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insulæ exidii insperatæ mentio auxilii memorie corum qui utriusque miraculi testes extiterē; et ob hoc roges, publici, privati, sacerdotes, ecclesiastici aum quique ordinem servarunt. At illis decedentibus cum succederet ætas tempestatis filius nescit et præsentis tantum serenitatis exporta ita cuncta veritatis ac justitiæ moderamina concussa ac subversa sunt, ut, &c." (cap. xvi.), ed. Mommsen, pp. 40, 41.)

From these lines we learn that, during the age in which this writer lived, a period of repose had followed one of warfare abroad; that domestic strife had begun after a certain generation of men had passed away; that these men had led godly lives through the influence of the memory of the loss and recovery of an island; and that this loss, which had been past hope, had been remedied by so unexpected an alliance that the whole business was regarded as miraculous. The phrase "*insulæ exidii* (mentio)" has been assumed to refer to the loss of the island of Britain by the Britons: it, of course, refers to the occupation of Mon, or Anglesey, by Edwin of Deira* (617-633), who defeated Cadwallon of Gwynedd, and extended his ravages to the Irish Sea, holding Mon so strongly, both by sea and land, that to this day its native name yields place among the English to "Anglesey." The "unlooked-for alliance" is that which was struck between Cadwallon of Gwynedd and Penda of Mercia. It resulted in the overthrow of Edwin at Hatfield Chase, October 14, 633.

If, then, we date the expulsion of the Angles from Mon in 633, and assume that a generation elapsed between that event and the compilation of the *De Exidii Britannicæ*, we must date the book in about A.D. 655.

A. ANSCOMBE.

ENGLISH WORDS BORROWED FROM FRENCH BEFORE THE CONQUEST.

Cambridge: Sept. 21, 1895.

Permit me to draw attention to a very valuable note by Kluge, in *Englische Studien*, xxi. 334, in which he maintains that some late A.S. words were borrowed from French before the Conquest; so that we may date them from A.D. 1000 rather than after A.D. 1066, and still consider them as of French origin.

His article is chiefly on the word "proud," A.S. *prūt*, Icel. *pruðr*, from O.F. *prout*, *proud*, *prut*; see Godefroy, s.v. *pru*; cf. mod. E. "prude."

Other late A.S. words of French origin which he notes are the following, of which those marked *BT* are found in Bosworth-Toller, and those marked *CH* in Clark Hall. "Bat," A.S. *batt*, *CH*; F. *battre*, in Littré. "Capon," A.S. *capun*, *CH*; certainly from Old Northern French *capun*, not directly from Lat. *caponem*. The form *capun* is a mere variant of O.F. *chapoun*, for which I give references in my Word-list. "Castle," A.S. and O.N.F. *castel*; "cat," A.S. *catt*, O.N.F. *cat*; "catchpoll," A.S. *kecepol*, misprinted *hæcepol* in Wright-Wülker, 111. 9. Here note that the examples above—viz.,

* With Baeda, *H.E.*, ii. v.—"quintus [sc. Bretwalda] Aedun rex Nordan-hymbroborum gentis . . . majore potentia cunctis qui Britanniam incolunt, Anglorum pariter et Brittonum populis præfuit, præter Cantuaris tantum, necnon et Mevanias Brittonum insulas, quæ inter Hiberniam et Britanniam sunt, Anglorum subjecti imperio"—compare Galfrid. *Monumet*, *Historia Reg. Brit.*, xii. 113. (ed. J. A. Giles, LL.D., 1844, p. 214) . . . "convenerunt [sc. Edwinus et Cadwallon] ambo ultra Humbrum lætoque congressu, amisit Cadwallon multa millia suorum et in fugam versus est. Arrepto quoque per Albaniam itinere Hiberniam insulam adivit. At Edwinus ut triumpho potitus fuit ducit exercitum suum per provincias Britonum; combustaque civitatibus cives et colonos pluribus tormentis affecit."

"capon," "castle," "cat"—show the Picard *c* instead of the central F. *ch*; whence we may similarly explain "catchpoll" from the Picard *cacher*. It does not seem necessary to assume (as in the New English Dictionary) that it was due to Provençal influence, though such may have ultimately been the case; and, perhaps, this is what is meant. "Cummin," A.S. *cumin* (Matt. xxiii. 23, Hatton MS.), is from French, not Latin. "False," A.S. *fals*, is obviously French. "Juggler," A.S. *geogelere*, *BT*; also *geogulere* *CH*; of French origin. "Mantle," A.S. *mantel* (Kluge), for which I can find no reference; of French origin. "Market," A.S. *market*, *CH*; of French origin. "Proud," A.S. *prūt*; the O.F. *prout* (above) is noteworthy. "Purs," A.S. *purs*, *CH*; O.F. *burs*. "Roke," A.S. *rocc*, *BT*; O.F. *roke*, used by Gui de Cambrai (Littré). "Sot," A.S. *sott*; O.F. *sot*. "Targe," A.S. *targa*, *CH* (but with no reference); O.F. *large*. "Trail," A.S. *traglian*, *CH*; of French origin. "Turn," A.S. *turnian*, *CH* (no reference, but Bosworth refers to Prov. 30); O.F. *turner*, *turner*. I can supply two references for *targa*, viz., Kemble, *Cod. Dipl.* iii. 304, 363.

