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Stampini: *Studi Di Letteratura E Filologia Latina* Ettore Stampini: *Studi di Letteratura e Filologia Latina*. One vol. 8vo. Pp. xii + 448. Turin: Fratelli Bocca, 1917. 6 lire.

S. Gaselee

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STAMPINI: *STUDI DI LETTERATURA E FILOLOGIA LATINA*.

Ettore Stampini: Studi di Letteratura e Filologia Latina. One vol. 8vo. Pp. xii + 448. Turin: Fratelli Bocca, 1917. 6 lire.

THE collected studies of a veteran scholar have a particular interest for the historian of classical studies: it is possible to trace not only the development of the writer's individual opinions, but something of the course that scholarship has pursued in his country and time. In the present volume an unusual consistency of standard may be observed: and this does not mean that Professor Stampini did not grow in knowledge and power as years passed, but that he began to write with a remarkable store of learning and grip of the language he was studying, which only needed still wider reading and finer polish, no radical change of method, in approaching his subjects. The first article in this volume, on the metrical consciousness of the great Roman poets, is a remarkable achievement for a young man of twenty-five, and as readable to-day as on its appearance at Turin in 1880.

The earliest of four Virgil studies is a sensible little treatise on the orthography of the poet's name. The subject is fresh in the mind of English readers, for it was very fully ventilated of late in the *Literary Supplement to The Times*: and Professor Stampini comes to the conclusion which, as it seemed to the present writer, won the day in the late newspaper debate—that the name was quite certainly Vergilius, but that this affords no reason for abandoning the form fixed in national literatures, *Virgilio* or *Virgil*. The next is an elaborate study of the story of Dido and Aeneas in Latin literature, and the other two deal with the *Eclogues*—a general introduction, and some notes on the first five of term.

Lucretius shares with Virgil the honour of space. Two studies, written in 1902 and 1915 respectively, bring together a series of notes, mostly on the text; but the interest of these, though they contain some valuable discussions

(e.g. on the lengthening of a final short vowel before a word beginning with two consonants), is surpassed by the treatise on the traditional account of the madness and death of Lucretius, which dates from 1896. This is perhaps the most careful examination in existence of the slender and puzzling evidence, and no Lucretian scholar can afford to neglect it: Prof. Stampini lays rather more stress than others on the internal evidence of Lucretius' state of mind which may be adduced from the poem—traces of opinions that he may have held on suicide and possible allusions to his married state.

There are two more shorter essays in the volume—one on the scurrilous and often obscene verses recited at a Triumph to turn away supernatural envy, like the *Fescennina locutio* at a marriage, and the other, dating from only two years ago, on the painter Marcus Plautius, who executed the frescoes in the Temple of Juno at Ardea, involving exegesis of a difficult epigram quoted by the elder Pliny.

The last ninety pages of the volume are occupied by Prof. Stampini's Latin writings. Two of his opinions as adjudicator for the Vallauri prize show a workmanlike use of the language for a practical end: the inscriptions and addresses are in a lapidary style rather less concise than the models which are followed in England, but none the less neat and clear. The bibliographer may be recommended to note the eulogy of Bodoni—much ingenuity was needed to put with detail into anything approaching good Latin the excellencies of his typography.

The book is well and accurately printed. Some of the references might have been revised, in view of the fact that the articles are reprints from a periodical, and no longer a part of it, so that 'in questa Rivista' might have been changed to 'nella Rivista di Filologia...' It is a collection with which the student of Latin poetry cannot easily dispense.

S. GASELEE.