

## OBITUARY

## PROFESSOR JOHN WILLIAMS WHITE.

PROFESSOR JOHN WILLIAMS WHITE of Harvard was known in this country not merely through his books; he was frequently in Europe, and both in England and in Italy his genial humour and his enthusiasm for exact scholarship had won him many friends, especially, perhaps, among Cambridge men. In the closing years of his life he undertook service of the most generous kind to the *Classical Quarterly* while it was edited by Dr. Postgate, and subsequently to the Classical Journals Board. When the Journals became the property of the Board, new arrangements were necessary with Messrs. Ginn and Co. for the American sale; and it is hardly too much to say that the system which was adopted after considerable thought and correspondence, and which appears to have given complete satisfaction both to American readers of the Journals and to our American publishers, could not have been developed without the patient and quite devoted help of Professor White, who gave continued attention to the practical problems involved for some three years. Readers of the Journals will be glad to add this to the other debts of gratitude which they owe to a personality of singular power and charm.

Professor Williams White's main work in scholarship was on Aristophanes, and his contributions to the criticism of this author include minute study of the manuscripts, the text, the scholia, and the metres.

He was largely responsible for the production of the facsimile of the *Codex Venetus Marcianus* 474, which was published in 1902 by authority of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and of the Archaeological Institute of America, of which he was then President. At the time there was some doubt as to whether it would not be more immediately useful to reproduce the older, more famous and, from the point of view of the palaeographer, the more interesting *Codex of Ravenna*. It was felt however by many, who were

warmly supported by White, that the Ravennas was certain sooner or later to be included in Sijthoff's great series of facsimiles; and that the collations of the Ravennas were of good quality, especially the collation of the scholia made by Hans Graeven for Rutherford's edition published in 1896. The *Venetus*, while acknowledged to be a document of high authority, was imperfectly known; Von Velsen's collations were only available for the text of the few plays which he had published, and the current text of its important scholia was most untrustworthy. It is no reproach to the earlier collators to say this. For the *Venetus* is a hurried and mechanical transcript of an older book and is difficult to decipher, especially in the scholia, owing to the mass of ligatures and compendia which the scribe employs. No eye could stand the strain of continuous collation. A typical instance of what could happen can be seen in *Plutus* 1016, where the old reading of the scholion *ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ διαγράφεται* can now be correctly read as *ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τῆς γραῶς δηλονότι*.

The expectation that the Ravennas would be reproduced by Sijthoff proved to be well founded, and since 1904 students of Aristophanes have been able to consult at their leisure the two main authorities for the text, and are now freed from the constant uncertainty which beset editors before that date. In 1903 White himself began a transcript of the Venetian scholia on the *Aves*, which he published in 1914. It is a work of the highest value, well fitted to serve as an introduction to the study of the tradition of classical texts and of the methods and terminology of scholiasts. White no doubt intended that it should serve this purpose. For his elaborate and accurately executed scheme of literal transcript, emended text, minute collations of other manuscripts, together with explanatory notes, could hardly require to be extended to the scholia of all the plays.

While engaged on this elaborate work

he found time to compile his Catalogue of the Manuscripts of Aristophanes, which he published in 1906 in a series of articles in *Classical Philology*. This presents an accurate census of the two hundred and forty (or more) MSS. of Aristophanes, and contains a discussion of the critical use of the MSS. and of the sigla employed to designate them. It is a most valuable piece of work, and is indispensable to any one working on the text of Aristophanes. He also found time to write his work on *The Verse of Greek Comedy*, which appeared in 1902. This is more than its title implies. It is really an exhaustive treatise on Greek metre in general, since most Greek metres are illustrated in Aristophanes. The book deals with the origins and laws of metre, making full use of the comparison with the metres of the Veda and the Avesta, and summarises and at the same time advances the recent theories on this most important and most difficult subject. When we consider the vigour and the enthusiasm for research which he maintained unabated long after he had retired from his active work as a teacher we cannot but regard it as a happy omen for the future of classical scholarship in America. The valuable work on Greek Comedy done by his colleagues and pupils, such as Professor Capps and Dr. Cary, shows that his influence is not likely to be soon forgotten.

#### A. E. CODD.

By the early death, at the age of thirty-five, of Professor Alfred Emlyn Codd, M.A., classical study has been robbed of a promising investigator and eloquent defender; and classical teaching in Canada—indeed, in the Empire—has suffered a serious loss.

Professor Codd was a pupil of the late Mr. James Waugh at the Higher Grade School, Cardiff, where he passed to the University College of South Wales, taking his degree with First Class Honours in Latin in 1903, and

after two years as Assistant to Professor R. M. Burrows in the Greek department, he obtained an Open scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford, where, if it may be allowed to record it, he was a favourite pupil of Dr. Warde Fowler. He was placed in the First Class of Classical Moderations and the Second Class of *Literae Humaniores*, and was then appointed classical lecturer in University College, Aberystwith, passing to the University of Manchester as a Senior Assistant lecturer in 1911, and from thence to the Chair of Latin in Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, on Professor Anderson's appointment to the Chair of Imperial Latin at Manchester.

Mr. Codd was thus known in five different colleges, and everywhere left the same impression of a deeply sincere and unselfish nature, devoted to his work, and, when his teaching began, to the good of his pupils.

His four years in Canada were sadly broken by the approach of the malady, to which, after a long struggle, he succumbed on October 5. But he had been long enough at work to win the warmest confidence of his colleagues and pupils, whose admiration and regret have been publicly expressed by the Principal of the University.

Mr. Codd's contribution to classical study is represented, in print, only by a brief Vergilian note in this Review, Vol. XXXI. (1917), p. 22, but he had for many years made a study of the Roman occupation of Great Britain, especially with a view to forming some picture of its religious side. His collection of material was not far advanced when his last illness began.

He will be mourned by all who knew him, not least by those who have had the privilege of knowing how rich a contribution his generous nature was making to the humane interpretation of the great ancient poetry, especially that of Vergil, which he supremely loved.

R. S. C.

Manchester,  
November, 1917.