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***Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in the Rylands Library at Manchester.* By J. de M. Johnson, Victor Martin, A. S. Hunt. Vol. II. Ptolemaic and Roman Documents. With 23 plates. Manchester University Press.**

W. H. D. R.

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SHORT NOTICES

Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in the Rylands Library at Manchester. By J. de M. JOHNSON, VICTOR MARTIN, A. S. HUNT. Vol. II. Ptolemaic and Roman Documents. With 23 plates. Manchester University Press.

THERE is nothing of literary importance in this volume, which contains documents of the same various kinds as we have learnt to expect: official papers, petitions and wills, contracts, taxation, accounts, and private letters. A hundred and sixty odd numbers are printed, and about two hundred others are described. The new material is made available by the help of sixty pages of indices (Kings and Emperors, months and days, personal names, geographical names, religion and astrology, official titles, military terms, weights, measures and coins, taxes, Greek and Latin words, passages discussed). A large number of papyri and ostraca, together with a few classical places, are illustrated or discussed.

There are some important topics discussed at some length, where new light has come from the documents of this volume. Some questions of taxation are among them (pp. 290 ff.), and in particular the taxation of garden land (p. 243), the *ἐπιβολή* (p. 270), and the word *ὁμόλογος* (p. 286). Further information is found on the trade-guilds, which appear to be organised in the villages as well as in the towns; a grave-diggers' guild appears in one place. Petitions are made for concession of the monopoly of dyeing and weaving, or of hunting. Many other allusions to trades and occupations are scattered over the book. Law, especially as relates to contracts, is also illustrated: some of the contracts, and one will, are very long and detailed. A curious example of *divisio in stirpes* is No. 76. In one place the local form of a certain class of documents is to place copies of sale and lease on the left, in demotic, and the loan on the right, in Greek (160). No. 77 gives the procedure for appointment to municipal office, quite a dramatic

description. The *ἐπικρισις* or selection of boys, and the *εἰσκρισις* of *ἔφηβοι*, are illustrated in 101-4; the phrase *οἱ ἀπὸ γυμνασίου* is explained as those educated in the gymnasium, a position of privilege, it appears, implying social superiority. As final details of interest attention may be called to a petition made to a priest, instead of the police (133), for which there is no parallel, and the list of honorific names of months (p. 147) such as *σωτήρ* and *Καίσαρ*. Perhaps it may be permitted to ask whether *φιλότιμος* be not rather public-spirited than 'a lover of office,' in 77³³; and *ὀψάρια* can hardly mean 'relishes' 381⁹: it must be something definite—perhaps 'fish' as in modern Greek.

W. H. D. R.

Falernian Grapes (Vvae Falernae). An inaugural address on Horace by Professor R. S. CONWAY, with six short papers by members of the Leeds branch of the Classical Association. Edited with a postscript by W. Rhys Roberts. Cambridge University Press, 1917.

THIS excellent pamphlet differs from all other books that have been reviewed in this journal since its beginning, because it may be had without money and without price by applying to Professor Roberts. Here we see the true spirit of humanism; I have not noticed any tendency in any one to offer aniline dyes on the same terms. The world understands what it means to get ninepence for fourpence, the fivepence being provided by outsiders who would prefer to keep it: but that the producer himself should offer his goods free! There is a miracle. No doubt (says the reader, if he be no humanist) there is a trap in it, or the goods are worth nothing, or the editor has an axe to grind. No! to all these. The paper on Horace is charming; and it brings out a side of Horace, of Virgil too indeed, which is not seen by all, to wit, that they are not flatterers of a person, but that they