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MERRY'S EDITION OF *THE BIRDS*.

Aristophanes. The Birds. W. W. MERRY, D.D., Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford. Clarendon Press. 1889. 3s.

DR. MERRY may be heartily congratulated on the progress he is making towards a complete edition of the plays of Aristophanes. His editions, unpretending in appearance and modest in tone, show most of the highest qualities which an editor of Aristophanes ought to possess—a faculty of concise and clear exposition, a keen appreciation of the niceties of Aristophanic idiom, a sense of humour, and a taste for turning phrases. In some of these editions we have even had ingenious and probable corrections of the text, but Dr. Merry does not as a rule meddle with criticism. Indeed in this play more than in some of the others which he has edited he resists (except when the MS. reading is quite impossible) the seductions of emendations, however attractive, which would supersede the traditional text. In verse 484

ἦρχε δὲ Περσῶν πρῶτος πάντων Δαρείου καὶ Μεγαβάζου,

it must have cost so tasteful a scholar a pang to refrain from introducing into his text the ingenious emendation of Haupt which he quotes in the note,

ἦρχε δὲ Περσῶν πρότερος πάντων Δαρείων καὶ Μεγαβάζων.

When, however, he has MS. authority on his side he does not hesitate to leave the vulgate, giving, for instance, *ἑσωκράτων* with *Codex Ravennas* in 1281, a form paralleled by *μελλονικιῶν* in 639 and more in accordance with analogy than *ἑσωκράτωνν*. In other places too he has introduced conjectures of the truth of which there can be no reasonable doubt. In 1340 he 'gratefully accepts' Bentley's *ψευδαγγελήσειν* for *ψευδαγγελὴς εἶν'*, and in 385 the same critic's *ἐνην-*

τιώμεθα for *ἡναντιώμεθα* of the MSS., which is unmetrical. The best renderings of *Frere* and others find place in the notes, and the editor's own translations are admirably neat and pointed. As examples of good grammar notes we would point to those on *ἦλθετον* 112 and on *εἰσάγοιτο* in 1524. In 1658 Dr. Merry reads with the MSS.

ἀνθέξεται σου τῶν πατρῶν χρημάτων,

but says in his note 'This is commonly rendered *he will secure instead of you*, equivalent to *ἀντί σου ἔξεται*; but there is no parallel to this construction, and it seems better to substitute *σοι* for *σου*, meaning, *as you will find or to your disadvantage*.' But is not *ἀνθέξεται σου* = *ἀντί σου ἔξεται* very nearly, if not exactly, paralleled by *ὁ τι μοι παρορᾶς* = *ὁ τι ὀρᾶς παρ' ἐμοί* 454, which he there accepts as a possible reading and interpretation, though preferring a different one, and which is at all events defended by *δειλὴν μοι παριδὼν* 'seeing cowardice in me' *Hdt.* i. 37; cf. also *παριδὼν τοι ἰδ.* 38, *παρίδες ἀνδρὶ τῷδε ἄχαρι οὐδὲν ἰδ.* 108, and *ἐμοὶ δὲ τούτων οὐδὲν ἐνορᾶ* *Plat. Theag.* 127. In 759 *αἶρε πλῆκτρον εἰ μαχῇ* we would much prefer *μάχει* of the MSS. as far more vigorous and more in accordance with the manner of Aristophanes. On 1148 Dr. Merry, like all other editors, has laboured in vain to give a meaning to *ὥσπερ παιδία*. We are glad to remind our readers how successfully Dr. Rutherford has applied his theory of corruption arising from adscripts to this passage in the pages of this *Review*, Vol. v. No. 3, p. 89. He has shown satisfactorily that the words *ὥσπερ παιδία*, *τὸν πηλὸν* (an error for *πίλον*), and *ἐν τοῖς στόμασιν* are separate attempts at explanation and that the passage should run:—

ἄνω δὲ τὸν ὑπαγωγέα
ἐπέτοντ' ἔχουσαι κατόπιν αἱ χελιδόνες.

R. Y. TYRRELL.

DEMOSTHENES *DE CORONA*, BY F. BLASS.

Demosthenes Rede vom Kranze für den Schulgebrauch erklärt, von FRIEDRICH BLASS. Leip.: Teubner. 1890. Mk. 2. 10.

THIS edition of *The Crown*, which is a continuation of the very useful series of speeches NO. XLIV. VOL. V.

annotated by Rehdantz, is entitled a school edition, but it will be eagerly read by scholars generally, not so much perhaps for its careful commentary as for the critical interest of the questions raised by the text. In order to understand the principles on which the