

type of cactus on p. 75 is not really an American importation since 1492.

While these criticisms do call attention to flaws in the work, these volumes have a real value and will fulfil a service by their insistence on the beauty of so much Greek work, and the excellence of its technical achievement.

*Musa Feriata*. By FRANCIS PEMBER. Clarendon Press, 1931. Pp. iv+112. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d.

We congratulate the Warden of All Souls upon his *Musa Feriata*, the fruits of his musings, as he tells us, 'in vacation or other leisure times; on hill-sides, even on railway journeys'. The choice of passages for translation into Latin and Greek is of itself an index to a fine mind, and Dr. Pember is lucky not only in his power of detachment but also in the calmness and clearness of that sea of thought in which he voyages alone. Scholarship like this is perhaps rather born than achieved, but it is a wealth of which no Chancellor can rob us, a gold standard we can never go off. His versions show not only a mastery of Greek and Latin but, what is essential to translation, a living insight into the English meaning and a spiritual sympathy with the original. Even this currency cannot be inflated without losing its value, and, if we were to indicate a dislike, we should bashfully suggest that the Lucretian mannerisms are spread a little too thick, and that he has dipped, generally, into too archaic a mint. But we must honestly confess that this criticism is largely born of envy and that as we dip into his charming volume we are like little urchins, flattening our noses wistfully against the rich window of his scholarly equipment. We hope he will take care of himself at Carfax and other our infernal *compita* where an affronted Trivia broods: before he has given us more fruit we grudge him to the shade of George Dyer.

*Roman Britain: the Objects of Trade*. By LOUIS C. WEST, LITT.D. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1931. Pp. 108. 5s.

This volume represents the result of intensive search among the literature which has grown up round Roman Britain and has been until recently buried in the records of local societies, in the many volumes of *Archaeologia* and in the Victoria County Histories. To all of these, and many others, Dr. West makes reference in his lists of objects found—these range from forest products and drugs through precious stones, animals, mines, metals, potteries, textiles to imported objects—and each individual discovery is tabulated with place and authority.

Thus 'window-glass' has forty-two entries, each with its provenance and reference; each section is preceded by a few general remarks. The book, therefore, can hardly claim to be a work of literary interest, but as one of reference it may prove extremely useful, for hardly anything can have escaped the eagle eye of its compiler. Some of the references to other books are rather cryptic, and the efforts of Dr. West might well have been completed by a bibliography which would indicate the date of the books to which he refers. In the historical introduction one might question the form 'Ordovici', or the statement that Roman rule under Agricola advanced to the line between 'the Firths of Forth and Tay', and ask whether the revolts of A.D. 115 or 181 do not represent protests against the language and customs of the Romans.

*The Transition from the late Latin Lyric to the medieval Love Poem.* By STEPHEN GASELEE. Cambridge: Bowes and Bowes, 1931. Pp. 34. 2s. 6d. net.

The object of these extremely interesting lectures is to trace the descent of the early medieval Latin love-lyric. In Mr. Gaselee's own words, 'they derive their *form* from the Christian hymn (itself founded on the late Latin lyric, touched by eastern influence) . . . and their *substance* from the Song of Songs and the nature-lyrics of the vernaculars, Ovid supervening later on'. The reader will find some pleasantly written information about such fascinating personalities as Sidonius Apollinaris and Venantius Fortunatus, about that queer disease of the Latin language, the *Hisperica Famina*, and about early Christian hymns, with charming specimens of some of the best Latin lyrics outside Catullus. The price is unfortunately rather high.

*The Odes of Horace in English Verse.* Latin text with Translations by various hands, chosen by H. E. BUTLER. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 1931. 7s. 6d. net.

In this volume, which is beautifully printed and produced, Professor Butler has given on opposite pages the Latin text and the best verse translation he could find of each ode. The result is a book which may be warmly recommended to every lover of Horace. Professor Butler has cast his net wide. His translators range from Ben Jonson to Sir William Watson, and their styles are as varied as their dates. We turn from Dryden's generous paraphrase of 'Tyrrhena regum progenies' to Calverley's charming version of 'O fons Bandusiae' with its economy of phrase and close correspondence with the Latin. Both these are masterpieces of their kind. Our quarrel with some of the translators