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Virgil—Georgics IV. By J. Sargeaunt, M.A., Assistant Master at Westminster. Blackwood. 1900. Pp. xxix., 100. 1s.6d.

E. H. Blakeney

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satis habui tacito consensu probare, nunc ad auctorem referam.' All true lovers of Classical scholarship will welcome the change as an improvement. It would not be difficult to find points in which the editor's judgment in this revised edition might be challenged; but this must not blind us to his services to Lucretian criticism, chief amongst which must rank his contributions to what Giussani appropriately names the "stratigraphy of the text." Scholars are aware that Lucretius as presented by the Leyden codices is deformed by a number of misplacements and duplications. The fact is certain though its causes may be obscure. The merit of Brieger's text is that incoherencies and excrescences are not presented without warning to the reader for him to beat his brains upon and marvel what the editor thinks of the philosopher-poet that he is editing, but an endeavour (often it may be an unsuccessful one) is made to obtain some coherence from the tradition, or failing that to indicate its absence by some arresting mark. We are accustomed to speak of poets as artists; and if we can believe that in 1.885 *sqq.* Lucretius, clothed and in his right mind, intended the public to read that it is an objection to Anaxagoras' theory that 'grain bruised in stone mortars should give out blood or some other constituent of our bodies,' and then 'cum lapidi lapidem terimus, manare cruorem,' or that after the line 'et uis magna geli, magnum duramen aquarum' (6, 529), he placed the line 'et mora quae fluuios passim refrenat euntis,' we may as well believe that sculptors will put out their statues with alternative legs and arms. Brieger does not; and until his work is done more successfully by some one else, his edition will not be superseded.

J. P. P.

Virgil—Georgics IV. By J. SARGEANT, M.A., Assistant Master at Westminster. Blackwood. 1900. Pp. xxix., 100. 1s. 6d. It is not often that so good a school edition of a well-known classic like Virgil finds its way into the market. Mr. Sargeant, without actually contributing any new thing to the interpretation of his author, has nevertheless contrived to make his annotations interestingly brief, and yet invest them with a certain freshness of treatment. Above all, he has made them practically useful for those for whom the book is designed. As a practical teacher he knows that the old principle of *μᾶλλον ἄγαν* is a valuable one. At the same time a little more illustra-

tion is occasionally desirable. For example, on 285 reference should have been made to the story of Samson and the lion; on 431 the famous passage in Matthew Arnold's *Forsaken Merman* might have been appositely quoted; on 498 'invalidas' might have been illustrated from Tennyson's 'Only the wan wave | Brake in among dead faces, to and fro | Swaying the helpless hands'; and, in v. 500, Arnold's lines in *Sohrab and Rustum* beginning 'Unwillingly the spirit fled away' would have afforded a good parallel. The principle of quoting largely from the Bible, and from the English poets, by way of illustrating a classic, specially a poet like Virgil, can hardly be too often applied. Comparison is the soul of criticism.

The book is, perhaps, not so strong on its grammatical side as it might be; this is noticeable in the case of mood-constructions. One chief value of Kennedy's edition of Virgil is the care with which this department of Virgilian syntax is treated. Another—in my opinion, quite minor—defect is the studied disregard of questions of textual criticism. As this edition is evidently not meant for beginners, one would like to know, however, what text Mr. Sargeant has followed generally.

Among the many good points in this edition—which seems to aim at inculcating a love of Virgil *as literature*, rather than making it a dull mechanic exercise, with an eye to 'examination' all the time—must be noted (1) the well-executed illustrations that adorn the book, the value of which is enhanced by the brief explanations given on pp. vii.-ix.; (2) the Appendices, dealing with archaisms, poetic peculiarities, lists of trees and shrubs, metrical notes; (3) the list of Greek verbs found in the fourth Georgic, e.g. *orgia* (521), *ambrosia* (415); (4) the 'select list of words' in lieu of the inevitable vocabulary that publishers—not editors!—are so fond of foisting on us; this list is a special feature of the book, and is valuable from a philological point of view; (5) a list of passages from Aristotle bearing on certain natural history sections in the poem. These passages are given in full, and are very properly rendered into English as well; (6) passages from Homer—also given in full and duly Englished—that Virgil has consciously imitated.

Enough, perhaps, has been said to indicate that the book has a distinct value of its own. Schoolmasters will not do amiss if they introduce it into their classes.

Sandwich, Kent.

E. H. BLAKENEY.