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CHRISTIAN JAMES FORDYCE 1901–1974

THE *Classical Review* regrets to record the death of Professor C. J. Fordyce, who had been joint Editor since 1935. He was born at Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire (cf. his characteristic footnote at Catullus 3. 18 on the diminutives of Northern Scots). He was educated at the University of Glasgow, which he entered at the unusually early age of fifteen, and at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was a Snell Exhibitioner; Fellows of Balliol can testify to his continuing interest in the selection of his successors. After a short period as Lecturer at St. Andrews and Edinburgh, he returned to Oxford as a Fellow of Jesus College (1927–34). He was Professor of Humanity at the University of Glasgow from 1934 to 1971; though some of his students found his silences unnerving, much could be learned from his lectures about the tone of words in both Latin and English. He played a dominant part in the administration of the University, and was Clerk of Senate from 1940 to his retirement.

Because of these wider preoccupations his personal contribution to Latin studies was less than might have been predicted. It was not until 1961 that he published his long-awaited commentary on Catullus, though much of the thinking must have belonged to an earlier period. The book received few adequate reviews, and critics tended to fasten on the omissions. In fact within its chosen limits it has great merit; Fordyce had a logical mind and an acute ear, and he could draft a note clearly and economically. Above all, he knew Latin.

Among his other activities he continued to pay meticulous attention to his editorial duties. So prolonged an *imperium* can be justified for only one reason: he had made himself indispensable. He brought to his work a mastery of detail and a fondness for routine that could be seen also in his mysterious enthusiasm for railway tickets and timetables. The readers of the *Classical Review* over the last thirty-nine years have owed much to his judgement and pertinacity.

THE LANGUAGE OF HOMER

G. P. SHIPP: *Studies in the Language of Homer*. Second Edition. Pp. 378. Cambridge: University Press, 1972. Cloth, £7.

*STUDIES*¹ (Cambridge, 1953) was a slender volume of 150 pages and a genuine miscellany. Topics treated included the termination *-phi*, contraction, apocope of prepositions, and the perfect participle active, but two chapters, more than