

what most readers of Aristophanes want. Dr. Merry also published *Selected Fragments of Roman Poetry* in 1891.

He was a good editor; but he was an ideal Public Orator. No one could be better equipped for the position. He was an effective public speaker; he had a fine presence, a lively humour, and a rich vocabulary of Latin. At Oxford, the Creweian Oration—dealing with the events of the academic year—is delivered at alternate Encaenia by the Public Orator and the Professor of Poetry. The Rector's Creweian Orations were always popular. They managed to combine the dignity proper to an academic exercise, with direct and unfailingly successful appeals to the gallery. Dr. Merry could turn the diction of Cicero to the topics of the day in such a way as to make it somehow quite intelligible to undergraduates who had little Latin, and ladies who had none. These orations have been collected and published. They are always entertaining, and very useful contributions to the history of the University. Learning and the amenities of scholarship suffer by the Rector's death.

#### MRS. SELLAR.

THE death of Mrs. Sellar, in a great and beautiful old age, took place on February 9 last, at the house which had been her home for more than half a century, and had during all that time been a meeting-place for the many classical scholars who had the privilege of her friendship. It should not pass unnoticed in a journal dedicated to the

support and study of the classics. No scholar herself—her own incursions into the classical languages were chiefly in the direction of making Latin puns—she had lived among scholars from her youth, and gave more than she received in that intercourse. For the survivors of many generations of Sellar's pupils, first at St. Andrews and then at Edinburgh, her memory is an undimmed brightness. Nor is it less precious among the dwindling remnants of the Oxford friends of long ago. The brilliant group of her husband's contemporaries has ceased to exist; but from them onward, a perpetual succession of younger scholars found a welcome in her home and a place in her heart. Her death removes almost the last link between the present generation and that mid-Victorian age in which, with all its defects or limitations, humane letters were a potent influence, and simplicity and purity of living were combined with high ideals. The scholars of that age took their rank less from profound investigation or original research than from elevation of character and distinction of personality. She stands beside them, as she lived among them, in virtue of qualities of her own no less remarkable than, in their conjunction, they are rare: ceaseless kindness and pungent wit, tender sympathy and unconquerable gaiety. She seemed, almost until the end, endowed with immortal youth.

*Ὀκτῶ ἐπ' ὀγδῶκοντα βιώσας' ἐξετέλεσεν  
δλβια σὺν μούσαις καὶ χαρίτεσσιν ἔτη·  
τοὺς ποτ' ἔθελε νέους ἐπι γηράσκοντας ἔτερπε,  
νῦν δ' ἤβην αὐτῆ σώζει ὑποχθόνιος.*

J. W. MACKAIL.

## QUERIES

DODWELL, in his *Tour through Greece*, i. 36, mentions a tradition that Colchians settled in Corcyra in 1349 B.C. He quotes no authority. Is there any?

Were the Colchians and Minoans kin? According to Herodotus the former were of Egyptian extraction, and it is said there was in the Egyptians, as in the Minoans, an Armenoid strain. The Colchians also were no doubt Armenoid.

The most likely settlers from the East in Corcyra in late Minoan days

would be Minoans. Could they have been converted into Colchians through the influence of the Argonaut saga?

Mure's view that the Phaeacians were a real people is correct. He believed they were a colony of Φοίνικες, and Φοίνικες are to modern archaeologists the Minoans. Phaeacia is not in fairyland, nor is it the lost Atlantis. It is Corcyra, and Scheria is a Minoan settlement there. The proof will be published in detail.

A. SHEWAN.

*St. Andrews, March 13, 1918.*