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Further Note on Hesiod, *Op. Et Dies*,. 746—7

E. E. Sikes

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that they may be accepted as representing the MS. from which he copied, only a few years before they were written.

The resemblance to Bede, already noticed by Welzhofer, in Robert's citations, is brought out still more strongly by the wider ground for comparison furnished by these MSS. : which show only so much corruption as might be expected to take place in the course of four centuries, with no trace of continental influence. The following list of noticeable readings from one passage quoted by Bede will show the resemblance (the first reading given being that of the Oxford MS.) :—

- vi. 212. Dimidio.] die medio. Bede.
- 213. accedente bis.] = Bede.
- 214. Cataoniam.] = Bede.
- cuncte.] = Bede.
- 218. ab Apennino.] = Bede.
- 219. supra tribus.] = Bede.
- daicos parcemque] dacos partemque.
- Bede.

The additional evidence thus furnished shows Welzhofer to be wrong on one point. He is inclined to trace a connection between Bede's MS. and A. (Leidensis Vossianus fol. 4)—chiefly, it would seem, induced by the fact that A. is reported to be written in a Saxon hand. But the readings he cites prove more against than for the supposed connection : and, if the London and Oxford MSS. be accepted as the lineal descendants of Bede's, the evidence becomes conclusive : there is really no resemblance.

On another point, however, the new MSS.

furnish an interesting confirmation of Welzhofer. He shows that P. (Pollingensis) (which belongs to an Italian fifteenth-century recension, and is the progenitor of several late MSS.) displays the influence of the English tradition : and this influence is brought out more strongly when a fuller comparison is possible. Thus the extraordinary variant in vi. 15—*ccl. chorumdios curta de for Colchorum Dioscuriade*—comes to P. from the English MSS. It may be noted, too, that these two MSS. were both originally in two volumes, only the first being preserved in each case : the London MS. containing eighteen books, the Oxford nineteen. Detlefsen has already remarked on the division of early MSS. of Pliny : and this may explain the fact that in P. the first eighteen books are wrongly numbered, while from the nineteenth book the headings are correct. In the later books, also, P. is noticeable as the only MS. except B. (and the descendants of P.) which has escaped several lacunae : and this it probably owes to its English original, as well as a number of good readings which have surprised most editors of Pliny in a MS. at first sight so worthless.

Before long, I hope to publish fuller details of the English MSS. For the present, it must suffice to say that Welzhofer has added a fresh line of tradition—the English—to the criticism of Pliny, in which Detlefsen has already traced families of MSS. to N. France and S.W. Germany : and this new and early source of evidence should produce some valuable results.

J. GRAFTON MILNE.

FURTHER NOTE ON HESIOD, *OP. ET DIES*, 746—7.

IF ἀνεπίξεστος be genuine, it may refer to the custom, observed by the ancient Germans and Northmen, of finishing off a house with a gable. Mr. Baring-Gould (*Murray's Magazine*, vol. i. pp. 513—526) gives an interesting account of the sacrifices which took place on the completion of the roof. The Anglo-Saxons generally sacrificed a horse, and placed its head on the top of the gable, to protect the roof from wind and lightning. Besides the gable, the ridge-pole is sometimes the object of superstition, a fact to which Mr. Rouse has drawn my attention. The Bhuiyárs of Mirzapur always put up the ridge-pole of a house on

a Friday. After it is put up, if a bird sits on it or a crackling noise is heard in the wood, it is most unlucky, and the ridge-pole must be taken down (North Indian *Notes and Queries*, iii. § 9). The Greek house, then, may be ἀνεπίξεστος, if the gable is not properly finished off, or rather, perhaps, if the ridge-pole is left rough and unpolished ; but more evidence is needed before we can do more than guess at the meaning of the word. I was, however, too hasty in rejecting ἀνεπίξεστος altogether, though I still think that ἀνεπίρρεκτος is right.

This note was too late for insertion at the end of my article.

E. E. SIKES.