

ROBIN HOOD.

Settrington Rectory, York: Oct. 8, 1883.

Miss Peacock's suggestion that Robin Hood is the last survival of some degraded deity must, I think, commend itself to students of mythology.

Is he not, like William of Cloudesley and William Tell, a faint Western echo of the solar heroes of Aryan mythology? William Tell has been conclusively identified with William of Cloudesley, whose very name goes far to establish his relation to the Nibelungs, the heroes of Clouland; and it is no less difficult to separate William of Cloudesley from Robin Hood.

Hence, we may affirm, almost in the words of Prof. Max Müller, that Robin Hood, like "William Tell, the good archer, is the last reflection of the Sun-God, whether we call him Indra, or Apollo, or Ulysses."

Like other solar heroes, he has his faint reflection in Little John, who stands to him in the same relation as Patroclus to Achilles, Telemachus to Ulysses, Gunnar to Sigurd, or Lancelot to Arthur.

Maid Marian will therefore be the dawn maiden, to be identified with Briseis, Brynhild, and Guinevere. Friar Tuck is one of the triumvirate who appear also in the Cloudesley and Tell legends, and may possibly be represented in the Southern version of the legend by Pantaloon, Columbine being the dawn maiden and Harlequin the solar hero.

As for the name of Robin Hood, which Mr. Bradley endeavours to explain, I would venture to conjecture that we may find him in the Hotherus of Saxo Grammaticus, who of course is the blind archer Hödr, who, in the Edda, slays his brother Balder. Hödr means the "warrior." In the later version Hagen, who is undoubtedly Odin, has been confounded with Hödr; while in the English legend Robin Hood and Little John, if they are to be identified with Balder and Hödr, the brother archers of the Teutonic sun-myth, seem to some extent to have changed places.

The fact that the Robin Hood ballads are localised only in those parts of England in which there was a Scandinavian element is in itself significant as to the channel through which the legend reached our shores.

ISAAC TAYLOR.

THE WORD "FUBS."

St. Mary Church, Devon: Oct. 9, 1883.

This word occurs twice in the works of Nicholas Breton:

"... I saw a fat queane with a double chin, set beetween a couple of leering companions, at the least crafty knaues: where laying mine eare a little to the wall, I heard all their chat, which was as I will tell you: Cousen quoth one of them (to this Fubs) by this drinke . . . this money was well got."—*Wonders Worth the Hearing*, 1602 (*Works*, ed. Grosart, vol. ii., g, p. 11, col. 2, l. 11).

"Mistris Fubs, if you were but a little faire, I see you would bee mighty proud: and had you but the wit of a Goose, you would surely hiss at the Gander. . . . It is not your holiday face put on after the ill faoured fashion, can make your half nose but vgly in a true light, and but that you are exceedingly beholding to the Tayler, you might be set vp for the signe of the Sea crabbe."—*A Poste With a Packet of Mad Letters*, 1603-37 (*Works*, ed. Grosart, vol. ii., h, p. 11, l. 21).

G. H. WHITE.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, Oct. 15, 7.30 p.m. Aristotelian: Presidential Address; "The Two Senses of Reality," by Mr. Shadworth H. Hodgson.

8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Bones of the Human Body," II., by Prof. J. Marshall.

8 p.m. Education: Presidential Address, by Mr. James Ward.

THURSDAY, Oct. 18, 5 p.m. Hellenic Society.

FRIDAY, Oct. 19, 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Bones of the Human Body," III., by Prof. J. Marshall.

SCIENCE.

PHILOLOGICAL BOOKS.

Italograeca. By Dr. G. A. Saafield. II. Heft. (Hannover.) This is the second of a promised series of papers on the influence of Greece on early Rome, a subject to which much has lately been contributed by H. Jordan, O. Weiss, and others—not least by Dr. Saafield himself. It sketches in a very acceptable way Greek influence on Roman shipping, trade, and coinage, especially as shown by language, and deserves no less praise than the first series has gained in Germany. The chapter on the coinage is especially welcome. There is, indeed, little visible originality, some deficiencies, and, here and there, errors. Thus the author speaks (p. 15) of "the Graeco-Italic period." In discussing *classis* (p. 29 ff.) Jordan and Bezzenberger's reference (*Hermes*, 16.58) to the root of κληδών (a heap) is as worthy of mention as the common explanations given. The early Roman treaties with Carthage are barely alluded to (pp. 28, 50)—perhaps one may, in passing, refer to Unger's recent argument (*Rh. Mus.* 37.2) that there were four, in 406, 411, 448, and 475. The coin *cistophorus* (p. 76) is said to equal "4 drachms or *denarii*;" it should be "3 *denarii* or Attic (heavy) drachms." It might well have not been mentioned; it did not exist before 621, was of Roman origin, and was never called κιστόφορος in Greek (see Mommsen, *Römisches Münzwesen*, 48; Marquardt, *Alterthümer*, 3.27). I may add that Prof. Tyrrell on *Cic. Att.* 2.6.2 (letter 33, p. 149 of his ed.) confuses it with the light Rhodian drachm, one-fourth of its value. Again, Dr. Saafield says nothing of the Campanian coinage on the Phocaeian system, which was current in early Rome like the Aeginetan in Athens before Solon, and from which the first *victoriatus* was probably derived. But such slips are really few, and fairly full references make up for omissions, though it is strange to find Vaniček called an authority. It is to be hoped that Dr. Saafield will soon publish more of these papers.

