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Ramsay's Tacitus *The Annals of Tacitus*, Books xi.-xvi. An English Translation, with Introduction, Notes, and Maps, by G. G. Ramsay. London: John Murray. 1909. Pp. xcvi + 357. 1 plate showing 4 coins; 2 maps. Price 15s. net.

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The Classical Review / Volume 24 / Issue 01 / February 1910, pp 19 - 19

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00044139, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00044139

How to cite this article:

E. Harrison (1910). The Classical Review, 24, pp 19-19 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00044139

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and all teachers of the classics would do well to ponder thoughtfully over the aims and methods in vogue during what is, perhaps, the most brilliant period of English history. The ancient languages were always learnt as spoken tongues. Professor Foster Watson brings this out very clearly in chapter xix. But it seems to the reviewer that the utilitarian motives given on pp. 306-310 are really insufficient. It is true enough that Latin was the language used by professional men, but Greek was not, and as the author himself points out, Greek also was taught orally. 'But the point which deserves emphasis is that clearly the idea from which the book starts, and for which it attempts to provide the material, is that Greek, *as well as Latin and English*, is to be learned as a spoken language' (p. 505). The italics are the author's. Latin, Greek, and English were surely taught in this way, because, if it is to be an educational instrument, a language must be living. The training of the ear, and above all of the organs of speech, is as important as the training of the eye, if not more so. To a sixteenth-century educator

the learning of a language by translation into English, and by the mechanical application of grammatical rules, would have appeared an impossible monstrosity. But even at the beginning were present the seeds of decay which eventually were to work so much mischief. The blind worship of grammar (p. 365), and 'the making of Latins' (chap. xxiv.), against which Ascham protested so strongly, gradually made themselves supreme, until within the last fifty years the cry has been repeatedly raised that, except for a select few, classical education is a failure. But this decline belongs to a period later than that treated of in Professor Foster Watson's book.

Would that the example of these early schoolmasters were followed to-day! Would that educators and teachers insisted on the clear speaking, not only of foreign languages, but of the mother-tongue! Few greater benefits could be bestowed upon our poorer classes than that every child should be taught, regardless of cost, to speak English correctly and distinctly.

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RAMSAY'S TACITUS.

The Annals of Tacitus, Books xi.-xvi. An English Translation, with Introduction, Notes, and Maps, by G. G. RAMSAY. London: John Murray. 1909. Pp. xcvi+357. 1 plate showing 4 coins; 2 maps. Price 15s. net.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY has now completed what may long remain the best English version of the *Annals*. The first volume I reviewed at some length in the *Classical Review* of 1904 (pp. 407-411), and I am happy to say that the second has all the merits and few of the faults of the first. The vocabulary in particular is much improved, though Tacitus would not have liked 'the regulation type,' 'this extra accusation,' or 'eventuate' (pp. 270, 292, 233). Has 'demean' in the sense of 'lower' become respectable yet (pp. 100, 197)? The style is still good, and the end of Tacitus' chapters, the short, sharp shocks, are better rendered than before. The footnotes are

copious and useful, the introduction is chatty and readable, and the whole book is pleasant to use.

Where the meaning is in doubt, Professor Ramsay seems to me usually to choose the better part. I will note only a few exceptions.

xi. 8. 6: *castra contulit* should mean 'pitched his camp close to the enemy.' xi. 11. 5: *in imperium adscitus* cannot mean 'succeeded to the empire.' xi. 14. 1: *et* is ignored, and, in consequence, Tacitus is accused in the footnote of 'overlooking the hieratic and demotic modes of writing.' xii. 7. 6: *regno* is not 'the empire.' xii. 33. 2: the translation seems to require an *et* between *locorum* and *fraude*. xii. 35. 7: probably *fratres* is the only subject of *accepti*. xii. 60. 6: *rei familiari*, not 'affairs' but 'property.' xiii. 35. 6: Tacitus seems to mean a loss of hands, not of finger-tips.

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