The Classical Review

<http://journals.cambridge.org/CAR>

Additional services for *The Classical Review*:

Email alerts: [Click here](#)

Subscriptions: [Click here](#)

Commercial reprints: [Click here](#)

Terms of use : [Click here](#)

***A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek.* by H. P. V. Nunn. Cambridge University Press, 1912. 2s. 6d. net.**

James Hope Moulton

The Classical Review / Volume 27 / Issue 05 / August 2013, pp 177 - 178

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00005369, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00005369

How to cite this article:

James Hope Moulton (1913). The Classical Review, 27, pp 177-178 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00005369

Request Permissions : [Click here](#)

served in the Berlin Museum, except Biblical texts. Dr. Schubart's well-known skill as a decipherer of papyri guarantees sufficiently the minute accuracy of their reproduction; and his colleague, with expert knowledge in another field, secures the thoroughness of the editorial work. It can hardly be said that the contents modify greatly the sense of disappointment with which we scan the remains of Christian Egypt as preserved on the papyri. The non-literary and non-Christian documents are of endless value for lexical and grammatical study of the Greek Bible, and even for its *Realien*; but neither literary nor non-literary papyri of a definitely Christian origin give us any large amount of help. The volume has four patristic texts. Ignatius *ad Smyrnaeos* iv.-xi. (plus a few lines before and after) is presented from a codex of the fifth century, which is six centuries older than our only existing MS., and has important variants. Hermas follows (*Sim.* ii. 7-10, iv. 2-5, viii. 1) in some third-century fragments, an additional witness to his popularity in Egypt. Then come two anthologies, from Basil and from Gregory of Nyssa (both fifth century). An Easter pastoral, by Alexander, patriarch of Alexandria (seventh century), will interest students of Byzantine *Kunstprosa*, of whom, I fear, I am not one. The rest of the book (pp. 110-132) is occupied with sundry fragments, mostly liturgical, and nearly all very late. Indices to the new texts and two facsimiles complete the volume. For the philologist its interest will be mainly in the presence of accented texts, such as the *Osterfestbrief*, which was as ambitious in its form as in its style. In the

Ignatius text (l. 33) I note ΑΟΠΑΤΟΙ, with which the editors compare ΑΝΘΕΤΗΚΕ in the Basilexcerpt (l. 69). The aspirate had vanished centuries before from pronunciation: it is interesting to see its tradition surviving in a place which our modern orthography will not recognise. Latin forms like *Euhemerus*, *Euhodius*, etc., may be compared.

JAMES HOPE MOULTON.

Didsbury College, Manchester.

A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek.
By H. P. V. NUNN. Cambridge University Press, 1912. 2s. 6d. net.

MR. NUNN has written an unpretentious little book for the help of students, assuming no knowledge of grammar beyond the accident. Indeed the first twenty pages presume that even English grammar is in need of summary restatement as a basis of a reasonable understanding of Greek. The precaution is not at all needless, as many teachers will witness, when Greek enough for the reading of the New Testament has to be acquired after the atmosphere of grammar has become a memory of rather distant schooldays. I am glad to see Mr. Nunn's plea for this late and simple Greek as a desirable first step even for those who intend to pursue their studies into the classical literature. Hellenistic may be found a powerful ally for the endangered study of the Greek language and literature. Mr. Nunn's summary of syntax is simple and accurate, and based on sound teacher's instinct, which makes large use of comparison with English, and Latin in a more limited way. There are not many criticisms of detail to be suggested, and most of them are in the opening pages, before the syntax proper is reached. The example illustrating 'Diphthong' (p. x) will not help an English reader, who can recognise no diphthong in 'Caesar.' The definition of 'Deponent' verbs (p. 7) might be brought up to date; and *πεφύλομαι* (p. 10) guarded with a remark that it is a very limited example of the Future Perfect. In the same table it is hardly accurate to deny Hellenistic the Perfect Continuous. English only has it in periphrastic form, and Greek is not devoid of this. On p. 64 I should greatly question Mark 15²³ as an instance of repeated action in the Imperfect ('kept giving'): *ἐδίδουν* is conative, 'offered.' The Epistolary Aorist (p. 66) is not wholly replaced by our Present: Phil. 2²⁵, Mr. Nunn's example, might as well be rendered 'I thought it necessary to send E.' On p. 76 I notice *οἱ πολλοί* mistranslated 'many.' The misprints *tonitruum* (Acc. Sing.) (p. 88) and *εἰ τί* (p. 115) may be noted. Mr. Nunn is to

be congratulated on a sound and useful little manual.

