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J. Wight Duff

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Hellenica will find it here; but those who look for something more must still go to Dakyns.

I think that Mr. Brownson would do better to follow Keller's text more faith-

fully. In disputed passages he sometimes returns to the readings of the MSS., and offers conventional renderings which the Greek words as printed cannot bear.

E. C. MARCHANT.

TWO TRAGEDIES OF SENECA.

L. Annaei Senecae *Thyestes*, *Phaedra*. Recensuit, Praefatus Est, Appendicem Criticam Addidit Humbertus Moricca. Pp. i-xxvi, 1-122. Ex Officina Regia I. B. Paraviae et Soc.: Augustae Taur. 1917. Lire 2.50.

THE aim of the Paravia series, some volumes of which have already been noticed in the *Classical Review*, is to present Italy with a worthy collection of Latin texts revised by competent authorities, under the general editorship of Professor Pascal of the University of Pavia. An incidental aim is to free Italy from the need of having recourse to the foreigner (*ricorrere agli stranieri*), so that one perforce recalls the famous political motto in Italian history of the nineteenth century, '*Italia fara da se.*' It may be said at once that these handy volumes from Turin, each containing a scholarly introduction on the MSS., and a reasonably adequate, though not exhaustive, apparatus, are themselves destined to receive a welcome abroad.

The *Praefatio* to the *Thyestes* and *Phaedra*, besides citing the *testimonia veterum* on the tragedies, and on Seneca as a dramatic writer, describes the classes of MSS. of the tragedies (of which a family-tree is given on p. xix), and summarises the textual principles of previous editors, as well as those of the present editor himself. His own attitude is more catholic and, in general, sounder and freer than Leo's. Signor Moricca agrees that the *Etruscus* (E) is the best authority, but when E is at fault he holds that the kindred MSS. M and N are to be consulted. Thinking more highly of the inferior A class than Leo does, Moricca has very sensibly recorded certain readings from A MSS. which both Leo and Richter have either omitted without good reason

or cited incorrectly. While, however, he thus does fuller justice to the A tradition, it is unfortunate that he has not broken with E far enough to accept such readings as *sericus somnus* for *certior somnus* in *Phaedra* 520, and *rosae* for *comae*, *ib.* 769. I agree with the late Mr. C. E. Stuart's preference for these in C.Q., 1911, pp. 33-35. Similarly, in the reference to the river Tagus, *Thyest.* 355, I believe with him (C.Q. 1912, p. 20) that the MSS. *c* and *p* of the A class certainly remove an error from the usual text of the passage (which is missing in E), inasmuch as they agree with τ (=readings supported by Treveth's commentary) in giving *caro . . . alveo*, not *claro . . . alveo*.

Signor Moricca in his text again and again displays a fidelity to the MSS. which declines to follow the sometimes amusingly arbitrary deletions and transpositions of lines indulged in by Leo. Refusing, for instance, to pull about the text of *Phaedra* 465-480 as Teutonic editors have done, he says wisely: '*Ego autem versus ordine tradito nulli rationi obstare persuasum mihi habui.*' He has the good sense also to eschew Leo's postponement of *et . . . furoris* from *Phaed.* 343 till after 348, which is due to Leo's ignorance of the fact that stags bellow in the rutting season, and his consequent objection to *mugitu* in 343. Nor is the editor caught by every blast of vain emendation: he records but does not accept unnecessary changes like Leo's *ex quibus utrimque* for *ex cuius ortu*, *Ph.* 890, and his *sedesque mutas* for *sedesque mutat*, *ib.* 508 — conjectures which suggest that, though Seneca may not have been a great poet, he was not guilty of all that foreign scholars have ascribed to him. How could *mutas* suit spots resonant with the songs of birds and rustlings of branches?

Printer's errors are few. I have

noticed *espressit*, p. xxii, l. 31; *puchrior*, p. 76 (*Ph.* 743); and *tumit* for *tumuit* in the Appendix Critica, p. 113, on *Ph.* 1,007. In *Ph.* 146, which reads *tantum esse facinus creditis et vacuum metu*, the word *tantum* cannot be seriously pro-

posed, but must be a misprint for *tutum*, the accepted reading, which is not mentioned.

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CICERO'S LETTERS TO ATTICUS.

Cicero's Letters to Atticus. With an English Translation by E. O. WINSTEDT. Vol. III. Loeb Classical Library, Heinemann, 1918. 7s. 6d. net.

WITH this volume—the first dates from 1912—Mr. Winstedt completes the Loeb edition of the *Epistulae ad Atticum*. In arrangement, of course, the book conforms to the familiar scheme. The introduction deals with Cicero's latter days, his manuscripts, and the obligations of his translator, in as much detail as could be reasonably expected within the compass of five and a quarter foolscap octavo pages. The text, 'based as usual on Teubner,' is faced by the version and accompanied by a modest contingent of footnotes, rather a liberal proportion of which turn on the reduction of sesterces to guineas. Then comes a chronological table of the letters, also based on Teubner, together with an *index nominum*, of the sort, unfortunately, in which 'Iunius Brutus (M.), murderer of Caesar,' is followed by fifteen lines of Arabic numerals and by nothing more helpful.

To the professional scholar Mr. Winstedt does not offer much in this edition. Where there is obscurity he is diffident of all but reflected light, and his book contains neither a new conjecture nor a new interpretation; he has been content to give the amateur a sensible and conventional text explained by a sensible and conventional rendering. Some, indeed, of the conventions which are loyally observed might with advantage have gone by the board, though Mr. Winstedt is only one of a highly distinguished company of sinners. He still indulges in those anachronistic jocularities which, as a rule, neither give the meaning of Cicero's Latin—

or Greek — nor recapture its tone. 'Αδόλεσχος (XVI. 11) has to him the connotation of 'gas-bag.' Cicero elsewhere declines to 'kowtow.' At XII. 4, the playful *de Catone πρόβλημα Ἀρχιμήδειον* *est* gives place to 'about Cato, that would puzzle a Philadelphian lawyer'; although at XIII. 28, where Cicero harks back to the phrase and the Philadelphian is not so easily introduced, we descend to the plain and inexact prose of 'an insoluble problem,' which at all events avoids sullyng the page with the name of Archimedes. Apart, however, from the question of anachronism, Mr. Winstedt has, perhaps, a tendency to forget that some epistolographers are men of letters, that Cicero might be informal but could not be amorphous, and that, whatever the precise shades of his familiar style, he would scarcely write to Atticus in the schoolboy *argot* favoured by his translators as a refuge from the Chesterfield manner. This juvenility of diction—it is hard to call it anything else—is not so marked in Mr. Winstedt's last volume as in the other two, but it is still overmuch to the fore. It is traceable in unlicked sentences such as 'I will write fuller and more about politics later, and do you write what you are doing and what is being done' (*plura et πολιτικώτερα postea, et tu quid agas et quid agatur*); in useless negligences such as 'let me know as soon as you know' (scribes *ad me cum scies*); and in idioms such as 'mess about' (*muginari*), 'go silly' (*τετυφώσθαι*), 'act the giddy goat' (*κεκέμφωμαι*), 'is all bunkum' (*totum est σχεδίασμα*), 'that's jolly good news about Buthrotum' (*bene mehercule de Buthroto*). Quest'è quel Marco Tullio?

In general, Mr. Winstedt is unduly cold to the airs and graces of Marcus Tullius, who has a habit of being airy