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V. Reviews *Three Lists of Bible Translations*. By Robert Needham Cust, LL.D. London: Elliot Stock, 1890. pp. 115.

T. D.

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No. 32 of the inscriptions in the volume is a curious and interesting one from an octagonal pillar at Amarâvati, which was decyphered by Dr. Hultzsch very shortly after his arrival in India. It has to be read upwards from bottom to top instead of downwards, and it contains a list of seven Pallava kings. An inscription from Trichinopoly gives a new Pallava name.

Dr. Hultzsch's table of the Eastern Chalukyas is fuller and more trustworthy than any yet published, and his discovery of the erroneous nature of certain preconceived theories respecting the transfer by intermarriage to the Chola dynasty of the territories ruled over by those sovereigns is of much interest and value. The inscriptions he publishes are all on copper-plates.

From the country about Madras are published 48 Tamil and Grantha inscriptions, most of which are valuable for one reason or another, but, as before mentioned, facsimiles are greatly wanted. The Uḍaiyār inscriptions in the volume do not greatly assist us with regard to that, probably usurping, dynasty. They appear to clash with those of another branch of the family, for it may well be that princes of the same clan established independent sovereignties in the south during the disturbed period which marked the rise of the great kingdom of Vijayanagar. The author publishes additional information on the later Chola dynasty, but as regards the Vijayanagar sovereigns there is little new, though what there is is useful as consolidating previous theories.

We entirely commend the plan of the work, as well as the way in which it has been carried out, with the single exception of the absence of facsimiles.

THREE LISTS OF BIBLE TRANSLATIONS. By ROBERT NEEDHAM CUST, LL.D. London: Elliot Stock, 1890. pp. 115.

Dr. Cust's new volume contains three Lists, viz.: 1. Alphabetical; 2. Geographical; 3. Linguistic, of the Bible Translations actually in use or for sale in August last. Small as this book appears to be, it contains an amount of information

about current Bible versions never before brought together in such small compass.

The object of the author was to shut out for the future all vagueness and uncertainty which surrounded Bible work, by carefully preparing a list of those dialects and languages into which the Bible had been translated, and by fixing under each "Bible language" the number of individuals speaking those languages; and, furthermore, he brings forward the question for consideration, whether a given language is worthy of a translation? and, if so, by how many would it be read? and in what part of the world such language exists? It is wise also to reflect whether the translation of the Bible is necessary for a small population in a low state of civilization, and whether it is not absolute waste of money to spend it on translations into languages which are doomed to extinction.

The total of the population of the whole Earth is put down at 1403 millions, and the total number of mutually unintelligible forms of speech commonly called "tongues" at more than 2000, of which 331 represent two-thirds of the human race.

It is not our purpose to do more than call attention to this most useful and laborious work. With the progress of philological studies, the future editions of this work will doubtless require some amplification and alterations, and probably corrections also. The Alphabetical List, Part I., giving the locality and population of speakers of the given languages, is perhaps the most valuable and interesting portion of the book, which will be indispensable to all who feel interested in Bible Translations, while the careful tabulation of the number of persons likely to be able to use each version will be welcomed by philological students in every branch.

A copy of the work, the gift of the author, has been added to the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society.

T. D.

December, 1890.