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Bywater's *Artistotle's Nicomachean Ethics Contributions to the Textual Criticism of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, by Ingram Bywater. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1892. 2s. 6d.

H. Richards

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BYWATER'S ARISTOTLE'S NICOMACHEAN ETHICS.

Contributions to the Textual Criticism of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, by INGRAM BYWATER. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1892. 2s. 6d.

In this pamphlet of seventy pages Mr. Bywater explains and defends the many small changes introduced into the text of the *Nicomachean Ethics* in his recent edition. 'I found it impossible,' he writes, 'within the limits of the book itself, to give an account of the reasons, some of principle and some of detail, which led me to diverge in a great many passages from the text of other editions, the most recent one (that of Susemihl) not excepted.' This is therefore a small supplementary work consisting chiefly of critical notes on the passages in question. He has prefixed some remarks (1) on the commentary of Aspasius as we have it in Heylbut's recent edition, with reference to the light it affords us for the settlement of the text, and (2) on the chief MSS. of the *Ethics*. Giving of course much the highest place to K^b he still argues for the 'great value and importance' of L^b and warns us against allowing our belief in K^b to 'degenerate into a superstition, as it so

easily may do.' He also attaches great value to Γ, the old Latin translation, which 'is practically almost as good as a Greek MS. to us.' O^b and M^b he is inclined to disregard and to trust to the three sources just named. He goes on to add a useful and interesting list of the commoner errors in K^b with many illustrations, which will be of value to textual critics in general and not to students of the *Ethics* only. Then follows the bulk of the small book, consisting of critical notes in defence of the readings adopted, often for the first time, in his text. They are often convincing and always worthy of careful consideration. The changes proposed are not so considerable as they are numerous, and, though numerous, they certainly cannot be taxed with being arbitrary and wanton. Some of the more noteworthy have been pointed out already in this *Review* (April, 1891) and it is unnecessary to recur to them now. For serious students the *Contributions* are an indispensable accompaniment to the text. Will the Delegates of the Clarendon Press now persuade Mr. Bywater to give us a companion text of the *Republic*?

H. R.

ABBOTT'S ESSAYS ON THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

Essays chiefly on the Original Texts of the Old and New Testaments. By T. K. ABBOTT, B.D., Litt. D., Fellow and Tutor, Trin. Coll., Dublin; Professor of Hebrew in the University of Dublin. Longmans, 1891: pp. 227. 10s. 6d.

THIS valuable collection consists of seven dissertations. 1. The Massoretic Text of the O.T. 2. The Hebrew Text before the Massorettes. 3. N.T. Lexicography. 4. Has *ποιεῖν* in the N.T. a sacrificial meaning? 5. To what extent was Greek the language of Galilee in the time of Christ? 6. On historical evidence and the miracle of the Holy Thorn. 7. Critical notes on passages in the text of the O.T.

Excepting the greater portion of the fifth essay, all these papers have been published before. The first three are known to readers of the *Church Quarterly Review*, but

the third has been augmented from notes published in the *Classical Review* and *Hermathena*. The fourth, which is one of the most useful, appears now for the first time in England: it was published originally in America in the *Journal of Biblical Exegesis*. The sixth is sixteen years old, but is not much the worse on that account; for probably no fresh light has been thrown upon the subject in the interval. It appeared in the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review* in 1876. The seventh, which is twofold, appeared originally in the *Hermathena*.

The conclusions reached in the first two essays are that the Massorettes made an honest attempt to form a correct text, and did their work with sagacity; but were not aware how corrupt the one text which they possessed really was, owing to the blunders of earlier and less careful copyists; and moreover they lacked the materials for