

gave reason to doubt whether this fresh evidence would do much to mend the text. Both the news and the doubt have been confirmed. Professor Vürtheim of Leyden has published a pamphlet of fifteen pages, with the title *Der Leidener Sophoklespalimpsest zum ersten Male vollständig untersucht*. It appears that out of about three-fifths of a manuscript of the seven tragedies, written perhaps in the twelfth century, a new book of tracts was made; but so well was the parchment cleansed for its holier service that only thirteen leaves out of 147 have yet yielded traces of the nether script. All seven plays are represented, and for sixteen passages of two plays Vürtheim gives a comparative table of readings of 'Pal.,' *L*, *A*, and the *recentiores*. *Pal.* is shown to agree very closely with *L*, sharing its errors in *Ai.* 579 and *Phil.* 126. It offers no new reading, but lends support to good readings at *Ai.* 582 (*θρηνείν*), *Ai.* 1160 (*κολάζειν*), *Phil.* 119 (*κεκλήι*). Though Vürtheim is not hopeful, more may perhaps emerge; but for the time being the prospect of a full fellow to *L* is—dare one say in the context?—a 'wash-out.' The Editors of the *C.R.* are indebted to Professor A. C. Pearson for their first sight of the pamphlet, which, quite apart from *Pal.*, is of value for its review of the rise and fall of the esteem in which *L* has been held.

From Professor A. S. Hunt :

'Considerable additions to the remains of the *Aitia* of Callimachus will be made by Volume XVII. of the *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, now in an advanced stage of preparation. A passage of forty lines recovered from one papyrus reveals the attitude taken up by the poet in the much-discussed prologue of Book I. Another set of fragments preserves a still longer passage from Book II., throwing new light on its structure and contents; the confident guesses of Otto Schneider do not prove to have been happy. Of the new prose pieces included in the volume the most interesting are some historical fragments relating to the early years of the third century B.C. and provisionally attributed to the *Chronica* of Phlegon.'

From Professor W. M. Calder :

'One of the most intriguing inscriptions published in Ramsay's *Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia* was the epitaph (No. 364) of the Christian senator of Eumeneia, Aurelius Eutyches, surnamed Helix, "a Eumeneian and a citizen of other cities," who prepared his tomb in the second half of the third century. The Greek invasion of Asia Minor led to the destruction (among much else at Ishekli) of the house into which this inscription was built; and in 1924 Messrs. Buckle and Cox, and I discovered that the "other cities" were recorded on the side of the tombstone, and were, or included, Stektorion and Sebaste in Phrygia, and Brundisium in Italy. Further, the names of these cities were engraved on emblems which are everywhere else associated with athletic victories, and it is now certain that Helix was a professional athlete. He may even be identical with the pancratiast Aurelius Helix (described, however, by Philostratus as a "Phoenician"), to whom my notice was directed by Dr. E. Norman Gardiner, and who was making athletic history at Olympia and at Rome in the second decade of the third century. However that may be, he is a person of some historical note, for he is, if I mistake not, the first Christian professional athlete known to history. The term *ἀθλητής* has a connotation of its own for historians of early Christianity. But it is a far cry from the Coliseum to the Maeander, and the story of Aurelius Helix is only the most startling of many reminders that the orthodox Christianity of the Eastern provinces was of a very different kind from that reflected in the martyrologies and in the epitaphs of the catacombs. A facsimile of the epitaph of Helix will appear in the *Journal of Roman Studies*, 1926, Part I.'

The *Electra* of Sophocles will be played in the Greek at Cambridge on February 22-26, with music by Mr. D. D. Arundel.

*Erratum.*—In the September number of the *C.R.*, p. 113, in the middle of column I, for 'his fair Achaeans and Safines' read 'the fair . . .'