JAMES HOPE MOULTON.

Didsbury College, Manchester.

Opferbräuche der Griechen. Von PAUL STENGEL. Mit 6 Textabbildungen. Teubner. M. 6; cloth, M. 7.

STENGEL has here included in one volume his scattered papers on Greek ritual. They consist chiefly of short discussions of the meaning of a number of words (the chief are *ιερήιον, πρωτόγονος, τελέεσσα ἐκατόμβη; θυήεις, θύελλα, θύοεις; θυηλαί, θύειν* and *θύεσθαι; ἐπάρξασθαι δεπάεσσιν, ἐντέμνειν, αἵρεσθαι τοὺς βοῦς*) and of certain details in ritual, as libation, the victim's tongue, colour and sex of victims. If they do not always contain original views, they are reasonable and give the evidence. Stengel translates *τελέεσσα ἐκατόμβη* as a sacrifice of full-grown victims; *αἵρεσθαι τοὺς βοῦς* as lifting the body, after the sacrificer had knocked the victim down with a mallet, and holding the head in the proper position. With regard to sex and colour of victims he only says enough to show that these were not always (perhaps not often) fixed. It is a pity no one has fully examined this question, and also what victims can be shown to have been offered to the various gods. Generalisations are often heard, but no one has ever collected the evidence both of literature and the bas-reliefs.

W. H. D. R.

The Plutus of Aristophanes, in English Verse. By LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY. Murray, 1912. 5s.

THE translation adheres very closely to the sense of the original. The style it does not reproduce with equal nicety. A translator has not done his duty well, who renders a few plain words by 'Suppose you, pray, you wrong me not in this?' as though the language were heroic, and, when he comes to *λέγεις μοι χαράν, λέγεις μοι βοάν* gives us the unelevated 'Glorious tidings! I could shout for joy.' The choice and order

of words, management of metre, and other matters leave something to be desired.

H. R.

The Frogs of Aristophanes. Translated into kindred metres by A. D. COPE. Pp. 95. Oxford: Blackwell, 1911. 3s. net.

THE *Frogs* tempts translators, and Mr. Cope has evidently enjoyed his task. He has put it as a rule into simple and natural English, though occasionally the verse seems to me to jolt or the stress to fall on words that are not quite the right ones to bear it. Some of his turns of expression and equivalents for the Greek are happy, and his 'kindred metres' give a very fair idea of the original. I append two short specimens:

416. Let's now unite our wit,
And Archedemus his,
Who'd got no teeth, and joined no guild,
at seven years old.
He's now, up overhead,
Mob-leader of the dead,
And comes out top in everything that's
bad and bold.
717. It has very often struck us that our State
behaves the same
To those citizens of ours who best of all
deserve the name
As to our old-fashioned coinage and the
gold of recent date;
For we've ceased to use the finest coinage
found in any State,
Unalloyed and undebased, and stamped
with dies that none excel
(Such at least is our opinion), ringing clear
as any bell,
Coins that pass among the Greeks and
foreigners where'er they be;
No, instead of these we've got this wretched
copper novelty.

HERBERT RICHARDS.

Griechische Papyri zu Giessen. Band I. Heft 3. Von E. KORNEIMANN und P. M. MEYER. Leipzig and Berlin: Teubner, 1912.

THE first volume of the *Giessen Papyri*, begun two years ago, is concluded by this third part, containing sixty-nine documents—of which the texts of rather more than half are printed in full—and the indispensable indices to the whole volume. As in the preceding parts, a