

to line 311 where the beacon light is called οὐκ ἄπαππον Ἰδαίου πυρός,—throughout, the keynote of the whole description is, that the news comes from Ida. In the tale of the beacons the Idaean holds the preeminence, τὸν ἅπαντα νικᾷ λόγον: and while it is in

one sense the first, but locally from the speaker's point of view the last, there is full justification for the verbal conceit of a race where the winner is one who is last.

A. D. GODLEY.

NOTES

AMARACUS.

LIDDELL AND SCOTT have s.v. σάμψυχον 'foreign name of amaracus or marjoram,' s.v. ἀμάρακον they have 'The Greek species was probably a bulbous plant: the foreign answers to our marjoram, strictly σάμψυχον.' Like many other statements regarding natural history in our great national Greek Lexikon, these are unsatisfactory. The facts are that σάμψυχον is the modern Greek name of marjoram, and μαράκος is the modern Greek

name of *Chrysanthemum Frutescens*. I owe my knowledge of the identity of μαράκος and *Chrysanthemum Frutescens* (*Étoile d'or*) to the kindness of the editor of *Gardening Illustrated*, who replied to my query on the subject. The plant is very common in Asia Minor, and the tender stalks boiled are excellent.

W. R. PATON.

Calymnos.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

THE editors who crowd the pages of critical texts of Latin poets with irrelevant *testimonia* may learn much from a 'Festschrift' just published by Professor Hosius (Greifswald, F. W. Kunike) and entitled 'De Imitatione Scriptorum Romanorum imprimis Lucani.' The learned Latinist shows by argument and copious illustration the limits within which it is safe to assert or to deny the imitation of one writer by another. Coincidences may be purely fortuitous, as where the same thought or expression has occurred to two writers independently: his first example is Bismarck's phrase *Wir Deutsche fürchten Gott aber sonst nichts in der Welt*, which is not borrowed 'ab Arndtii versu' (Lieder für Teutsche 1813) *Sie* (sc. *die alten Teutsche*) *fürchteten Gott und nichts weiter*, but Bismarck 'ex ingenio hausit quod rei tempore accommodatum putabat.' They may

also be purely metrical: verse-tags like *Bellona flagello, nubila caeli*, etc. at the end or *di melius, felix qui potuit* etc. at the beginning of a verse. Again apparent imitation may really be due to community of source. Thus Lucan, 1. 246, is less likely to have been borrowing from Ovid *Met.* 7. 115 and 3.40 than both authors from Virgil *Aen.* 7. 446. At the end of the pamphlet, Dr. Hosius prints the first 182 lines of Lucan with an impressive assemblage of parallels.

Most of our readers, we hope, will have already acquainted themselves with the contents of the first number of the sister periodical—the *Classical Quarterly*; but for the benefit of those who have not, we give a brief account of it. There are ten original articles of varying length, the longest being the first instalment of a paper by Mr.

Housman in which Lucilius and his last editor (F. Marx) are handled with the writer's usual vigour. Mr. A. W. Hodgman begins a series of studies of Verb Forms in Plautus, which will be as indispensable to Plautine students as his previous contributions on Plautine Grammar to the *Classical Review*. Dr. A. N. Jannaris throws new light on the use of the Digamma the Koppa and the Sampi as numerals in Greek, and Mr. H. D. Naylor on the lengthening of short vowels before a mute and a liquid in Greek tragedy. Mr. H. Richards contributes some emendations of certain of the Greek comic fragments and of a papyrus fragment of sayings attributed to Simonides. Mr. E. W. Fay writes on the etymology of a number of Greek and Latin words, Mr. H. I. Bell publishes a fragment of the astronomer poet Aratus from a Br. Mus. papyrus, and Mr. Winstedt discusses the meaning of the Mavortian subscription in the old Putean MS. of Prudentius. The last article consists of notes by the Editor on the eighth book of Lucan. There are two reviews: of Mr. Garrod's *Thebaid and Achilleid of Statius* by Mr.

Souter and of Renkema's *Studies on Valerius Flaccus*. The Summaries of Periodicals, a feature which the *Quarterly* has taken over from the *Classical Review*, occupy eight pages of small type and include archaeological and numismatic as well as 'general' summaries.

A Memorial Volume is being prepared by professors of Columbia University, to contain the scattered papers and unpublished notes of the late Mortimer Lamson Earle, with a biographical sketch. Mrs. Earle (462 West Twenty-Second Street, New York City) would be grateful, if scholars or other friends who may have preserved letters from Mr. Earle would lend them to her for use in the book. The letters will be carefully kept and returned to the owners.

Thucydides Mythistoricus is an arresting title; and by style and contents Mr. F. M. Cornford's remarkable study on the great historian is certain to interest a wide circle of readers. If his conclusions are accepted, current notions of the credibility of ancient history will be considerably modified.

REVIEWS

ERASMUS.

Opus Epistolarum Des. Erasmi Roterodami denuo recognitum et auctum per P. S. ALLEN, M.A., e Coll. Corporis Christi. Tom. I. 1484-1514. 9½" × 5¾". Pp. xxiv + 616. Oxonii in Typographeo Clarendoniano. MCMVI. 18s. net.

THE recent increase of interest in the life and works of Erasmus shows no sign of abatement. Quite apart from the continent, where much striking work has been done or begun, English and American study of the Dutch humanist is attested by the publication, within the last few years, of such books as Woodward's *Erasmus concerning Education* and the same author's *Education during the Renaissance*, Emerton's *Desiderius*

Erasmus, and Nichols' *Epistles of Erasmus*. And now we have the first instalment of a new and elaborate edition of the correspondence of Erasmus in the original text: an edition which, if continued on its present scale, will extend to five or six volumes.

The first volume of Mr. Allen's work covers the thirty years from 1484 to 1514, and contains some 300 letters. A large number of these are not found in the Leyden edition of two centuries ago; and a few are now published for the first time. Not the least difficult part of the present editor's task has been the arrangement of the letters in a truer chronological order than that of Leclerc. The attempt is as important as it is difficult. No satisfactory life