

supplements are a necessity. We may grumble at the necessity, but can only be grateful for the supplement. The compiler has added also a large number of references which do not come under the head of new material, but had escaped his notice before. In this volume are included the word-store of Timotheos, the Tebtunis and Cairo Papyri, Nicoli's collection of Papyri, the third and fourth volumes of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri, with a few others; and use has been made of the third edition of Meistershan, Rutherford's *New Phrynichus*, Thumb's Hellenistic *Griechischen Sprache*, and more fully of Meister's *Griechische Dialekte*. The work is indispensable.

W. H. D. R.

*Cornelii Taciti Historiarum Liber III.*  
 Edited with Introduction, Notes, and Index, by W. C. SUMMERS, M.A. 1904.  
 University Press, Cambridge. Pp. xxii + 160. Price 2s. 6d.

ANOTHER of the small, cheap, and useful instalments of the classic writers for which the Pitt Press Series is honourably noted. Mr. Summers has produced a little edition for which both boys who have to read Book III of the Histories and their masters who wish to complete their reading of that most impressive work will be thankful. The introduction is especially noticeable because of

its bright and distinct sketch of Silver Age Latinity. Short as it is, it yet finds room for clear and telling illustrations from other authors as well as Tacitus, notably from Seneca; and, if the student will take the trouble to work these out, it will be much to his advantage. The other half of the Introduction is a Historical Summary of the events which from B.C. 44 led up to what is told us in this one book by Tacitus. Some of the sequel also is given in a final note: so that the main events are not at all left isolated. The analysis of the history is brief and business-like: but it is surely an oversight to say that Nero was caught in the country-house of one his freedmen and put to death.

The text used is Halm's, with few variations.

The notes are good, but err, if anything, on the side of fewness. There is a handy special note on the army. But, after some experience in teaching the Histories, I am convinced that if more than the mere Latin is to be learned, one of the most useful appendices which could be given to students working for an examination would be a brief and probably a tabular statement of which side each legion fought for in the campaigns of 68-69, and of which emperor or pretender was served by each distinguished officer.

F. T. R.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE IMPERATIVE IN ST. JOHN XX. 17.

IN connexion with the articles in your number for February last on the Greek present imperative let me call attention to St. John xx. 17 where Jesus says to Mary Magdalene μή μου ἄπτον, οὕτω γὰρ ἀναβέβηκα πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. I have long thought that a great deal of mystical interpretation has sprung from misunderstanding the present imperative and comparing ἄπτομαι with θιγγάνω. What Jesus says is 'do not keep

clinging to me, i.e. you need not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my father, i.e. I am still here on earth and the time for ascension is not yet come.' I presume that Mary Magdalene had clung to his dress or feet.

H. J. ROBY.

LANCRIGG, GRASMERE.  
 17 April, 1905.