

The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)



Tacitus, par Émile Person. Paris : Eugene Belin. (Annals 1883. Histories 1880)

H. Furneaux

The Classical Review / Volume 1 / Issue 5-6 / June 1887, pp 154 - 154
DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00183556, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00183556

How to cite this article:

H. Furneaux (1887). The Classical Review, 1, pp 154-154 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00183556

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

so careful an analysis of the imitations and adaptations of Vergil is not almost pernicious to such a reader. Admiration in a boy is the inevitable first step towards appreciation, and we fear this might be checked if he had reason to suppose that the poet was habitually guilty of 'adaptation.' Something of the same sort may be said about other parts of this Introduction: section 8 is wonderfully good, but it is scarcely in place in an elementary edition. Mr. Sidgwick should devote himself to an Introduction to Vergil on a more ambitious scale: giving himself space to quote parallel passages in full: repeating and amplifying what he has said about Vergilian art in various ways; exhibiting to us Vergil as an artist: allowing himself, by quotations from modern poets, and by full use of his felicity of translation, to show that hendiadys and the rest are not conundrums to vex the ignorant, but real aids to poetical expression.

F. C.

Tacitus, par ÉMILE PERSON. Paris: Eugene Belin. (Annals 1883. Histories 1880).

THESE two volumes are evidently intended either for the higher classes of schools or for such general students as desire complete editions of moderate size and at moderate cost.

Such publications can only be made remunerative by a very large sale; and it is good evidence of the general interest taken by educated Frenchmen in great classical authors that editors or publishers should feel any such prospect of success as is implied in undertaking a work of this description, instead of restricting themselves, as is usual in England, to an edition comprising one or two books only.

The volumes are a marvel of cheapness. For 3 f. 50 c., the French student can procure a well-printed book of 786 foolscap octavo pages, containing the whole of the Annals, with a concise, but by no means meagre commentary and introduction, the speech of Claudius, and an index of proper names. The other volume gives, for 2 f., in 460 pages, the whole of the Histories on a similar scale, with the additional gain of a summary of the contents of the text.

Taken as a whole, this must be pronounced to be, as far as I am aware, much the most useful general edition of this author to be found in any language, at anything like so low a cost. Nor is it to be supposed that its cheapness is its only recommendation. Viewed apart from such considerations, the commentary is eminently clear and practical, ignoring none of the chief difficulties of interpretation in the text, and giving as much assistance in illustration of the subject-matter as any readers to whom Tacitus was part of a general course of study rather than a special subject would be likely to desire.

On comparison with more elaborate editions or with school editions containing only a small portion of the author, it will be found that the chief curtailment consists in dwelling less fully on grammatical questions, and in giving the general substance of, rather than full references to or citations from, ancient authors and modern works.

The edition of the Annals seems rather superior to that of the Histories, partly, perhaps, as being the later work and hence the result of a more complete study of the author, partly as having had the full advantage of the labours of Nipperdey, Draeger, and E. Jacob; whereas the edition of the Histories appeared too soon to be able to profit by any portion of that of Meiser.

It appears from the advertisement that the same firm has published the Germania at 75 c., the Agricola at 30 c., the former by the same editor, the latter by M. H. Henry.—H. FURNEAUX.

The Histories of Tacitus, Books I. and II., by A. D. GODLEY, M.A., *Fellow of Magdalen Coll. Oxford* (Macmillan & Co.) 5s.

THIS is a useful little edition, deriving its chief value from the closeness with which the notes of Dr. Carl Heraeus have been followed. This indebtedness is acknowledged in the preface, and those who do not read German ought to be grateful to Mr. Godley for bringing 'this excellent commentary' within their reach. In one passage, however, the editor has followed his guide not wisely but too well. On II. 16, 4, he remarks that Sardinia and Corsica, though handed over by Nero to the senate, were governed by a procurator as being a small province. As a senatorial province it could of course only be governed by a proconsul. The mistake is evidently caused by Heraeus' note on II. 12, 13, where he says that the Maritime Alps 'als eine kleine senats-provinz,' was ruled by a procurator. Is 'senats-provinz' a slip on the part of Heraeus or a misprint? Mr. Godley is not strictly correct in saying on I. 2, 5, that the siege of Jerusalem was contemporary with the war between the Flavians and Vitellius. Again on I. 39, 7, the Rostra Julia are stated to be near the temple of Saturn, and erected by J. Caesar. Prof. Middleton p. 157, referred to in proof of this, shows that they were built by Augustus, being in fact the podium of the Heroon of Julius. The note on *evocatum* I. 41, 16, is incorrect, as the special meaning of the word under the empire is left unnoticed. One or two other little inaccuracies need correcting in a 2nd edition, e.g. the statements on I. 50, 14, that Perusia was the scene of a battle, or on I. 52, 16, that Cæcina commanded in Upper, Valens in Lower Germany. A comparison of *non arma noscere* (I. 63, 5), with *non principia noscere* (II. 93) seems to suggest a better translation than 'they were ignorant of the use of arms'; and the note on *adjuncto Brit. exercitu* I. 61, ignores the fact that only *vezilla* of the British legions joined Vitellius. The different readings are usually given with care, and emendations judiciously selected, but it is aggravating to find so many vague references to Juvenal, Horace, Pliny, &c.—E. G. H.

Thirteen Satires of Juvenal. Edited by C. H. PEARSON, M.A., and H. A. STRONG, M.A., LL.D. Clarendon Press, Oxford: 1887. 6s. 6d.

WE have here in two handy volumes the text of the satires contained in Professor Mayor's edition together with sixty pages of introduction and a whole volume of commentary. It is to be regretted that the editors have entirely excluded the sixth satire, which has been declared by a most competent judge to be Juvenal's masterpiece and which, unlike the other two unrepresented satires, can be freely expurgated without material injury to the sense and connection of the whole. Mr. Prior's school edition, which the editors do not mention, though it was at least until lately the most commonly used in English schools, contrives to retain nearly 600 lines of this satire, while rejecting all that an edition of the kind ought to be without.

The introduction, by Mr. Pearson, is a well-written and interesting piece of literary criticism. A special feature in it and indeed in the whole book is the amount of illustration from French literature—illustration which is often ingenious and interesting. Some will perhaps dissent from the conclusion that Juvenal was the one true poet of his day. According to our current ideas and definitions it is difficult to justify the claim of any writer of the Flavian age to that title; and, if we are to make comparisons, it