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***Contractions in early Latin Minuscule MSS.*, by Wm Lindsay. Oxford: Parker. St. Andrews University Publications, V.**

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known monuments of the Republican period in Rome and Latium—the Aqua Marcia (near the so-called Porta Furba, two miles out of Rome), the Pons Mulvius, the Pons Aemilius (Ponte Rotto), the Tabularium, and a portion of the buildings connected with the Temple of Fortune at Praeneste. With the illustrations, mainly from drawings by Italian architects from Herr Delbrück's measurements and under his direction and responsibility, no fault can be found, and their accuracy will bear testing on the spot. In regard to the interpretation of the facts, however, he is not always correct.

Thus various indications, some of them already accessible to him at the time his work was done, go to show that the 'court-yard' at Palestrina was really a roofed basilica, notably the arrangements for the carrying off of rainwater from the roof, and further the existence, ascertained by recent excavations, of eight columns on the N. side of the aforesaid 'court.' This is also the view of Professor Hülsen (cf. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1907, 292 n).

In other points, too, recent work at Palestrina may cause some modification, and it will be fairer to wait till the publication of vol. ii. before passing a final judgment.

The second part of the work, too, will perhaps persuade us of the justice of calling Hellenistic what we have hitherto been inclined to consider characteristic specimens of Roman construction of the Republican period.

Contractions in early Latin Minuscule MSS.,
by WM. LINDSAY. Oxford: Parker. St.
Andrews University Publications, V.

It might have seemed that there was not much left to discover about Latin MSS. after all these centuries of study; but Traube's *Nomina Sacra* has revolutionized the whole. He has discovered why the old method of suspension (*i.e.* the word represented by the first letter or letters) gave way to contraction (*e.g.* DOM. to DNS.), and by so doing has furnished invaluable tests of the age of MSS. These results, with classified lists of his own notes, are given by Prof. Lindsay in the pamphlet before us. It will be indispensable

to editors, critics, and students. Without the knowledge it contains, corruptions cannot be safely mended; and it forms thus a useful check on the emender, whilst suggesting to the careful student how he ought to emend. Many mistakes are due to a scribe of one country wrongly interpreting the abbreviation written in another country, where the same symbol meant a different thing.

W. H. D. R.

SOME SCHOOL BOOKS.

American Book Company: Herodotus vii and viii (Smith and Laird), and Xenophon's *Hellenica* (Brownson). Sanborn: Virgil's *Aeneid* i-vi (Fairclough and Brown). Ginn: *Epigrams of Martial* (Post). Clarendon Press: *Select Epigrams of Martial* i-vi (Bridge and Lake).

ALL these books, compiled for America, differ somewhat from English books. They seem to be meant for both schools and colleges, and therefore lack unity of aim: besides this, they have the common fault of annotated editions, that they try to meet the wants of both teacher and learner. For the teacher, the elaborate introduction and the very full bibliography are necessary; but they are of no use to the learner, only to one who has already learnt. The learner, again, may profit by some of the notes; but on the other hand, many of the notes are meant for the teacher, and others would not be needed if there should be someone to teach. Of the four books, the Martial is best adapted to school use; but this, like the Herodotus and the Xenophon, has notes at the foot of the text. The Martial is a very good book; it contains a great deal of illustrative matter (an index of 14 pages refers to the authors cited in notes), and Martial needs notes more than most authors. We have noted only one important omission: in discussing the epigram, votive epigrams ought to be added to the list of true epigraphic superscriptions (p. xxiii). The two Greek books are clearly printed, but need larger margins. The Herodotus, besides a historical introduction adapted from Stein, has a very full analysis of the author's Ionic dialect, a piece of useful and original work; which would be better, however, if printed so that text and references were distinct. The notes are practical, and show knowledge of Greek lands. The apparatus of the Xenophon is also good; the notes contain too much that is elementary (*e.g.* explanation of *μεγάλη τῇ φωνῇ*, simple concords, and so forth), but frequent references to several different grammars can only be useful to the teacher. The Virgil has notes at the end, and an English analysis of the text at every few lines; 320 pp. of notes with less than half that amount of text. There are far too many elementary notes, whilst many real difficulties are left alone (*e.g.* iii. 305 *lacrimis* after a