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Paulus Silentiarius Alessandro Veniero : Paolo Silenziario. Studio sulla letteratura bizantina del vi. sec. 1 vol. 8vo. Pp. viii + 368. Catania: Francesco Battiato, 1916. 5 lire.

S. Gaselee

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269), is not convincing in one detail. He argues that, because Horace speaks elsewhere of his school days and their trials, the person referred to in vv. 5-7 must be Horace himself:

qui multum puer et loris et funibus udis
exoratus (*scil.* est) ut esset opem qui ferre poetis
antiquis posset contra fastidia nostra.

He is thus compelled to make Cato the 'grammaticorum equitum doctissimus.' But although there were many Roman schoolboys who were whipped, there was only one 'grammaticus' who was an 'eques,' Orbilius himself. The pedagogue was probably 'eo immitior quia toleraverat.'

Fifty pages are given to Ennius (twenty-seven of them to his epic, none

to his prose). Our students require no introduction to the Annals. Nothing could be better than Sellar's. But what fine things there are in the Tragedies! Here is a passage that often comes into one's mind at the present time (p. 189):

Ego cum genui, tum moriturum scivi et ei rei
sustuli;
praeterea ad Troiam cum misi ob defendendam
Graeciam,
scibam me in mortiferum bellum, non in epulas
mittere.

Yes, these fragments are not unworthy of playing a part in University education, and we must thank M. Ernout for giving us so handy a manual.

W. M. LINDSAY.

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS.

ALESSANDRO VENIERO: *Paolo Silenziario*. Studio sulla letteratura bizantina del vi. sec. 1 vol. 8vo. Pp. viii + 368. Catania: Francesco Battiato, 1916. 5 lire.

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS has not received the attention he deserved: he kept alive in a late period something of the spirit of the Greek epigram of the golden age, and wrote a poetical description of one of the great monuments of the world which can be neglected neither by the archaeologist nor the architect.

The plan of the present volume is simple. A short life of the poet (we know little about him) is followed by a sketch of the general state of literature in the age of Justinian, with especial reference to the epigrams it produced: then comes a translation of the epigrams of Paulus Silentarius, and after them a commentary. The editor then turns to the Church of St. Sophia: he sketches its history, touches on such descriptions of it as are extant, comes to the one which is the work of the poet he is studying, and estimates its place in the history of Greek verse, and then gives a translation and commentary. Finally, the same proceeding is followed with the less-known poem on the Pythian baths.

The feature of the book most open to criticism is the absence of the Greek text. Its addition would not have swollen the volume by fifty pages, and without it the reader is confronted with the necessity of hunting out the poems up and down the Greek Anthology, which is a large book, and one that is not always ready to hand. The omission makes the book just a trouble, instead of a pleasure, to use: and it is a pity, because it is a good book.

In the short chapter on the life of Paulus, Signor Veniero might, perhaps, have discussed a little more fully the office of the *silentarii*, and it could certainly have been wished that he had spoken at greater length of Agathias, who is the other interesting literary character of the time. Perhaps he destines a separate study for that remarkable, if not always edifying, writer. For his general sketch of the literary condition of Justinian's Byzantium we have little but praise: he has knowledge and, what is better, understanding. His attitude may be appreciated by the quotation of a single wise sentence—'Tale fu questa letteratura bizantina: non fredda ricostruzione di letterati chiusi nel loro studio, ma, come qualunque altra manifestazione letteraria, effetto e genuino prodotto dei

proprii tempi.' It is a sign of the half-educated (you may find traces of it in English and German scholarship alike) to use 'Byzantine' as a term of depreciation: Signor Veniero knows better, and establishes his position by an embracing survey and keen insight.

Of the actual translations of the epigrams, a foreigner must needs find it hard to judge. They seem, by the use of occasional uncommon words and by a rhythm which redeems them from straightforward prose, to make a not unsuccessful attempt to reproduce the general effect of the late epigram, which, however really poetry, has an almost deliberate touch of the artificial about it. The commentary naturally and properly depends largely on that of Jacobs, who is destined to be our master in the exegesis of the Anthology for many generations yet: Signor Veniero's chief additions are his citations from the Latin poets whom he believes—especially in the love epigrams—to have served as constant models to our author. On this point it should be remarked that the passages adduced show very little verbal imitation: Paulus Silentarius may have been steeped in their spirit, but many of his

lines confidently claimed as 'imitations' would have more safely been called reminiscences; the former description cannot be justified by the strict rules of evidence.

The present reviewer is scarcely competent to judge of the treatment of the two descriptive poems; it is possible that the commentary might have contained more archaeological illustration. It must suffice here to say that Signor Veniero has made readable and interesting that part of our author's work which is generally 'skipped' by all but the professional archaeologist: to the ordinary reader they seem dull in contrast with the epigrams; they contain, however, some good material which is too little known, though it can hardly be hoped that they will ever become popular.

The edition as a whole was worth doing; the addition of the Greek text suggested above would have doubled its value. It will have served a better purpose still if it encourages further special studies in the best Byzantine poets and of other periods in the history of Byzantine literature.

S. GASELEE.

THE ROMAN EQUITES IN THE THIRD CENTURY A.D.

The Rise of the Equites in the Third Century of the Roman Empire. By C. W. KEYES. Pp. 54. Princeton University Press and Oxford University Press, 1915.

THIS is a dissertation presented for the degree of Doctor in the University of Princeton. It deals with the notable substitution of Equites for Senators in civil and military offices during the third century. Needless to say, the subject has been handled by many scholars. In the main, the evidence is drawn from inscriptions, many of which are difficult of interpretation. There was little room for novelty, but some for criticism. Mr. Keyes has done his critical work well, but a final decision on a number of points must await the discovery of fresh material.

The process which is studied in this thesis may be described as that of 'mediatising' the Roman Senate, leaving it with an outside husk of dignity while the kernel was being steadily eaten away. It began with the creation by Augustus of high offices to which Senators were not admissible. His distribution of duties between the two orders of Equites and Senators was open to alteration at the will of the monarch. In the first century there were at least three examples of Senatorial provinces being temporarily subjected to equestrian governors. In the second and third centuries, the 'legatus pro praetore' in the imperial provinces was often replaced by an Eques, at first irregularly and in case of emergency, then by regularised imperial nomination. Also Senators were excluded