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Etymology of *Folium*

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Now compare Sen. ep. 77 20 'uita . . . etiam Nestoris et Sattiae brevis est, quae inscribi monumento suo iussit annis se nonaginta nouem uixisse.' The MSS of Plin. n. h. vii 158 give another form, 'ex feminis Liuia Rutili nonaginta septem annos excessit, *sattilia* Claudio principe ex nobili domo nonaginta nouem,' whence the editors write *Statilia*; but Martial's MSS tend to confirm the witness of Seneca's.

Sattiae saxum I understand to be the 'monumentum' itself on which the vain-glorious old woman had inscribed the number of her years; though as a periphrasis for *Sattia sepulta* the phrase would be no bolder than Stat. silu. iii 3 58 'nec erubuit famulantis *fistula Phoebi*' for *Phoebus fistula canens*.

A. E. HOUSMAN.

EARLY USES OF BRONZE AND IRON.

THE Homeric poems frequently describe iron as the metal for tools and implements, while bronze, save in two cases and in one disputed line (*Odyssey*, xvi. 294, xix. 13), is the metal for weapons. Helbig has expressed his disbelief in the opinion that this distribution of the metals represents a real stage in the employment of iron; nor is the Homeric account corroborated so far, to my knowledge, by Greek graves of the early iron age, the age of the 'overlap.'

But we have evidence which I have not seen adduced for the actual existence elsewhere of a stage of culture in which tools are of iron, while weapons continue to be of bronze. In his valuable reports on the excavation of Gezer, in Palestine, Mr. Stewart Macallister says: 'A general principle has been noticed which probably will be found to be universal in Palestine; that from the commencement of the Iron age the dominant metal is used for agricultural instruments, whilst bronze is retained for weapons and for personal adornments. Thus we find sickles and hoes of iron; arrowheads,

knives, daggers' (and, as is later stated, spearheads), 'brooches, pins, and needles are of bronze' (*Palestine Exploration Fund*, p. 190, 1903).

These facts are in exact accordance with Homeric descriptions. The Palestinian facts do not wholly harmonise with Mr. Myres's theory that 'Egypt and the Mediterranean, with the "open-hearth" process, were restricted to a small output of iron, and used it as a rarity until the North, with its "blast-furnace" principle, produced iron in copious amount and of a quality more suitable for cutting-weapons' (*Man*, October, 1907, p. 157).

Iron cannot have been 'a rarity' in Palestine, when sickles and hoes, no less than finger rings, were made of that metal, while weapons, which need a good edge, continued to be made of bronze. The Homeric descriptions certainly tally with the evolution of iron as found at Gezer, and perhaps this can hardly have occurred by accidental coincidence.

ANDREW LANG.

ETYMOLOGY OF *FOLIUM*.

For this word Walde, *Lat. Etym. Wörterb.*, reports a number of suggested etymologies. The most popular connection appears to be with φύλλον, the *v* of which would be presumably explained like the *v* in γῶπις, σκύλλω, Mansion, *Les Gutturales Grecques*, p. 52. Brugmann would apparently connect also with *phalam*, *phalyam*, though the

representation of idg. *ph* by lat. *f* seems to be uncertain. A more plausible connection for *folium* is, I think, O.I. *duille* <**dholio*-, cf. Zeuss, *Gramm. Kelt*². p. 15. The word could then be connected with *θάλος*, *θάλλω*, etc. and A.S. *dile*, E. *dill* <**dhelio*-.

J. FRASER.

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