Ben Jonson's Sad Shepherd, with Waldron's Continuation by W. W. Greg; Ben Jonson's Every Man out of His Humor by W. Bang; W. W. Greg; Ben Jonson's Every Man out of His Humor by W. Bang; W. W. Greg

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presented to us.' This has been a nice problem since the days when Swift wrote, satirically:

When Letters are in vulgar Shapes,
'Tis ten to one the Wit escapes;
But, when in Capitals exprest,
The dullest Reader smoaks the Jest.

The matter should be beyond debate nowadays, especially in editions addressed to scholars. Mr Collins's defence conveys the suspicion that this text is intended for some who have to be convinced of the propriety of printing:

to dye, to sleepe
No more; and by a sleepe, to say we end
The Heart-ake, and the thousand Naturall shockes
That Flesh is heyre too?

The aids offered by Miss Porter and Miss Clarke, as quoted above, would seem to show, too, that they consider that some of their readers are not in a position to appreciate a strict text.

G. GREGORY SMITH.

Ben Jonson's Sad Shepherd, with Waldron's Continuation. Edited by W. W. GREG. (*Materialien zur Kunde des älteren Englischen Dramas*, XI.) Louvain: Uystpruyt, 1905. xxv + 99 pp.

Ben Jonson's Every Man out of his Humor. Reprinted from Holme's Quarto of 1600 by W. BANG and W. W. GREG. (Same Series, XVI.) 1907. viii + 128 pp.

Ben Jonson's Every Man out of his Humor. Reprinted from Linge's Quarto by W. BANG and W. W. GREG. (Same Series, XVII.) 1907. vii + 128 pp.

Professor Bang and Mr Greg are unwearied in their contributions to the study of Jonson's text. Within two years they have produced, in the *Materialien*, no less than five volumes of more than ordinary interest, and they promise others. The first object of the editors is to place in the hands of students of Ben Jonson accurate copies of early or important texts; in some cases, as in those of the Holme and Linge Quartos, it is their only purpose. Occasionally, when critical opportunities arise, as they do in the *Sad Shepherd*, a reasonable amount of prefatory matter and notes is presented with the carefully prepared text.

Since Mr Greg wrote this introduction to the *Sad Shepherd*, he has restated (but not quite so fully) in his *Pastoral Poetry and Pastoral Drama* (1906) his conclusions regarding the text. The chief points in these are that the text, though obviously a fragment of the play which Jonson had planned, has not been mutilated; that the *Sad Shepherd* cannot be identical with the *May Lord* mentioned by Drummond of Hawthornden, though some passages in the one may have been taken from the other; and that, whereas the latter was probably written in

the autumn of 1613, the former must be ascribed to the late thirties, a year or two before the dramatist's death. There is, of course, not a little speculation in the argument which reaches to these conclusions, and these may be found to be wrong, if, as Mr Greg allows, 'some entirely new and unsuspected evidence' comes to light. In the meantime, Mr Greg's statement is at once the fullest and the most reasonable which has been offered on this difficult question. We are glad to see that Mr Greg does not lay much stress on the so-called evidence of the first line of the Prologue,

He that hath feasted you these forty yeares,

though he calls it 'the only piece of direct testimony' to the date of the play. It should be unnecessary to argue against the literal interpretation of 'forty,' or to suggest that "twenty" or "thirty" would suit the line equally well.' Here, as in so many places in sixteenth and seventeenth century literature, the word signifies nothing but a 'large number' or 'many,' and must be taken in an indefinite sense.

The continuation by Waldron (1744—1818), who was associated with Garrick and was something of a playwright, is reprinted for the first time from the edition of 1783. Waldron's work is by no means contemptible, though it lacks the Jonsonian quality, and, as Mr Greg points out, fails occasionally in details in a way which Jonson would not have done.

G. GREGORY SMITH.

Anthony Brewer's The Love-Sick King. Edited from the Quarto of 1655. By A. E. H. SWAEN. (*Materialien zur Kunde des älteren Englischen Dramas*, XVIII.) Louvain: Uystpruyst, 1907. xiv + 64 pp.

Professor Swaen of Groningen gives us not only a careful reprint of Brewer's play, but a valuable introduction to it in English (and excellent English), and notes on it. He points out that little or nothing is known of Brewer and that we have no certain knowledge of the date or place of production of the play. He makes it probable, however, that it was written early in the reign of James I, and he seems inclined to agree with Mr Fleay in thinking that it was probably produced rather at Newcastle than in London. Is it not, however, a little doubtful if Newcastle was a place of sufficient importance at that time to have a play specially written for its behoof, and, supposing this to have been the case, a little improbable that such a play should have secured such a vogue outside its place of origin as to have been printed fifty years later? Is it not likely that there was some prose romance dealing with the story of Thornton, the Newcastle Dick Whittington, and that this was the basis of Brewer's work? In this case it is not necessary to suppose that he had any special local knowledge, or that he wrote his play primarily for a Newcastle audience. The chief point on the other