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Lindsay's *Introduction to Latin Textual Emendation An Introduction to Latin Textual Emendation, based on the Text of Plautus*. By W. M. Lindsay, M.A., Fellow of Jesus College, (Oxford. Macmillan. 1896. pp. xii, 131. Price 3s. 6d.)

J. P. P.

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the most part, the merest minutiae, in some cases hardly worth the trouble of writing down. In dealing with the cursive and often damaged writing of papyri, there will always be a certain amount of gleaning to be done after any editor; but after Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt the gleaning is scanty and unimportant. In conclusion, it may be permissible to congratulate them, not only on the good work contained in the volume which has just been reviewed, but on the prospect of interesting and important work held out to

them for many years to come in the colossal discoveries made by them last winter on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund; and one may be allowed to call the attention of the readers of the *Classical Review* to the new Graeco-Roman branch of the Fund which has now been set on foot, to which we may most hopefully look for important discoveries in the field of lost Greek literature.

F. G. KENYON.

LINDSAY'S INTRODUCTION TO LATIN TEXTUAL EMENDATION.

An Introduction to Latin Textual Emendation, based on the Text of Plautus. By W. M. LINDSAY, M.A., Fellow of Jesus College, (Oxford. Macmillan. 1896. pp. xii, 131. Price 3s. 6d.)

PERHAPS the best recommendation of Mr. Lindsay's unpretending little book is the fact that it has been placed in the list of books recommended to students for section A of the second part of the Cambridge Classical Tripos, the only examination in English universities for which the textual criticism of classical authors is specifically prescribed. Profound and exhaustive of course it is not, and it deals too little with principles to be pronounced quite a 'satisfactory handbook.' But beginners will find it very useful, and some even of those who write as experts upon subjects of textual criticism and palaeography might read it with profit. Its most serviceable feature is the list of MS. corruptions with illustrative examples which it contains, while the most interesting is the variety of notes gathered from a number of quarters upon miscellaneous points connected with the history and composition of Latin codices. It was very natural that Mr. Lindsay should suppose that 'there is no Latin author the study of whose text has at once such interest and such value for students of textual emendation as Plautus.' Others however will consider that it would have been better had the area of choice not been limited to a single author, and that one involving so many difficult and unsettled problems, metrical and otherwise, as Plautus. Though Mr. Lindsay generally keeps his eye upon practical considerations, he sometimes shows a lack of circumspection. The recent misleading distinction between the vowel and semi-vowel *u* and *i* should be avoided above all in a treatise upon Latin palaeography. But Mr. Lindsay writes not only

v but even the discredited *j*. In an appendix he gives minute and useful directions to the intending collator of a Latin MS. But he ought to have said plainly that, to begin with, *every* point in which the MS. collated differs from the text used for the purposes of collation should be noted, abbreviations (when of not unusual form) being indicated by the convenient practice of underlining the letters abbreviated. As the work of collation proceeds, the collator can drop the record of minutiae which prove to be unimportant, noting of course the point at which he does so. In particular the collator should be warned against the danger in attempting too much in discriminating the various hands in corrections. Collations have often been rendered completely useless by the ascription to the first hand of later corrections and vice versa. It would not be fair in a notice of this length to dwell much upon flaws in detail; but a weakness in the grammatical region is indicated by the suggestions that *sum libere* should be read in *Epidicus* 498 in the sense of *sum libera* and that *uitam uiuitur* Ennius is an adequate parallel to the impossible *epityra* (acc. of the direct obj.) *estur* which Mr. Lindsay proposes in *Miles* 24, while the explanation of *luci claro* 'in broad daylight,' '*luci* being regarded as an adverb and therefore independent of distinctions of gender, is joined with the neuter of the adjective,' (p. 27) is hardly short of amazing. The statement on p. 73, 'These errors of substitution [*f* for *ph*, *e* for *ae*, *oe*, &c.] in mediæval MSS. are rather mistakes of eye than mistakes of ear' is beside the mark and may easily mislead. The reason why a scribe writes *febus* for *phoebus* or *coena* for *cena* is that in his pronunciation the interchanged symbols stood for identical sounds and one spelling was more familiar than the other.

J. P. P.