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***Plutarch's Life of Nikias*, edited by Rev H. A. Holden, D.C.L. Cambridge University Press.**

W. J. Brodribb

The Classical Review / Volume 2 / Issue 07 / July 1888, pp 208 - 208

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00192960, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00192960

How to cite this article:

W. J. Brodribb (1888). The Classical Review, 2, pp 208-208 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00192960

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Theoricon. On *Olynth.* i. 19 we read 'After Apollodorus' condemnation Eubulus got a law passed enacting capital punishment for any one proposing this in future (*i.e.* proposing to apply the surplus to war).' The scholiast on *Olynth.* i. 1 is quoted as the authority for this fact, but the editors embody the scholiast's statement in their own summary of the case. On the other hand on *Olynth.* iii. 12 we read, 'ἀπολέσθαι of civil death, not physical. Any one who proposed the use of the theoric fund before the law was altered would be indicted by a γραφή παρανόμων, and if condemned would lose his civil rights till he had paid the fine imposed.' The latter interpretation is probably the correct one, but it is directly at variance with the former. A flaw, however, of this kind is altogether exceptional, for in all that concerns the subject-matter of the speeches—in the historical introduction, in the analysis prefixed to each speech, in archaeological details—singular exactness is apparent. Those who know the quality of Mr. Abbott's previous work will be fully prepared for such an exercise of independent judgment after a patient sifting of materials.

S. H. BUTCHER.

Vetus Testamenti Graeci Codices Vaticanus et Sinaiticus cum Textu Recepto collati ab Eberardo Nestle. Supplementum editionum quae Sixtinam sequuntur omnium, in primis Tischendorfianarum. Editio altera recognita et aucta. Lipsiae: F. A. Brockhaus. 1887. 5 Mk.

SINCE Dr. E. Nestle published his valuable *Supplementum* to Tischendorf's Septuagint in 1879, two important works have appeared; the sixth and concluding volume of the Roman edition of the Vatican MS. containing the Prolegomena and Commentary; and the autotype reproduction of the Alexandrian MS. Of these Dr. Nestle has made full use in his new edition. When the former edition was published, it was only possible to give the corrections in the Vatican MS. generally, without distinguishing the different hands to which they appear to be due: now he has entirely revised his collation by the help of the Prolegomena and Commentary, following the judgment of the Roman editor H. Fabiani in distinguishing the different hands, or rather classes, of corrections, found in the MS. It was impossible to do otherwise: but the imperfections of the Roman edition, valuable as it is, are well known, and the editor's account of the various hands is generally acknowledged to be more than doubtful. Dr. Nestle warns the student that Fabiani's confident identification of the scribe who retraced the text with the monk Clement in the fourteenth or fifteenth century is in opposition to the general opinion which has hitherto assigned that corrector to the tenth or eleventh century. Would he not have done well to point out further that the account of the corrections given by the Vatican editors must be accepted as provisional only, until better information can be obtained?

In the collation of the Alexandrian MS. Dr. Nestle has given some variations intentionally omitted by Tischendorf, and corrected a number of errors due to oversight on Tischendorf's part, or mistakes in Baber's edition, which he followed.

Dr. Nestle's name is a guarantee for the accuracy of the work, and the new edition of his *Supplementum* is indispensable to every scholar who uses Tischendorf's edition of the LXX.

A. F. KIRKPATRICK.

Plutarch's Life of Nikias, edited by Rev. H. A. HOLDEN, D.C.L. Cambridge University Press.

THE *Nikias* of Plutarch is the Greek subject for the Previous Examination of the present year 1888, and

again Dr. Holden has undertaken the work of editor, giving us a companion volume to the *Lives of the Gracchi* and of *Sulla*. All students of Plutarch, an increasing number as they bid fair to be under the stimulus of the Cambridge Board of Classical Studies, will find all, more than all perhaps, that they require; besides the notes which are of course very full and elaborate, we have an introduction which gives us a complete account of Plutarch himself and a discussion of the chief sources of information for his *Life of Nikias*—next, we have a Chronological Table from B.C. 460 to B.C. 413 of events in the life of Nikias. To the text is appended a marginal summary after the fashion now so commonly adopted by editors and so very helpful to the student. The book is well furnished with indices, one for the subject-matter, a second for the author quoted, and a third for points of grammar. Last comes 'a complete Lexical Index'; here are noted, by means of numerals affixed, words peculiar to Plutarch or to late Greek authors, words which he uses in a sense other than classical, and poetical words, (such as ἄλκιμος, ἀύλαρος) to which he seems to have been rather partial. The word φοροδῆς ('highly nervous') is by an error here set down as peculiar to later Greek, whereas it occurs in Plato's *Phaedrus* (257 D), as indeed the editor himself observes on page 59. The notes are very copious and touch alike on grammar, criticism and history, and every now and then we find the errors of translators (which are pretty numerous in the version of the Greek *Lives* in Bohn's Series; let students be warned in time) exposed and corrected. In ch. i. 3, the not very clear expression ὑποπτεύειν εἰς τὸν Ξένάρχον, rendered by Liddell and Scott 'seeking shelter behind (the authority of) Xenarchos,' is very differently explained by Dr. Holden as 'dribbling into conceits worthy of X,' though he is rather doubtful. The context seems to favour his rendering; something disparaging would seem to be implied. Tolerably proficient scholars in the Greek of the classical period will often stumble at passages in Plutarch, and we should suppose that the Previous Examination as to its Greek subjects will be a trial to a good many men.

As in his edition of the *Lives of the Gracchi* and of *Sulla*, so here Dr. Holden has overloaded his notes with long extracts in illustration of the history of the time. Was it necessary to quote so largely from such an accessible book as Grote's history of Greece? This objection does not apply to extracts from Boeckh's *Economy of Athens*, a work with which an ordinary student is hardly likely to be familiar. Dr. Holden, we suppose, was determined to make his edition complete at all points, as it is to be hoped he will follow up his work with the result of Plutarch's *Lives* taking their place at the side of Thucydides and Xenophon in our schools and universities.

W. J. BRODRIBB.

Zur Kritik des Johannes von Antiochia, by GEORGIOS SOTIRIADIS. Leipzig, 1887. 3 Mk. 20.

THIS thorough-going examination of the fragments attributed to Johannes of Antioch, which were collected by Carl Müller in the fourth and fifth volumes of his *Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum*, throws a flood of light not only on the fragments themselves but on other very important questions relating to Byzantine historiography, for example on the date of Johannes Malalas. These historians, who were both natives of Antioch, have often been confounded, and many papers on them have appeared from time to time in *Hermes* from the pens of Mommsen, Haupt, Neumann and de Boor.

Herr Sotiriadis proves elegantly and convincingly that of all the so-called Salmasian excerpts (fragments