NOTES AND NEWS

PROF. POSTGATE has attacked the *idola fori* in one of their chiefest shrines. His inaugural lecture as Professor at Liverpool University is an examination of Dead Language and Dead Languages (Murray, 1s.). He draws a distinction between dead languages and languages of the dead, and aptly compares the increasing value of a Rembrandt or a Gainsborough. Latin in particular is capable of expressing any thought that we may wish to express, apart from technicalities or modern inventions. As regards the last, he makes a palpable hit by reminding an objector that the very motor takes its name from Latin, and telephone from Greek. He is able to find good reasons why practical men should learn Latin. He then carries the war into the enemy's country, and points out that much of English is dead. A few spirited translations from Latin authors show how modern and ancient life touch together.

Many thoughts are suggested by this lecture. Prof. Postgate can do without our old friend Mental Gymnastic; he has his uses, but man does not live by gymnastics alone. The lecture should be reassuring for those who (like the author of certain pages in the pamphlet on German Reform - Gymnasien) shrink from the idea of using Latin to express the thoughts and experiences of daily life. We may remember that Greek is also a living language, which has shown itself able to name even modern inventions without going outside its own vocabulary. An uneducated peasant who sees a camera for the first time understands without telling what you mean by φωτογραφία : if he does not know how the light inscribes, neither do you.

Just in this nick of time comes a Latin newspaper to the Review. The *Scriptor Latinus* (Lüstenöder, Frankfurt a. M.) appears to be in its ninth year; it contains a Westminster prologue and epilogue, an essay *De Docendi Hilaritate*, an *Oratiuncula*, an Alcaic Ode on *Zeppelin* (whose author does not quite see eye to eye with Horace in the varieties of metre), *Lacrima Matris* in hexameters, merry dialogues on games, correspondence, and news. Commencing Latinists may find a market here for their wares, at the rate of 36 M. per sheet. We have already mentioned in these pages the Italian *Vox Urbis* (*C.R.* xxiii. 28) ; and reference may also be made to *C.R.* xii. 430. We venture to suggest that MCMX is not the way to print 1910 in Latin notation.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE CLASSICAL REVIEW.

SIR,—May I ask you to allow me to disclaim an opinion ascribed to me in the CLASSICAL REVIEW of May, 1910? Mr. Richards in his review of Mr. Bywater's *Poetics* says : 'I am glad that Mr. Bywater does not believe in Aristotle's meaning to say or to imply in chap. i. that poetry can be written in prose, as Mr. Butcher rather strangely thinks.' In my remarks on that difficult passage (Ed. 1907, pp. 142-7) I observe : 'The obvious suggestion is that the meaning of the word "poet" should be widened so as to include any writer, either in prose or verse, whose work is an "imitation" within the aesthetic meaning of the term. . . . But as regards the *Art* of Poetry his reasoning does not lead us to conclude that he would have reckoned the authors of prose dialogues or romances among poets strictly so called. As Mr. Courthope truly says, "he does not attempt to prove that metre is not a necessary accompaniment of the higher conceptions of poetry," and he "therefore cannot be ranged with those who support that extreme opinion."' I then proceed : 'Still there would appear to be some want of firmness in the position he takes up as the place and importance of metre'; and I give reasons for thinking that Aristotle underrated the power of musical sound as a factor in poetry.

S. H. BUTCHER.

'DUPLICATION' IN *CLASSICAL REVIEWS*.

To the Editor of THE CLASSICAL REVIEW.

SIR,—In the Report (just published) of the Annual Meeting of the Classical Association on January 10 (at which I was unable to be present), Dr. Sandys is reported to have said in the discussion on *The Classical Quarterly* and *The Classical Review* (p. 32) : 'The fact of having two journals