We may notice that the forms without mutation, as "mantel," "cumin," "turnian," are French; the Latin forms are *mentel*, *cymin*, *tyrnan*.

Prof. Kluge promises us fuller information on the subject; for which we can wait with thankful confidence.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

HERODAS AND HERODES ATTICUS.

British Museum: Sept. 23, 1895.

There are, I think, many reasons which make the identification, suggested by Mr. Walker, of the poet Herodas with Herodes Atticus very improbable, and at least one which makes it impossible. This is the reference to the poet by Pliny (Ep. iv. 3), who compares the iambics of his friend Antoninus to those of "Callimachus or Herodes." The fourth book of Pliny's letters must have been written about A.D. 100, whereas the birth of Herodes Atticus is placed about A.D. 104. The poet mentioned by Pliny must, therefore, be a different person from the rhetorician; and I do not think there can be any doubt that the recently discovered Mimes should be assigned to the former rather than the latter.

F. G. KENYON.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Anglo-Russian: "Tolstoy, his Teaching and Influence in England," by Mr. J. C. Kenworthy.

THURSDAY, Oct. 3, 8 p.m. Library Assistants: "Library Appliances in the Museum of the Bureau," by Miss James.

SCIENCE.

AN OLD RUSSIAN SAGA.

Slovo o Pluku Igorovi. Das Lied von der Heerschaar Igor's. Abdruck der Editio Princeps, nebst altalovenischer Transcription und Commentar von Dr. Rudolf Abicht. (Leipzig: Raimund Gerhard.)

THE poem on the expedition of Prince Igor against the Polovtses, which forms one of the most interesting monuments of Old Russian literature, has frequently been published. The most elaborate edition is that of Barsov; it is also printed in full in the Old Russian Chrestomathy of Ognovski, recently deceased, and large extracts are given by Bulaev. Moreover, it has been translated and edited, together with the

Zadonetchina, by Karl Erben, the Bohemian poet and savant. This Saga has never been translated into English; but some years ago a French version was published by Eichwald, and large extracts are to be found in Rambaud's *Russie Epique*. To the ordinary English reader it is practically unknown. A few words are, therefore, necessary by way of explanation.

This curious poem was discovered in the year 1795, in a MS. volume that included some other old Slavonic pieces. The part of the MS. containing the *Slovo*, as it is called, was printed by Count Musin Pushkin in 1800. Unfortunately, the original was destroyed in the burning of Moscow in 1812. But it had been seen by several scholars before its final disappearance, and Karamzin in the notes to his History of Russia gave an account of the MS. and its contents. Thus much may be said *sur l'orientation*: for we must add that writers have been found to throw doubt upon its authenticity, among whom was the once famous Senkovski. But it has long since been accepted as genuine, and great labour has been spent upon explaining out-of-the-way forms and corrupt passages in the text.

We must now speak of the edition of Dr. Rudolf Abicht, which makes its appearance under the aegis of Prof. Nehring of Breslau, one of the foremost of living Slavists. He has in the first place faithfully reprinted the text of the *editio princeps*, which, now that the MS. has disappeared, has become the chief authority. At the foot of each page he has given the same in old Slavonic spelling, so far as it can be restored, with the lines printed rhythmically. A copious commentary is added, in which in the first place the *Slovo* is arranged according to its subject-matter, and then follow notes on the *loci difficultiores*, many of which have been the despair of critics. These are minutely and learnedly discussed.

We have not space on the present occasion for anything more than a notice of some of the most important passages. Dr. Abicht explains the expression "the living strings" (p. 29), which caused such scandal to Senkovski, as an antithesis to the living flock of swans of which the poet has spoken. Line 58 is made to mean, not "to drink up the Don in my helmet" as a kind of soldier's boast, but "to drink of the Don in my helmet." The mysterious Trojan (l. 64) is considered to be an allusion to a singer that flourished earlier than Boyan. The name occurs again (l. 211), where Dr. Abicht reads *visti Trojani*, "the times of Trojan." Bustaev considered the introduction of this name to be owing to some tradition of the Emperor Trajan, who has entered largely into Slavonic mythology: as, for instance, into the *Skazki* of the Bulgarians and Serbs. On the eclipse of the sun, mentioned in l. 103, Dr. Abicht gives us a very learned note. From a calculation, it is shown that it took place on May 1, 1185. It is not a little curious that the date of the battle of Clontarf has also been accurately determined by the description of an eclipse in the Irish Saga, which in many respects resembles the story of the expedition of Igor, and was printed in the work edited

by the late Dr. Todd, *The Wars of the Gael-hil and the Gaill*.

In l. 108 the mention of the *Div*, a kind of demon, reminds us of the *Diva* and *Semodiva* of Bulgarian mythology. Probably other passages will become clearer the more we know of Slavonic folk-lore. And in passing, we must express our regret at the recent death of Michael Dragomanov, who died at Sophia, at the comparatively early age of fifty-four. In him the study of Slavonic myth and custom has lost one of its most valued investigators. In line 315 we have the word *lada* for "wife," which some suppose to be connected with the name of a Slavonic goddess of beauty, that occurs in the refrains of Serbian songs.

