

The Classical Review

FEBRUARY—MARCH, 1922

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

IN the September number we recorded with deep regret the death of Dr. Warde Fowler, which was a personal loss to nearly every Latin scholar in this country, and was so felt by the wide circle of students who had learnt from his writings something of his gracious personality. The conditions which sternly limit the size of this *Review* still forbid us to publish a biography worthy of his work and influence. Sympathetic notices will be found in *The Times* and in the *Manchester Guardian* of June 16, 1921. But some further acknowledgment should be made in this *Review* of the service which he rendered to Classical scholarship, and we print a few lines written at our request by his friend, Professor R. S. Conway, who was closely associated with much of his later work:

In the wide field of modern Classical study at home and abroad Warde Fowler's contribution was characteristic and unique. Other scholars have studied minutely the monuments and traditions of early Italy and Greece, and have provided a mass of information on the history of religious and political institutions. Following the same impulse, Warde Fowler devoted many years to studying the *City State of the Greeks and Romans* (1893), and the details of the *Roman Festivals of the Republican Period* (1899), a book which had much in common with the work of Mommsen at its best. But in Warde Fowler, the born naturalist and lover of humanity inspired and completed the learning of the scholar, and carried him beyond the details of research to a task in which Mommsen's genius had conspicuously failed; and he thus produced what will be more and more acknowledged as the greatest historical synthesis made in our time. Three original and striking books—*Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero* (1908), *The Religious Experience of the Roman People* (1911), and *Roman Ideas of Deity* (1914)—created for the first time in the history of scholarship a convincing picture of the social and ethical growth of the people of Rome. For them he vindicated once for all the possession of a native and sincere religion, in no mean sense of that long-suffering word. However familiar the incident or the institution which he handled (though he handled also a multitude of discoveries), his treatment was always fresh. He looked at what the Romans did, and he taught us to look, from the inside of the Roman mind. His

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synthesis, therefore, was also a profound interpretation; and it was not surprising that the aftermath of his harvest should take the form of three or four volumes of penetrating and genial comment on his favourite Latin poet. *Virgil's Gathering of the Clans* (1916), *Aeneas at the Site of Rome* (1917), *The Death of Turnus* (1919), not to mention his share in a small volume (1907) on the problem of *Virgil's Messianic Eclogue* (in 1907), brought a note of simple and unaffected poetic appreciation into the too conventional world of Virgilian scholarship; and these books, with his collection of *Roman Essays and Interpretations* (1920), and his last paper (also in 1920¹) on the *Imagination of the Romans*, made a natural close to the chief work of his life, a clear-sighted but loving study of the contribution of ancient Rome to the growth of humanity.

The Annual General Meeting of the Classical Association was held at the City of London School from Thursday, January 5, to Saturday, the 7th. Lord Milner's presidential address was felicitous in expression and lofty in tone. A vote of thanks to him was moved by Mr. Asquith, the most distinguished living *alumnus* of the City of London School, and seconded by Lord Chalmers, also a former pupil of the school under Dr. Abbott. The object-lesson was impressive. Here were three distinguished public servants who not only acknowledged the debt they themselves owed to a classical education, but in these days, in which it is so much decried, emphasised its value in the rebuilding of civilisation after the shock of the war, and the indestructible vitality of the legacy of Greece and Rome.

The archaeological side of classical studies was emphasised by two lecturers. Professor Droop lectured on the Roman Forum; and Professor Théodore Reinach, of Paris, ingeniously argued that the famous 'Sophocles' of the Lateran was really a copy of a statue to Solon erected in Salamis, and the work of Cephisodotus, the father (or the elder

¹ It formed his Presidential Address to the Classical Association at Newcastle (*C. A. Proceedings*, XVII., 1920).

brother) of Praxiteles. Most interesting papers were read by Professor Platt, who argued that the primitive childlike element was more conspicuous in the form of Greek Tragedy than is usually allowed; by Mr. Cyril Bailey, who did full justice to the loftiness of Lucretius' religion; and by Mr. Norman Baynes on the teaching of Roman history. The resolutions arising out of the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Committee are printed elsewhere in this number of the *Review*.

The Association will meet at Bristol in April, 1923, when Dr. Mackail will deliver the Presidential Address.

We desire to associate ourselves with the congratulations and good wishes which are being offered to Professor Gildersleeve on his ninetieth birthday.

It may be remembered that in our last number we printed an appeal from

Dr. Sonnenschein for subscriptions for the relief of Classical teachers in German and Austrian Universities. Just after going to press we received a report and a letter, signed by Lord Bryce, Sir F. Kenyon, and other well-known scholars, on behalf of the Universities' Committee of the Imperial War Relief Fund, pointing out the urgent need for help in the Universities, particularly of Austria and Russia:

The average Viennese professor, with wife and children, draws but the equivalent of £40 to £60 per year to maintain himself and his family. From the Armistice to the end of last year—*i.e.*, 1920—one-tenth of the professors and lecturers of Austria died, largely as a result of want, starvation, and consequent disease.

Cheques should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Universities' Committee, and sent to the Organising Secretary, Miss Eleonora Iredale, at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, E.C. 4.

SAPPHO'S ODE TO APHRODITE.

RAINBOW-THRONEÐ daughter of Zeus,
immortal
Aphrodite, mighty enchantress, hear
me;
Break not, gracious Lady, my heart
with cruel
Scorn and derision.

Nay but haste thee hither, as once
aforetime
Prayer of mine thou heardest afar and
hearing
Straight thy Father's golden abode
forsaking
Hither thou camest

In thy wingèd chariot. Lovely sparrows
Through the vault of heaven with
whirring pinions
Bore thee fleeting over the earth's dark
furrows
Eagerly onward.

And right swiftly did they arrive beside
me;
Then my Lady's lips in a smile immortal

Bade me tell what pitiful wrongs betide
me,

Wherefore I call her;

Saying 'Tell the burden of all thy
sorrows,
Poor distracted bosom, and all thou
cravest.

Who defies my majesty? Who, my
Sappho,

Doth thee dishonour?

One who flees shall verily turn pursuer;
One who spurneth gifts shall be fain to
give them;
One who loves not, verily soon shall love
thee

Even unwilling.'

Haste thee now once more to my sorrow-
laden

Soul, thou sweet ally of the broken-
hearted;

All the heart's desire of a love-lorn
maiden

Goddess accomplish.

ALEXANDER W. LAWRENCE.