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***Concordance to the Latin Original of 'De Imitatione Christi,'* by Rayner Storr. Oxford University Press. Pp. 600. 10s. 6d.**

J. L. Paton

The Classical Review / Volume 26 / Issue 01 / February 1912, pp 31 - 32

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X0019938X, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X0019938X

How to cite this article:

J. L. Paton (1912). The Classical Review, 26, pp 31-32 doi:10.1017/S0009840X0019938X

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addition of 'limed' as an epithet of *θάμνος* in 1,316 spoils the point: if the bough is limed the bird's fear is not vain. A certain amount of omission is no doubt justifiable in a free translation; but something is wanted in 946 and 1,041 to represent *θεῖον* and *καρβάνω*, and it is difficult to see the reasons for omitting whole lines as in 562 and 902. Still less justifiable is the omission of the passage from 1348. It is not Aeschylus, but the chorus that 'maunders,' and their pathetic paralysis of counsel is dramatically appropriate: they are not more futile than they were in 1,130-1,131. Professor Platt compares his own reticence to the conduct of Shem and Japhet: is he not rather to be compared with King Jehoiakim who 'cut it with the penknife?' (Jer. 36. 23.)

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Studies in Menander. By F. WARREN WRIGHT. Pp. 109. Baltimore: Waverly Press. 1911.

THE studies are four dissertations, submitted for the Doctor's degree at Princeton, on oaths, on the quantity of naturally short vowels before mutes and liquids, on omission of the article, and on asyndeton, so far as the old and the new Menander fragments afford material. All four are carefully done and show much study of modern writings: the result in all four cases is very much in harmony with what was known or believed before. The section on oaths—and exclamations of that nature, e.g., *Ἡράκλεις*, *Ἀπολλων*—is the most substantial, and confirms such conclusions previously drawn as that 'women never swear by Athena, Apollo, Dionysus, Heracles, or Poseidon,' and others. The author indicates 'certain notable omissions,' namely oaths by Hermes, Hecate, and Hestia, which occur elsewhere. In the second section two cases are found of a syllable remaining short before *βλ*, and these are pronounced doubtful. *Epitr.* 118 has *δραχμάς*, like several other Greek passages. Most lengthenings are of course paratragic or semi-poetic.

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Concordance to the Latin Original of 'De Imitatione Christi,' by RAYNER STORR. Oxford University Press. Pp. 600. 10s. 6d.

THE learned say that Michelet vastly overrates the influence of the *Imitation* in the fifteenth century. It would be hard to underrate its influence in this age of *homo secundum hominem* and literature *secundum* Harmsworth. All the more unexpected and the more welcome is this work of long devotion, completed on the author's seventy-fifth birthday, and issued to the world in a form which is worthy of the patient diligence which has produced it. It will send many of us back with renewed and heightened appreciation to the clear-flowing purity of the Latin original, with its simplicity and undertone of reverence second only to the Gospels.

But the book has a value even beyond its own immediate work. It has set a new and higher standard for all subsequent Concordances. Hitherto we have regarded a Concordance as merely a convenient clue to the recovery of a lost passage. But this book shows how by means of a Concordance an author may become his own interpreter and commentator. Mr. Storr gives with each reference the sentence or, in any case, the outline of the sentence in which the word occurs: each article is thus an index not only to the word but to the setting in which it occurs. This makes the book a Concordance not only of words but of thoughts. The terse, epigrammatic style of the author lends itself well to such treatment, but only the long patience which thinks no detail too small would have carried through this new idea of a Concordance so thoroughly and so successfully.

Turn, for instance, to the word *caritas*, and one has not merely a list of passages and references, but a conspectus of what the old saint meant by *caritas* as an attribute of both God and man, and what he thought about it. Under the word *crux* one finds summarised the whole and sufficing theology of one who found this life filled with crosses. 'Be thyself, therefore,

crucified to it, and it cannot harm thee.' The love which has sweetened toil to the compiler has made the path beautiful for all who follow.

J. L. PATON.

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The following corrections have been sent by the author :

P. 25, l. 1, *read* gloriari.

P. 153, l. 39, *read* psallendum.

P. 436, *after* l. 31, *insert* quid ergo te implicas.

P. 439, *after* l. 39, *insert* quid prodest diu vivere.

one might be inclined to overlook their dullness and inconsequence. There are also exercises of English sentences; these carry with them the old flavour. If this, for example—*They join battle in a suitable place with the enemy's forces*—helped in any way the accurate learning of Latin, its effect on the pupil's English composition might be excused.

In both parts the type is large and clear; the naturally-long vowels are marked. I cannot find any misprints.

W. L. P.

Arnold's *New Latin Course*. Parts I. and II. By R. M. ALLARDYCE, M.A. 2 vols. Pp. 117 and 216 respectively. Maddox Street, W.: Edward Arnold. July, 1911. Part I., 1s. 6d.; Part II., 2s. 6d.

THE newness of this Latin course lies in an attempt to facilitate the acquirement of grammar and vocabulary. The method, such as it is, is faultlessly worked out and is an improvement on older methods. But the scheme is not the 'natural' scheme of reform-teaching. The pupil is allowed to become fluent with his ordinals, and there all interest ceases for the average boy; he immediately finds himself up against all the difficulties of the old method. Eight lessons on *-us, -a, -um, -er* confront him; these terminations combined with the verb *est* do not produce interesting conversation or lively reading-matter. After thirty lessons the pupil has learnt the present tense of the verb: by a brisk application of the word to the action he could have learnt it in two days. Nouns and the difficulties of concord are more readily faced, when a certain fluency has been already acquired. After the thirtieth lesson the method runs easily, and, if the pupil has not been taught to expect difficulties everywhere and to give up all hope of fluency, he should make quick progress. The early introduction of the Infinitive deserves commendation.

In Part II. the subject-matter is interesting, especially the long chapter, which serves as a good introduction to an 'easy' author. Wads of disconnected sentences occupy a large place in both books; if they served any good purpose,

Ante Limen. A new Latin book for younger beginners, based upon Limen. By R. H. REES, B.A., Assistant-Mistress at Ladybarn House School. One vol. Ground-plan of the forum. Pp. 128. Albemarle Street, W.; John Murray. July, 1911. 1s. 6d.

THIS new Latin book is on the right lines. The interest of the beginner is caught at the first lesson and held throughout the book; at the same time exact grammar is being taught. We agree with the author that, even when an exact scheme of grammar is being followed, words and constructions may be introduced before their appointed time for the purpose of increasing the 'interest' of the text; more than that, they excite a feeling of curiosity on the part of the pupil, which grows with each repetition of the unexplained form, until the time arrives for the teacher to satisfy the curiosity of the class by dealing exhaustively with the grammar in question. Verbs showing simple actions and obvious feelings are a groundwork on which great fluency can be built. The Accusative Case follows to supply a need created by the use of transitive verbs. Need I give further examples to show that the scheme followed is not only logical, but also a good teaching instrument? More might have been done with the Latin questions; they can so easily be made to take the place of the English-Latin sentence. But for the English sentences, the course would form a good text-book in the hands of a competent all-Latin teacher. The Imperative and Optative uses of the Present Subjunctive may well find a place at the close of the first year's course, though