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The Idylls of Theocritus *The Idylls of Theocritus*. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by R. J. Cholmeley, B.A. New edition, revised and augmented. Bell, 1919. 10s. 6d. net.

W. H. D. R.

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that is partly because the background is itself nowhere defined, and Dickins left no sketch of the tendencies common to the schools he differentiates, of the characteristics, that is, which distinguish Hellenistic art from that of the Classical period. The main difficulty, however, lies deeper. In cosmopolitan ages, such as the Hellenistic was, the boundary lines between local schools become indistinct, and it is to be feared that the lapse of two thousand years has in places blurred them irretrievably. It is, therefore, no small achievement to have provided a framework into which the majority of the more important monuments can be fitted. In detail it is possible that some of Dickins' conclusions will require modification, but his method commands assent, and his main results seem to us secure.

The book is agreeably written, on broad lines; and its usefulness is much increased by the numerous and excellent illustrations which accompany it. It is greatly to be regretted that the author did not live to complete his work; for in spite of its brevity, this sketch is a valuable contribution to the history of a very complex and difficult period.

A. S. F. G.

Manuel des Études grecques et latines.

Par L. LAURAND. Fascicule VI.: Grammaire historique latine. Paris: Auguste Picard, 1918. Fr. 3.50 sewn; fr. 4.50 in boards.

THE present volume contains pp. 623-741 of this handbook, Parts IV. and V. of which were noticed in our issue for November-December last. The characteristics there remarked on are found in this part also: it is severely compressed, but within its limits sound and reliable. Twice as much space is given to syntax as to morphology. The bibliographies contain (not unjustly) but few English names, and of these few only W. M. Lindsay is from this side of the Atlantic. It is noticeable that Livy is repeatedly stigmatised as 'non-classical' or 'post-classical.'

E. E. G.

THE IDYLLS OF THEOCRITUS.

The Idylls of Theocritus. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by R. J. CHOLMELEY, B.A. New edition, revised and augmented. Bell, 1919. 10s. 6d. net.

IN this new edition the original notes seem to have been printed without change; they correspond page for page and line for line, except in one or two instances, so far as I have compared them, and I have not noted any changes in the words. The additions come at the end. No doubt if the author had lived he would have incorporated the new items in their places; but he is one of that large band of men who gave their lives for their country.

The new matter occupies forty-two pages, including the notes on Dialect, which have been largely expanded. In these pages are discussed the various new points that have been raised since the book appeared, and theories or interpretations proposed. The editor rejects Wilamowitz' date for *Id.* XVI.; and in another place he justly finds fault with the same scholar's rash conjectures, which he so often combines with 'discourtesy in argument.' He has himself an ingenious suggestion (p. 381) that Theocritus may have attended the medical lectures of Erasistratus at Cos, which is a model of neatness and of modesty.

Unhappily, the puzzles of the poet remain puzzles still. Mr. Edmunds's conjectures or new interpretations are mentioned, without agreement for the most part. There is a good deal of new and interesting matter relating to folklore and magic, where illustrations might have been found from modern Greece: for the *κατάδεσμος* is universal there as *δέμα*, and much is known about it. A good conjecture is *καθ' ὑπέρθυρον* II. 60. Most of the additions are too minute to summarise; they are drawn from papyri and inscriptions as well as from literature, and have a wide range. The dialect notes are valuable, and the editor's judgment is sound in his estimate of the poet's use of dialect: the poet is eclectic, and must not be forced into absolute consistency with himself.

On the whole, the second edition is a distinct advance on the first.

W. H. D. R.

Flosculi Graeci. By A. B. POYNTON.
Pp. 162. Clarendon Press. 7s.6d. net.

THIS little volume is the best imaginable defence of the claim of Greek to form an essential part of all education. Recently both friends and foes of Greek have indulged in much *ἀδολεσχία* as to whether it should be 'compulsory' or not; quietly and unassumingly Mr. Poynton publishes this little prose chrestomathy, which should be enough to silence all argument, for it is a most striking reminder of the wealth of Greek literature. No other language could show within so few pages such a selection of deservedly immortal pieces as are here gathered together. The selections cover a wide period—from Thucydides to St. Paul—and are beautifully printed, but the paper covers are regrettable, for the scholar would have liked the book in cloth for the pocket. Apart from its charm, which is great, the book has a distinctly useful aim as an aid to the teaching of Greek prose style. For this it is admirably adapted, for in it the pupil can study the different styles of, say, Demosthenes and Isocrates in treating the same subject. And the recommendation, in the preface, of the third speech of Andocides is a word of wisdom for all classical schoolmasters. They will be doubly grateful to Mr. Poynton for the success with which *miscuit utile dulci*.

R. B. A.

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans: A Paraphrase. By ALEX. PALLIS. 9"×6". Pp. 22. The Liverpool Booksellers' Co., 1917.

MR. PALLIS is known to students of the New Testament by his little commentary on the first two Gospels; in which he approaches certain problems of exegesis from the standpoint of modern Greek. It is clear that N.T. Greek is a stage in the progress from the classical to the modern language, and some help in doubtful cases may

well be derived from the latter. Mr. Pallis claims far more than this, but his claim cannot be taken seriously without far more argument than he has yet given.

If the former book is suggestive, so much cannot be said of the present pamphlet, which is a paraphrase in not very happy English of such parts of Romans as appear to the writer likely to be genuine. In accordance with this purely subjective criterion he decides against vi. 14—viii. 39. 'The epistle was probably addressed to the Alexandrians,' he states quite groundlessly. The main purpose of the pamphlet is apparently to introduce some fifty conjectural emendations of the text. However, the textual criticism of the N.T. is a branch of historical science with rules of its own, which Mr. Pallis has not attempted to master.

W. K. LOWTHER CLARKE.

COLOGNE ABBREVIATION SYMBOLS.

Die Abkürzungen in den Kölner Handschriften der Karolingerzeit (Inaugural Dissertation, Bonn). Von HANS FOERSTER. Tübingen: H. Laupp, jr., 1916. Pp. 119. M. 5.

THE reviewer finds this collection of Cologne abbreviations especially interesting, since he has a suspicion that the Plautus minuscule archetype may have come from the Cologne scriptorium, and that the strange inability of the scribes of B, C, D, to decipher correctly the last pages (with the *Truculentus*) of their exemplar may be explained by a feature of some of the older MSS. in the Cologne Cathedral Library. In these the last part has been assigned to an old-fashioned scribe who used cursive letters and ligatures and obsolete abbreviation.

But we have all learned from Professor Clark and others the importance of the Cologne scriptorium. Dr. Foerster has made a very careful and systematic study of about a score of dateable MSS. (from Hildebald's Archbishopric to Hermann's), and his monograph may be commended as a model to those