough, but for an undertaking of this magnitude too large. A lexicon, and *a fortiori* a thesaurus, is not for perusal but consultation, and within the limits of legibility a small type is an unmixed advantage. It saves paper, binding and shelf-room, and, most important of all, it saves time. A page of the *Thesaurus* contains somewhat more printed paper than a page of Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon, the type of which is perfectly clear; but it has fewer lines to the page and fewer letters to the line. Those who incur the financial liability for the *Thesaurus* may yet regret that a fount of type was not adopted which would have reduced its twelve volumes to eleven or ten. In another respect room might have been saved and rapid reference promoted. It was needless to print the word in full in every citation where it occurs. Abbreviations like *~us*, *~o* for *animus*, *animo* save space and catch the eye.

To gauge the value of a work of this kind we must examine its basis. The basis of the *Thesaurus* is a series of texts prepared by 'specially qualified scholars.' The 'special qualification' is a matter of the first importance, and a list of names should have been circulated together with the prospectus. These scholars have submitted the texts to a process called 'Abcorrigierung,' which is explained to mean that the readings of the

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best manuscripts are restored, certain conjectures are given by the side of the MS. as such, and doubtful ones banished in favour of the corrupt reading. This is all very reasonable: but it tends to obscure the fact that Latin, as we know it, rests not upon manuscripts but upon vulgates or texts into which a certain quantity of conjectural matter has already been imported. To suppose that the practice of the compilers of the *Thesaurus* will proceed upon any other assumption would be to impute to them an incredible foolishness. It is pertinent here to observe that they might very usefully have added to their account of each word a list of other words with which copyists

confuse it. Never it would seem will there be such an opportunity again until perhaps another *Thesaurus* is compiled.

These are some of the reflexions suggested by the prospectus and the specimen. They are put out in no unfriendly spirit to the great undertaking. To all serious students of any epoch of Latin, the work, even if moderately well done, will be indispensable, and there is good hope that it will be more than moderately well done. We should advise all our readers who have not done so to procure and study for themselves the specimen and the German prospectus; not the English one—unless indeed they collect curiosities.

HOMERICA (VII).

OD. XI. 580 AND XIII. 359 f.

λ 580 Ἀητῶ γὰρ ἤλκησε, Διὸς κυδρὴν παρά-
κοιτιν,
Πυθῶδ' ἐρχομένην διὰ καλλιχόρου Πανο-
πίου.

THESE lines from the *Nékuia* give the reason for the cruel punishment inflicted upon Tityus in the lower world. It will readily be granted me that the verb, ἤλκησε, is decidedly questionable, if only from the large number of variants, more or less important, presented by the MSS. To establish this statement and for further use I transcribe from Ludwich (1889) 'ἤλκησε XUK. Apollon. pron. 87, 28, Herodian. II. 33, 4 et 87, 24, Eust.; ἤλ- G; ἤλ- PD, cum γρ' H²; ἤλγησεν F (ει et κυ superscripsit F²); ἤλκυσε HK; ἤλ- M (ἤλ- corr. M man. recent.); εἰλκησε Z; εἰλκησεν O; εἰλκυσε post correcturam HK, Heraclit. Alleg. 18, Macrob. l. l., cum γρ' X; εἰλκυσεν superscripsit schol. M, Porph. l. l.; ἤλκυσε W, Tzetz. Alleg. λ 129; ἤλ- T; ἤσχυσε Sext. Emp. 407, 11.'

In the main the prevalent idea among those, to whom we are indebted for our tradition, seems to have been that the verb is connected with ἔλκω or some cognate form. In the next place, although the augmented first syllable of any of these would naturally be εἰλκ-, there is a distinct predominance of the illegitimate, or at any rate less legitimate ἤλκ-. There is furthermore a curious absence of the unaugmented ἔλκ-, which according to the conclusions of

Prof. Platt concerning the augment in Homer would here have been most in accord with epic usage.

I would also draw attention to two further peculiarities which should certainly be noted, firstly the seeming uncertainty as to whether the rough or smooth breathing is correct, and secondly the addition in one instance at least, though I am inclined to think the phenomenon, pace Ludwich, is far more extensive in its range, of an ι subscript to the initial η.

Perhaps a more directly suggestive point than any of the above, so far as any attempt to recover the true reading in this passage is concerned, is that although γάρ is unanimously exhibited by the MSS., yet Porphyrius, Qu. II. 334, 23, gives δέ as the reading. This I accept as a starting-point of some value and suggest with confidence that the true and original form of the line is still recoverable:—

Ἀητόα δ' ἠεῖκισσε, Διὸς κυδρὴν παράκοιτιν.

The reading Ἀητόα for Ἀητῶ may pass without comment. My immediate purpose is to deal with γὰρ ἤλκησε only.

Nearly every point I have dwelt upon as peculiar in the readings of the MSS. leads to or countenances in some degree the above conjecture. ἠεῖκισσε elucidates the origin of the variation between η- and ει-, as well as the partial maintenance of the smooth breathing, though ἔλκω and its cognates