

The Classical Review

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THE REFORM OF LATIN PRONUNCIATION.

A LONG delayed and much needed reform seems at last on the way to be realised. Within the space of about a year five different bodies have been moved in the question. The answers to a circular issued to the members of the Cambridge Classical Society last Michaelmas Term showed that nearly ninety per cent. of the answers were in favour of reform. At the meeting of the Classical Association of England and Wales in January last a motion for the appointment of a Committee was passed with but one dissentient voice; and this committee has been actively engaged in formulating a scheme of a character calculated to secure general acceptance. A little earlier, at the end of November, Professor Hardie broached the subject before the Classical Association of Scotland and a Committee appointed on March 11th at Aberdeen prepared a scheme which was submitted to the meeting at Glasgow on Nov. 25th at which Professor Butcher presided. After a discussion in which Dr. Heard, Mr. Hyslop, Mr. George Smith, Professor Phillimore and others including the chairman took part, a resolution was unanimously carried in favour of greater accuracy and uniformity of pronunciation in Latin and Greek. The consideration of details was held over till the meeting in March 1906. Meantime the report is to be sent to the Chief Schools and Training Colleges in Scotland and to H.M. Inspectors of Schools and expressions of opinion invited.

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The evening before the Oxford Philological Society met in Exeter College hall under the presidency of Dr. Farnell, other Oxford teachers of the Classics and members of the Cambridge Philological Society being present by invitation. The object was the renewal of common action in the two Universities which had been intermitted since 1887 when the Oxford Society gave a general approval to the scheme of Latin Pronunciation drawn up and published by its Cambridge sister. The members of the Cambridge Society attending were Dr. Arnold, Dr. Conway, Mr. E. Harrison (Hon. Sec.), Dr. Postgate and Dr. Reid. After some introductory remarks by the President Mr. Godley, acting Public Orator, proposed and Professor Ellis seconded 'That in the opinion of this meeting of Classical Teachers in the University of Oxford some reform in the current English method of pronouncing Latin is urgently needed.' The motion was carried with only two dissentients. Thereupon a short scheme embodying a minimum of necessary reforms which had been prepared for the conference by representatives of the two Societies was introduced by Dr. Postgate and seconded by Prof. Joseph Wright. After a discussion in which Mr. J. A. Smith, Dr. Arnold, Mr. Grundy, Mr. R. T. Elliott, Sir David Hunter Blair and Dr. Conway took part, the recommendations were adopted *en bloc* by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. It should be added that the scheme dealt only with native Latin sounds.

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