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HEADLAM'S POEMS OF MELEAGER.

Fifty Poems of Meleager, with a Translation
by WALTER HEADLAM. Macmillan & Co.,
1890. Pp. xx. + 108.

THIS book contains a translation into English verse of fifty poems of Meleager. The Greek text (which does not claim to be critically revised) and the translation are printed on opposite pages; and a short introduction is prefixed, telling the few facts known about the life of Meleager, and containing a translation of part of the dedicatory preface to his Anthology.

The translations are throughout remarkably literal and, with few exceptions, good. For example, the translation of the epigram beginning *Βεβλήσθω κύβος ἅπτε' πορεύσομαι* (p. 43) is a triumph of faithful rendering under difficulties; and the translation of *Εἰπὲ Λυκαωνίδι, Δορκάς* (p. 83) is no less skilful. In one or two cases, however, a literal rendering is obtained only at the cost of a failure in other respects. The couplet

Παμμῆτορ Γῆ, χαῖρε· σὺ τὸν πάρος οὐ βαρὺν
εἰς σέ
Αἰσιγένην καὶ τὴν νῦν ἐπέχουσ' ἀβαρήs.

is rendered thus (p. 85) :—

Hail, Mother Earth! Aesigenes
That erst was unto thee
Not heavy, now in turn may'st please
To press not heavily.

Nothing could be more literal than this; but 'not heavy,' 'not heavily' are clumsy in English, and do not reproduce the effect of οὐ βαρὺν and ἀβαρήs, which are not clumsy in Greek. Moreover the whole quatrain is not far removed from doggerel. This however, is not a fair specimen of Mr. Headlam's verse, and we must quote some of the epigrams which show him at his best. The well-known lines

Ἦδη λευκόνιον θάλλει, θάλλει δὲ φίλομβρος
νάρκισσος, θάλλει δ' οὐρεσίφαιτα κρίνα·

are rendered thus (p. 9) :—

Now bloometh the white violet,
Now bloom the daffodils
That love the rain, the lilies bloom
That ramble o'er the hills.

Now, love's delight, among the flowers
The fairest flower that blows,
Zenophile is in her bloom,
Enchantment's own sweet rose.

Ye meadows, why so vainly smile
For blossoms in the grass,
When as your fragrant posies all
My lady doth surpass?

The real test of a verse translation is whether it reproduces the melody and indefinable charm of the original; and tried by this touchstone some of Mr. Headlam's verses are of the true metal. For example the first couplet of Meleager's epitaph on himself (*Ἀτρέμας, ὃ ξένη, βαίνει*) is translated (p. 101):—

Tread softly, stranger: here at rest
Among pure souls below
An old man, Meleager, sleeps
The sleep that all men owe:

or again the haunting lines

Αἰεὶ μοι δινεῖ μὲν ἐν οὐασιν ἦχος Ἔρωτος,
ὄμμα δὲ σίγα Πόθους τὸ γλυκὺ δάκρυ φέρει·

retain some of their magic in the English (p. 37) :—

The sound of Love dins ever in mine ears;
Silent mine eyes to Longing bear sweet
tears:

The book also contains four epigrams by Mr. Headlam himself, in parallel Greek and English. The Greek versions of these are decidedly good, and more successful than the English. Mr. Headlam translates Meleager better than he translates himself. The third,—

Such the blossoms that were borne
By the Grecian soil outworn,—

is a piece of involved and even obscure English which ill suits the simplicity of the metre in which it is written. The second ingeniously applies to Meleager the phrase which he wrote of Heliodora :—

Τὸν στέφανον Μελέαγρος ἀπανταχόθεν
συνέπλεξεν.
αὐτὸς δ' ἐκλάμπει τοῦ στεφάνου
στέφανος.

The points which call for criticism are few and small. On p. x. *σκολιότριχος* is misprinted *σκομότριχος*. On p. 43 *θυμέ* is not satisfactorily translated by *mind*. The dialogue is between the voices of reason and passion; and *mind* in English implies reason and not passion. *ἀνωρόντο* (p. 69) is translated *wailed*. A word is needed which would apply to cries both of mourning and

of rejoicing. It would have saved the reader trouble if a reference had been given (in the index or elsewhere) to the place of the epigrams in the Anthology; and the book would have been more convenient and more suitable to its matter if it had been smaller in size. 'A little pipkin fits a little jelly.'

H. BABINGTON SMITH.

MELBER'S DIO CASSIUS.

Dionis Cassii Cocceiani Historia Romana.
Editionem Primam Curavit Ludovicus
Dindorf, Recognovit JOANNES MELBER.
Vol. I. Leipzig: Teubner. 1890. Pp.
xliii. + 604. 4 Mk. 50.

THIS volume, which covers the same ground as vol. i. of the old edition (Fragments—end of bk. 40), is, on the whole, a distinct advance on any of the previous texts of Dio Cassius, yet scarcely perhaps so great an advance as might have been expected considering that it is a quarter of a century since the last edition appeared. The conditions under which the Fragments and the continuous books have come down to us being different, in an estimate of a volume which includes both, they must be carefully distinguished. It is in the Fragments that the advance is most striking: it is in the continuous part of the text (bks. 36-40) that disappointment, if any, is felt, but of the latter circumstance Dr. Melber has a satisfactory explanation. The question of MS. authority is in the case of Dio a comparatively simple one, and Dindorf had already reached conclusions which have, in all essentials, only been confirmed by the most recent investigations. It is not surprising therefore that the text of the continuous books in the present volume, for which there is practically only one authority (Mediceus A), does not contain many important variations from that of Dindorf's edition. The retention of Dindorf's name on the title-page is only a proper acknowledgment of this fact.

We will now examine separately the Fragments and Books 36-40 with the parts of the Preface that relate to them.

1. Two distinct and important sets of changes have been made in the present edition, the one relating to the selection of the Fragments, the other to their order. Since the edition of Dindorf various investigations (notably by Mommsen in an

article on the *Excerpta de Sententiis* and the *Excerpta* of Planudes in *Hermes* vi. p. 89, and by H. Haupt in two articles on the Fragments of Dio in *Hermes* xiv. p. 36 and p. 431) have considerably diminished the number of excerpts attributed by Mai to Dio and incorporated by Bekker and Dindorf. On the other hand a certain amount of new material has been provided by the assignment of Dio as the source of a number of passages in the compilations of Zonaras and Tzetzes. In this way 43 passages printed by Dindorf have been rejected, while 29 new ones have been admitted. The grounds for all this are too elaborate to be discussed here, nor are they fully explained in the edition, and reference to the articles of Mommsen and Haupt is necessary. The clue to an identification of a passage as Dio's is often to be found in the Epitome of Zonaras, and hence Dr. Melber has printed the text of Zonaras in full at the foot of the page, emphasizing the passage which has been identified by spaced type, so that the eye grasps at once the connection between the Fragment and the passage in Zonaras. This arrangement, which is the only striking novelty in the form of the new edition, is still more valuable for the other set of changes which Dr. Melber has made. These concern the chronological order of the Fragments, and form perhaps the most positive gain in the new edition, and the most original part of the editor's work. The continuous narrative of Zonaras printed at the foot of the page not only represents the general course of the early part of Dio's history (somewhat as Xiphilinus does for the last part of the work) and thereby enables us to fill up the gaps in sense and connection between the Fragments, but the spaced type of the identified quotations corresponding to the Fragment on the same page, or sometimes, where no identification is possible, merely the order of events in Zonaras, gives us the