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A LINE OF LVCILIVS.

LVCILIVS 1191 (Ma.) is preserved for us in Isid. *Etym.* XIX, iv, 10, where, amongst the articles of a ship's equipment, the plummet (catapirates, the *καταπειρητήρην* of Herodotus) is mentioned, with this illustration (I give the reading of the Archetype) from Lucilius :

Hunc (hanc ?) catapiratem puer eodem deforet unctum,
plumbi paucillum rudus linique mataxam.

The second line offers no trouble. In the first line Marx could make nothing of *deforet* and changed it to *deferat*. Havet then pointed out (*Arch. Lat. Lex.* XV, 105) that *deforare* could mean 'to lower from the gangway, (*forus*), (like *deponare*, 'to throw down from the bridge'). But new light has been brought by the discovery of the mosaic of Althiburus, which, under the heading <CAT>APIRAT . . ., offers this very line of Lucilius. Unfortunately only the last two words can be deciphered, or, at least, could be deciphered when Gauckler wrote his account of the mosaic in *Monum. Piot.* XII, 144 (1906). They are *deuoret unctum*.

Now, Isidore was a Spaniard. His etymological encyclopaedia has come down to us by Spanish tradition. The Archetype of our MSS. must have had Spanish script and spelling. A Spanish scribe may be known by his *mici* for *mihi*, his *nicil* for *nihil*, his *quum* for *cum*, and no less by his use of *f* for *v*. So that *deforet* in a Spanish-Latin MS. means either *deforet* or *deuoret*.¹

Deuoret therefore must be right. We may suppose that the delicious flavour of some syrup or paste is being described. 'A boy (or a slave or the sailor who is handling the plummet) would swallow this plummet if it were smeared with this same delicious stuff.'

Of course the scansion *eodem* (disyll.) offers no difficulty. It occurs in other fragments of Lucilius (e.g. 353, 570), and is common in Lucretius (cf. Munro ad i, 306) and the older Republican poets (see Neue, *Formenlehre*, or L. Müller, *De re metrica*, for examples).

Even Virgil approves the line opening *Uno eodemque* (*Ecl.* 8, 81, *uno eodemque igni*; *Aen.* 12, 847, *uno eodemque tulit*; cf. 10, 487).²

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ST. ANDREWS.

¹ Thus in our MSS. of the *Etymologiae* *deuoro* appears as *deforo* in XI, iii, 33 (*deforat*); XII, ii, 24 (*deforant*); VIII, xi, 31 (*deforasse*); VII, vi, 48 (*deforans*), etc.; and similarly *prouincia* as *profincia* in VIII, v, 27, etc., *debere* as *deferre*, and the like.

² Servius seems to say that the first foot in this Virgilian opening is a dactyl. At least that is the way I interpret his note on *Aen.* 1, 575 (atque utinam rex ipse noto compulsus eodem): EODEM, o naturaliter longa est, sed si corripitur metri est, ut 'steteruntque comae.'