D. Griechische Einfluss auf Erziehung in Rom. By Dr. Saafield. (Teubner.) In this pamphlet—a *Separat-ausdruck*, I believe, of two papers which lately appeared in *Fleckeisen's Jahrbücher für Pädagogik*—Dr. Saafield points out clearly and usefully how Greek ideas modified education in Rome under both Republic and Empire; for example, pp. 10, 11 contain an explanation of the *abacus*. A number of illustrative words are added. With respect to the quotations from the early comedy, it must be remembered that the vocabulary of Plautus was not the ordinary vocabulary of his auditors; the Greek words he at times so freely uses cannot all have been current. Dr. Saafield, though aware of this, sometimes overlooks it, both in this pamphlet and in *Italograeca*.

Plauti Menaechmi. Edidit Joh. Vahlen. (F. Vahlen.) The words on the title-page of this book, in *usum lectionum suarum*, fairly describe it. The text is that of the MSS., with a very few emendations which the author thinks quite certain. Foot-notes give the readings of B C D and the Ambrosian palimpsest (A), quotations from grammarians, and some "probable" conjectures, among which are those made *metri causa*. The whole hardly corresponds to the present state of Plautine criticism. The questions, e.g., of the *hiatus* (cf. 85, 389=395 R), the "paragogic d," the metres of the *cantica*, are untouched. The theory of *retractationes*, which has lately come into prominence, and been applied to this play by Götz, Sonnenburg, and Ribbeck, is simply alluded to in the Preface as unproved. The readings of A are taken from Ritschl's edition, and, I think, differ in two or three places from the results of later enquirers. The text as it stands is not always good—e.g.,

in 843=854 R, the reading adopted *qui dicit Cygno patre* obviously does not scan, while *Cygnus* is in Plautus impossible (Ritschl, *Opusc.* 2.478, 481). The case is worse because *Cucino*, which is at once the proper form and restores the metre, has left traces of itself in the MSS. of Priscian, from whom the whole half-line comes. The edition has a certain interest as showing what emendations an ultra-conservative criticism considers certain, and what not. Dr. Vahlen withdraws three of his own conjectures (in 496, 734, 821 R). In 928=935 R he keeps the MSS. *Nestor*, which other editors change. But, otherwise, the book seems of little use to the student who has Brix's third edition.

Plauti Comediae. Recensuit J. L. Ussing. Vol. IV. 2. Pseudolum et Poenulum continens. (Copenhagen.) Classical scholars will be familiar with the verdict which students of Plautus, from Ritschl onwards, have unanimously passed on M. Ussing's work; and we can do little more than regret that this volume resembles its predecessors. The one remarkable passage in the plays now edited, the Carthaginian in the *Poenulus*, seems meagrely treated. Dr. Neubauer's explanation, for example, is unnoticed. M. Ussing thinks the lines interpolated, asserting that "in the time of Plautus few Romans could have written, fewer followed, the piece, while none would have found anything witty in the device of making a Carthaginian speak his own tongue." The notes on the *Poenulus* may, however, possibly be found useful, for though much has been written on the play—the last contribution being a paper by Prof. Götz suggesting a transposition of two scenes to make the plot intelligible—still M. Ussing's is the only recent commentary of any sort.

Die Weltsprache. By A. Volk and B. Fuchs. (Berlin.) A universal language may be desirable; but an attempt at one which admits only twenty-one sounds (turning, e.g., h into g), calls for an orthographic variation of t', and picks out an eclectic accidence and syntax from all the languages of Europe can hardly, if serious, be called very sane.

Remarks on a Comparative Study of the Greek Accent. By M. Bloomfield. (Baltimore: Reprinted from the "American Journal of Philology," No. 13; London: Trübner.) After distinguishing the accent of the word, of the sentence, and of the syllable, and criticising various theories of Greek accentuation—in particular those of Benloew, Misteli, and Hadley—Prof. Bloomfield shows that the rule "accent as far back as possible" is to be explained, not by any Italo-Greek system, but, as Jacob Wackernagel has recently suggested, by what seems to have been a feature of the Indo-European accent of the verb. In Sanskrit, the verb in certain cases becomes enclitic. In Greek the whole finite verb is similarly treated, but the restriction of the accent to the last three syllables prevents enclisis, except in *φημι* and *εἶμι*, which alone have a tense throughout capable of it. In fact, there seems to be here a case of sentence-accent. This theory, though not without its objections, is probably the best yet put forward, and is in some points strengthened by Prof. Bloomfield. Indeed, his article is full of valuable remarks on the minutiae of Greek accentuation. It would be impertinent to praise it. We need only recommend it to all interested in the subject. F. HAVERFIELD.

A MARINE ZOOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY FOR ENGLAND.

THE following circular has been signed by most of the leading English biologists:—

"The value to the fish industry of an increased knowledge of the habits and life-history of fishes has been proved by the experience of the American