

NEWS AND COMMENTS

THE Classical Association of Ireland has begun its existence; and Mr. S. H. Butcher's Presidential Address is now before us, together with Rules and List of Members. The address deals with the value of classical study as a 'training in interpretation;' a thing likely to be useful in practical life, besides giving a discriminating power to the mind. There are over two hundred members: may there soon be two thousand!

OUR readers may be interested to know of a journal called the *Classical Weekly*, published in New York. Each number contains eight pages. It is published by the Classical Association for the Middle States and Maryland: to outsiders, one dollar a year.

WE are glad to chronicle the establishment at Adelaide of a Classical Association for South Australia, under the auspices of Professor Darnley Naylor, a contributor to the *Classical Review* and *Quarterly*. The Association has adopted the scheme of Latin pronunciation put out by the *Classical Association*, and an agreement was reached on the reform of Greek pronunciation also. We may hope that it will follow the example of South Africa and affederate to the British Society.

WE regret to see from Bonn the announcement of Franz Bücheler's death. In our next issue we hope to have an obituary notice of him.

ARCHAEOLOGY

MONTHLY RECORD.

AFRICA.

Tunis.—A fragment of a marble inscription was lately discovered which evidently belongs to another fragment found thirteen years ago at the same place. Between the two parts of the slab is a small gap, which M. Gauckler, who publishes the text, has attempted to fill. His reading is:

*Cerne salutiferas s[plendent]i marmore Baias,
qui calidos aestu[s tin]gere quaeris aquis,
hic ubi Vulcano Ne[rine] certat amore,
nec necat unda f[aces, ne] nocet ignis aquis;
gaude operi Gebam[undiac]o; regalis origo
delicis sospes; u[tere cum] populo.*

The verses are compared with many similar pieces in the Anthology, especially the five short poems of Flavius Felix which celebrate the baths built by Thrasamund at Alianae, and the conjectural restorations are based on these. Thus the adjective *Gebamundiacus* is modelled on *Thrasamundiacus* of Felix, and is also supported by the fact that a Vandal prince Gibamund is mentioned by Procopius as having taken a prominent part in the battle of Ad Decimum. This person may actually have been the founder of the baths. The inscription is a fine example of sixth century epigraphy.¹

El-Haouria.—A mosaic pavement, which came to light last year in a Roman house, contains an interesting representation of the contest between Athena and Poseidon for the dominion of Attica. The god and goddess stand one on either side of a Victory, whose identity is marked by wings and a palm-branch. She is seated at a table and is in the act of drawing from an urn the votes which have been cast by the judges; but who these were, the twelve gods, or the royal family, or the people of Attica, there is no means of deciding. Every record of this myth is valuable, in the possibility that it may throw light upon the interpretation of the figures from the West Pediment of the Parthenon. This version occurs in a marble relief which was found at Aphrodisias in Caria and is now at Smyrna (C. Robert in *Athenische Mittheilungen*, 1882), but the artist of the mosaic has changed many details of the prototype. Thus Athena's olive tree, owl, snake and shield are omitted; Poseidon's trident has become a staff, and the rock, from which the spring was drawn, has vanished, though the foot which rested on the rock is still raised. Yet the general similarity of the two is so remarkable as to set it beyond doubt that there is a direct connection between them.¹

The British Museum.

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¹ *Comptes Rendus de l'Acad. des Inscr.*, Décembre, 1907.