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BOOK REVIEWS

Collected Literary Essays, Classical and Modern. By A. W. VERRALL, LITT.D., edited by M. A. BAYFIELD, M.A., and J. D. DUFF, M.A., with a Memoir. Pp. cxiv + 292. Cambridge: University Press, 1913. 10s. 6d.

The thirteen essays in this volume, on subjects ranging from Aeschylus and Euripides through Roman and Italian times to Scott and George Meredith, are the stimulating product of an enthusiastic mind and a skilful pen. With Bayfield's memoir, which includes a letter from F. M. Cornford and is followed by Mackail's commemorative address, they constitute an eloquent appreciation of Verrall's brilliant intellectual and social qualities. The humor and kindness, the wit, and the alert mentality that characterized him, his gifts as lecturer and writer, the courage and cheerfulness with which he endured the fifteen years of ill health that preceded his death on June 18, 1912, at the age of sixty-one, are all made as real to us as the pupils and associates who loved him could wish, and the excellent portrait at the beginning of the book becomes indeed a speaking likeness. "To know him well was to love him—and for all that he was. One did not have to make allowances, for there were no contradictions in the character; it was rounded, harmonious, beautiful. The extraordinary subtlety of the mind was united to a nature of rare simplicity, utterly devoid of ostentation and pretense, and without the least tinge of vanity. . . . In such an example we may see how the art of letters can sustain and reinforce the art of living; how commerce with great writers may and does rekindle in their students some corresponding greatness of soul; and how literature is not a region abstract and apart, but a real thing, the image and interpretation of human life."

Verrall's great purpose as a scholar was the recovery of the "ancient and correct estimate of Euripides as a consummate artist." He had scant patience with the customary views of commentators and essayists. All that the dramatist needs is to be correctly understood, he reasoned. When Euripides is charged with being unworthy of a place beside Aeschylus and Sophocles, it is not Euripidean art that is at fault, but the critic. In advancing his views Verrall was so keen, so original, and so daring that Euripidean scholarship was alarmed and offended, rather than convinced. "Splendid Emendax" was the witty *sobriquet* his treatment of the text called forth, and his critical work in general was sometimes spoken of as "brilliant, but wrong-headed." Mr. Bayfield concedes that he occasionally overshot the mark,

but champions his work as a whole. "We British cherish an inborn mistrust of all subtlety of mind and of some forms of originality, and a writer who combines these qualities with what we call 'brilliance' is likely to find his very merits a bar to the ready acceptance of his message. If Verrall had written in France for French scholars, their only hesitation, I fancy, would have been as to which to do first—kiss him on both cheeks or lay wreaths on their copies of Euripides." But "no man has taken up Verrall's gage," he adds, and expresses without reserve "the conviction that before this generation has passed away, Verrall's view of the work of Euripides will be the accepted view, and that mere murmurs of disapproval will cease to command attention."

Whether the reader agrees with this or not, he will gladly acknowledge Verrall's genius for criticism, admire his character, and enjoy the activities of a mind that so thoroughly enjoyed its own activities.

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W. S. Teuffels Geschichte der römischen Literatur. Sechste Auflage unter Mitwirkung von ERICH KLOSTERMANN, RUDOLF LEONHARD, und PAUL WESSNER, neu bearbeitet von WILHELM KROLL und FRANZ SKUTSCH. Dritter Band, Die Literatur von 96 nach Chr. bis zum Ausgange des Altertums. Leipzig und Berlin: Teubner, 1913. Pp. viii+579. M. 10.

The third volume of Teuffel covers the period from Juvenal to Aldhelm and Baeda. The field has been divided among several collaborators. Skutsch, who was to have done the poets, had finished only the earlier ones (Juvenal to Ausonius and the *Querolus*), about 31 pages in all. Kroll has done the profane prose writers and the poets from Claudian on, almost the half of the entire volume. Klostermann revised the Christian writers, Leonhard the jurists, and Wessner the grammarians. The volume has increased from 493 pages (436 in the English edition) to 554 pages, not including the index, which is fuller than in the old edition.

The section numbers of the old edition have been retained; in some instances (e.g., 320, 342, 402) the paragraph consists entirely of cross-references, the authors now being assigned to different periods. The subsection numbers have been retained for the most part; even where the paragraphs have been shifted to other sections or where new paragraphs have been inserted, an effort seems to have been made to disturb the old numbering as little as possible.

The revision has been confined chiefly to the subsections; few changes have been made in the main paragraphs, except in the general introductory