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THESAURUS LINGUAE LATINAE EPIGRAPHICAE. A Dictionary of the Latin Inscriptions.


Dr. Olcott has shown magnificent enterprise and courage in undertaking single-handed the Herculean task of compiling a dictionary of Latin inscriptions, which numbered over 200,000 when he began, and have increased by thousands since. Truly, in the almost weary words of an unwearying worker, "bei diesem Sammeln um des Sammeln willen drohen selbst die Fähigsten zu erlahmen." The more honour to one who tries to smooth the path. Of the utility of his efforts there is no doubt. Philologists in particular are ill served by the indices to C.I.L. which cater chiefly for the wants of the historical student; and the great, and unwieldy, Thesaurus Linguae Latinae makes no attempt to exhaust the epigraphic sources. Moreover, the Christian inscriptions of Rome are not included in the Corpus: yet, as Dr. Olcott says, they furnish a rich store of material for students of later Latin and of Romance philology. It is their needs that he has primarily in view and he ought to win their gratitude. But the historical investigator will also find the Dictionary very useful. Names of historical personages are omitted—for the earlier centuries the need is already met—but matters of geography, mythology, religion, civil and military administration, and the like find their due place. Here there is inevitably a good deal of overlapping with other dictionaries such as those of Pauly-Wissowa, de Ruggiero, and Roscher, and naturally completeness of citation is not to be expected except from the published volumes of the Corpus which forms the basis of the work. Nevertheless even a tolerably complete bird's-eye view of the material contained in that massive monument of research is in itself a great convenience to the historian.

The work appears to be well done, and the method is sound. The digest of usage is in each case preceded by an account of the varieties of form in which the word occurs, and the longer articles are headed by a useful synopsis of arrangement. Sometimes the treatment seems unnecessarily exhaustive: it is doubtful, for instance, whether a large part of the 18 pages devoted to the preposition ad is likely to yield any important result. Life is short, and we wonder whether the author hopes to see the completion of his lexicon. The preface seems to imply that the material in the Corpus has already been gathered, yet in eight years only 504 pages have been published and the end of A is not reached. But he deserves all encouragement in his praiseworthy effort to accomplish unaided what he recognises "should rightly be the joint work of the Latinists of all the world." Posterity at least will enjoy the full benefit of his devotion, if we may hope that posterity will still care for such things.

J. G. C. ANDERSON.


The first edition of this excellent work appeared in 1896, and is to be found on the shelves of every student of Roman topography. It was high time that a new edition, taking account of all that has been discovered and much that has been written in the last sixteen years, should see the light. Lanciani's Forma Urbis, the earlier sheets of which were alone available in 1896, is now complete; Prof. Hülsen has himself brought Jordan's Topographie to its conclusion, and although the Palatine has not yet yielded up all its secrets (and we notice that the newest views, which still lack confirmation, are not embodied here) there was no adequate reason for delay in bringing either the maps or the Nomenclator up to date. The number of maps is increased by one, for the earlier and later imperial periods are now distinguished, and the monuments of early Christian Rome find a place in map III. Corresponding therewith, we have a new section.
devoted solely to Christian buildings; and the segregation of all temples and other monuments of the ancient Roman religion, which now make up the opening section, is another improvement. As this will certainly not be the last edition of the work, it may be worth while to note a few omissions of minor importance. The name Caput Tauri (cf. Caput Africæ), which is found in the lives of Alexander and Anastasius II, in the Liber pontificalis and in the Acts of S. Bibiana, might be included in the Nomenclator; also the Horti Vetii anni, cf. Jordan-Hulsen, i, 368. We do not quite see why Scalae Gemoniae and Gemonia should have separate articles; under the latter heading, for "Tac. Ann. vi, 4, 31 (25)," read "Tac. Ann. vi, 4 (v. 9), 31 (25)." The Porta Carmentalis is mentioned by Ascon. in Cic. Tog. Cand. p. 81; and the Templum Gentis Flaviae is alluded to, under the name Gentes Flaviae, not only in the Vita trig. tyr. 33, but also in the Vita Claudii, 3.

H. S. J.

SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN ANCIENT ROME. By Professor F. F. Abbott. 8 x 5, x + 268 pp. London: Routledge & Sons, 1912. 6s.


These are two volumes of short essays and lectures, simple in style and popular in manner, on many different subjects connected with Roman literature, society, and politics. They might be described as pleasant half hours in the highways and byways of Roman life; half hours in which the student, especially he whose experience and vision are limited by the necessities of examination, may learn much without labour. They will show him how wide the field of work in Roman studies really is, and how large a choice he has if he wishes to become a Roman student in the proper sense of that word. To take a few examples: in politics he will find an interesting comparison of the Roman senate with that of the United States as it works at the present day; in epigraphy a pleasant talk about spurious inscriptions and their psychological origins; in literature discussions of Petronius and Persius, of the poetry of the common people as it survives in epitaphs, and many other literary subjects; in economics a paper on Diocletian's edict in its bearing on the cost of living, and another on private benefactions under the Empire, and their results; in philology an essay on the evolution of the letters of our alphabet, and two charming ones on the Latin of the common people and the spread of Latin in the civilised world. As all are written by a man of real learning and wide knowledge and sympathy, they cannot fail to be useful to British as well as American students and teachers, and should be in all school and college libraries.

W. Warde Fowler.


It would be difficult to over-praise this admirable volume of Roman archaeology. Its object is to describe subjects which lie adjacent to the direct study of Roman History but which are not always treated by historians; in particular it deals with such aspects of Roman life as can be illustrated from actual remains by plans and views and sketches. An introduction sets out the prehistory and the earliest settlements of Italy and of Rome and the Italian land-system and roads, and includes also (perhaps a little out of place) some good notes on Roman provincial towns like Timgad, and on the roads of the Empire. A long section follows on architecture and on the various forms of architectural structures, temples, arches, baths, sewers, tombs, houses and the like. Five shorter sections are concerned with war, including the “camps” and frontier defences, with religion, with trades, with money, and with public amusements. A final chapter, which is long and yet might well have been longer, discusses Roman art and makes (inter alia) a satisfactory defence for the view that a Roman art existed. At