The form *oxeri* as a plural of *oxero* (l. 347) is interesting, because we frequently see this tendency in modern Russian—*s.g., vino*, pl. *vinu*. The lines 601-7, describing the battle on the Nemiga, give us a succession of metaphors drawn from agriculture—*s.g.*, the heads fall like sheaves. We are again reminded of the picturesque scene in the battle of Clontarf, where the messenger of Brian compares the noise of the heavy falling of the weapons on human bodies to that of the blows of the axes of thousands of woodcutters.

The lamentations of the wife of Igor at Putivl and the joyful return of the prince are passages quite in the style of the ancient Sagas, and the poem winds up with a hearty *slava* to the prince and his *druzhina*.

Dr. Abicht attempts various emendations of the text, in many of which he is very happy. We may call attention to the meaning given to the obscure expressions in lines 314, 367.

We believe this to be the first time that this curious poem has been published with notes in German. Perhaps this circumstance will render the little book of more utility to students. It may be safely recommended as edited in a lucid and scholarly way.

W. R. MORFILL.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

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SCIENCE NOTES.

THE meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held next year at Buffalo, beginning on Monday, August 24. The president-elect is Prof. Edward D. Cope, of Philadelphia. At the recent meeting, held at Springfield, the title of the economic section was changed to "social and economic science."

THE following lectures will be delivered at the Royal College of Physicians during the coming year:—The Goulstonian by Dr. Patrick Manson; the Lumslean by Sir Dyce Duckworth; the Croonian by Dr. George Oliver; and the Bradshaw by Dr. Bradbury. The Croonian lecturer for 1897 is Dr. Greenfield.

THE Berlin Academy of Science has recently put aside £1000 for the promotion of scientific work and research. Of this amount an appropriation of £100 has been made to Prof. Fuchs, of Berlin, to be devoted to the continuation of the publication of Dirichlet's works; £100 to

* Re-appointed.

Prof. Weierstrass, of Berlin, for the publication of his collected works; £75 to Prof. Gerhardt, for the publication of the mathematical correspondence of Leibnitz; and £100 to Dr. Schaunland, for researches on the Fauna of the Pacific Islands.

THE forthcoming volume of Sir Henry Roscoe's "Century Science Series" will be *Charles Lyell: his Life and Work*, by Prof. T. G. Bonney.

MESSRS. A. & C. BLACK will publish immediately an illustrated book on *Milk: its Nature and Composition*, by Dr. C. M. Aikman, of Glasgow. It will deal with the chemistry and bacteriology of milk, and will also contain a chapter on the use of milk as a food.

MESSRS. W. H. ALLEN & Co. will publish immediately the second volume of *British Birds*, by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, in their "Naturalist's Library"; also a new edition of Herschel's *Popular Lectures on Scientific Subjects*, and *Ferns: British and Foreign*, by John Smith, ex-curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

THE new number of the *Journal of Philology* (Macmillan) contains a number of important articles on classical literature and history, though palaeography is less prominent than usual, and it would be vain to look here for any discussion of linguistic problems. Perhaps the most elaborate paper is that upon "The Attic Civil and Sacred Years," by T. Nicklin—a name that is new to us. He begins by discussing the well-known inscription containing the accounts of the treasurers of Athens for four years, 426 to 423 B.C. With a wealth of tables and calculations, he argues that the inscription, as read at present, cannot be correct, the figures being arithmetically inconsistent; and he proceeds to make a number of ingenious emendations, though he admits that much still remains altogether uncertain. Next he attacks the obscure problem of the arrangement of the Athenian calendar, contesting the received theory that an eight-year cycle preceded the adoption of the nineteen-year cycle of Meton. After an examination of all the epigraphic evidence, he concludes as follows:

"In the earliest times the Athenians depended almost entirely on observation for the regulation of the year. This continued until the Council of the Five Hundred had been instituted; and, consequently the Prytany Years were fitted in a rough way to the Sacred Year, by spreading the intercalated month over two Prytany Years—the determination that there must be a leap-year not being made till towards the middle of the year, after three or four prytanies had sat. . . . This was altered by Aristotle's day. Then the Prytany Years all regularly begin about Hecatombalon 1st, and the four extra days always go with the first four prytanies."

Next we may mention the paper in which Mr. G. R. Grundy examines in great detail the scenes of Hannibal's two victories at the Trebbia and Lake Trasimene, with the help not only of local knowledge, but also of the maps published by the Italian Government survey. The result is to establish the good faith and accuracy of Livy, whose faults are shown to be those of omission rather than commission. There is no evidence that either Livy or Polybius had seen the battlefields; but both accounts are consistent, having been drawn up from memoirs written by persons who had possibly been present at the battles. Mr. Bernard W. Henderson attempts to reconcile the divergence of opinions regarding the several councils at Carthage. He maintains that the aristocratic element in the constitution consisted of: (1) a large *σύνκλητος*, of