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***The Genitive of Value in Latin and other Constructions with Verbs of 'Rating.'* By Gordon J. Laing. Chicago, Ill.**

E. A. Sonnenschein

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But by far the most useful portion of the book is to be found in his lengthy discussion of Horace's relation to Hellenistic poets. The results as regards Horace are, as in the case of so many modern efforts of 'source-hunting,' somewhat scanty and inconclusive. But much useful information is provided as to the treatment of similar themes in Hellenistic literature, and students of that period of literary history will find not a little of interest, though the process of detaching the ore from the quartz may be somewhat laborious.

H. E. BUTLER.

The Genitive of Value in Latin and other Constructions with Verbs of 'Rating.'

By GORDON J. LAING. Chicago, Ill.

PROFESSOR LAING's little treatise gives a very good conspectus of the theories hitherto advanced as to the origin of this construction (*magni aestimare*, etc.), and arrives at the conclusion that they are all more or less inadequate; his own view is that this genitive was from the first adverbial and of independent origin. The theory of locative origin, so tempting to English scholars (*magni* = 'at a great price'), fails to account for the equally old *pluris*, *minoris*, etc., and for the parallel Greek constructions *πολλοῦ*, *πλείονος*, etc. The derivations from a partitive gen., from a gen. of quality, and from old Indo-European adverbs in *i* (Wackernagel) are all criticised as failing at some point or other. Laing's own theory is negative rather than positive; and it may be criticised as failing to recognise the *affinities* between this adverbial gen. and certain types of adnominal genitives. And why has he deliberately left out the gen. of *price*? It is obviously akin to the gen. of *value*, to which he limits his discussion. He might easily have spoken, as Bennett does (*Synt. of Early Latin*, II. p. 93), of the former as a development of the latter. Kühner-Gerth³ (II. 1, p. 377), however, treats both of these constructions together and deals with them as of adnominal origin. In Latin it seems not impossible to find in the common expression *homo nihili* 'a man of naught,'

the original type of usage from which the gen. of value was developed. On this principle *res nihili* would mean 'a thing of naught' (Shakespeare, *M.N.D.* iv. 2-14) and *nihili facere* (*pendere, aestimare*, etc.), which are the most frequently found of all expressions of worthlessness (p. 24), would mean 'to reckon as of naught.' When we have an adjective like *magni*, *parvi*, etc., instead of the noun *nihili*, it is not necessary, I think, to suppose that the noun *pretii* has dropped out (so Landgraf, quoted on p. 3); for *magni*, *parvi*, etc., may be adjectives used as nouns, 'of the great,' 'of the small,' perhaps on the analogy of *nihili*. But I doubt whether a strictly historical account of the origin or development of these various types of usage is within our reach. They are all found side by side in the earliest literature that we have, and we cannot be sure which is prior to which.

I have few criticisms to offer in regard to details; but I suggest that *tanti* in *Juv. X. 97* (p. 17) means 'worth having,' 'worth while' (see p. 18), and that the *ut* in l. 98 = 'on condition that'; cf. Owen's translation, p. 63;¹ also that in *Hor. Sat. II. 5, 35 cassa nuce pauperet* is not parallel to *empsim vitiosa nuce* (*Plaut. Mil. 316*; p. 36), but contains the abl. which is found with *spoliare*.

E. A. SONNENSCHNEIN.

Phases of Corruption in Roman Administration in the Last Half-Century of the Roman Republic. By R. O. JOLLIFFE. One volume. 8vo. Pp. 109. Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company, 1919.

MR. JOLLIFFE has written a good specimen of the kind of dissertation required for the doctorate by American Universities. There is in his work little or nothing that is original; but he has summarised clearly and sensibly the evidence for 'graft' by Roman officials in the age of Cicero. He deals with abuses in the army, especially in connexion with furloughs, requisitions,

¹ To take the *ut* as consecutive (so Laing, with Mayor and others) makes havoc of the sense.