

The Greek Anthology

By Harry E. Foster, M.A.

(Continued from Page 4)

poetry is too obvious to require mention, so much have these Greek poets stereotyped the symbolism of love.

The Greeks were ever acutely conscious of the fleeting quality of beauty and the tender sadness of its passing. Perhaps no more perfect examples of this feeling can be found than in this anthology. Here are some typical poems of this kind:-

"Isias, though sweet your breath as tenfold myrrh, Waken tonight and hold these blossoming flowers Within your arms, for they at dawn will fade, Sweet symbol of your youth's brief lovely hours."

"By Corinth's road I passed Where ancient Lais lies within its gloom. One tear I shed, her beauty's due, and thus I spoke, 'Hail, you I never saw, yet must I grieve for you, O young man's heart You vexed, but now in Lethe's land you dwell And all your beauty's gathered to the dust.'"

"The castanet dancing girl, Ariston, Who hearing the music of the shrill horned pipe Could toss her golden hair, skyward among The pine trees' star-filled branches, she the deep Drinker of amber, torch-bright wine, has said Farewell to mystic revels and her throng Of lovers, and rests on the great Earth Mother's hill. Her holy hair, with death's flowers garlanded, Under these quiet elms forever still."

The section of the Anthology entitled "Spirital Poems" is composed of epigrams found on tombstones or of poems of a similar character to these. The Greek tomb was generally a very unostentatious thing, a small headstone of beautiful white marble resting on a simple grave. Hence the true Greek epitaph is remarkable for its simplicity and brevity, as in the following:- "I Brotachus, a Gortynian of Crete, lie here, where I came not for this end, but to trade," or as in this, "Here Philipus laid his twelve-year-old son, Nictetes, his great hope. This simplicity may seem to us, who come at the end of a long Romantic period, as bare and frigid but the true Greek ever expresses himself whether he wrote in Greek or writes now in a modern language. Nowhere else will you find death so perfectly expressed, sometimes so beautifully and tenderly that death seems almost as desirable as life itself. This is even stranger when one considers that the ordinary Greek had no belief in an afterlife as we know it except as a very miserable unfeeling existence among shadows and darkness. The only reason we can give for this is that though knowing the hopelessness of his future life he deliberately shut his eyes to its gloomy outlook and beautifying the death of the dead one in colours borrowed from his own imaginative mind found a certain consolation

and satisfaction in that death. The following are beautiful illustrations of these epigrams:-

"Time, whose long sickle gathers Has crumbled iron and stone, and so this mound, On which the cold rains pour, shall some day on These sea-worn sands, mere scattered dust, be found; Only the hero's name stays young, since time, From what it dims, shall spare the poet's song."

"Your hunting skill, O Pericles, is carved In white serenity upon my sides; They are all here, horses and hounds and nets, But over them the silence of stone abides; Unharm'd the forest creatures round me leap, Since you so young sleep the unbroken sleep."

"Homer, the herald of warriors' golden deeds, Lamp of the Muses, whose light shone on the Greeks A second sun, the interpreter of gods, He through whose ageless mouth the whole world seeks For voice, lies here in dust, and all Is hushed save for the sea's eternal sound."

Life being to the Greeks the only certain hope they express great pity for those who were taken from it untimely, for children or young brides, or young mothers in childbirth. The following are typical:-

"Cleodius, your golden hair you still have three short years above the hill The moon her silver chariot had led, And yet your parents grieved beside your tomb, Knowing in shadowy unknown Acheron The cold white blossom of your youth shall bloom"

"With love's ripe harvest waiting to be plucked, Your tender eyes, Patrophila, have shut; The magic prattling of your lips, your voice And your arms are still'd; your wine cup empty stands, Thou Hades, too, inflamed with love's mad fire, Has snatched our lovely friend, from out our hands. The Greek feeling for irony is often expressed in the mourning of parents who have survived the deaths of their children, as in this short poem:-

"On Melita's early tomb Nice, the aged one, has bound the rose. Hades, was this a righteous doom?"

A great number of the poems are epigrams on those who were drowned at sea. This brings us to a rather peculiar fact about the Greeks. Although they were the greatest seafaring people of ancient times, with the exception of the Phoenicians, yet their poets did not love the sea as our English poets do. They did not have our sense of the wonder or beauty of this useless and monotonous mass of water. To them a spring of water was ever beautiful and they wrote dozens of poems describing their loveliness. Not so the ocean. It was never "dear" to them save as a symbol of their sea-girt home. The average of all the epigrams applied to it may be summed up in the word "perfidious", as in the following, "And thee too, Cleonides, homesickness drove to death when thou didst entrust thyself to the wintry blasts of the south wind. That faithless weather stayed thy journey and the wet seas washed out thy lovely youth." To them also shipwreck is a symbol of the uncertainty of life:—"Who art thou, shipwrecked stranger? Leontichus found thee here dead on the beach, and buried thee in this tomb, weeping for his own uncertain life; for he also rests not, but travels over the sea like a gull."

Another interesting fact about these epigrams is the large number devoted to the deaths of pet animals, birds, and even insects, to the magpie, the partridge, the swallow, the cat, the dog, the horse, the locust, the ant, and so on. Such poems in the mouth of a modern poet might sound slightly ridiculous but in the Anthology they have almost as much pathos and beauty as anything in it. Somehow through artificiality they achieved sincerity.

"Within this urn Democritus in tears His cicada has laid; hushed is each wing, Its delicate songs beneath the blue-paved sky No more through all the sorrowing house shall ring"

Another thing to be noticed about these epigrams is the Greek's love of country, or as I should say, of his own city, for the Greek knew no foreignland save his own self-ruling and self-contained city. No ancient people travelled more extensively than the Greeks yet like modern Englishmen none yearned so much for the familiar surroundings of the "place where they were born and where alone they wished to die. Over and over is heard the complaint of those who have been buried in a strange land. Here is the beginning of a poem expressing this feeling, "Far from the Italian land I lie, far from my country Tarentum and this is bitter to me than death. Such is the life of wanderers, ill to live."

Another man is buried "in Spain at the end of the world, far from Lesbos" and others buried "in Persia lament as follows, "We are Eretrians from Euboea and we lie near Susa, alas! how far from our own land." There seems something very lovable about the Greeks when they speak like this, a bond which bridges the span that lies between us across the centuries.

One whole book is composed of poems descriptive of dedications to the different Greek gods. Generally the Greek would leave a present in the temple of the god or at the foot of his image in a wayside shrine. As a rule the gift was for some imagined kindness done him by a particular deity but often however he would leave the gift on condition that the god fulfilled his wishes, in which case he promised to bring additional and greater gifts. In fact in one poem the goddess Artemis is even gently but firmly rebuked for her negligence. The dedications are made by people from all walks of life—hunters, herdsmen, musicians, lovers, sailors, fishermen, goldsmiths, victors at the games, soldiers, and even by a young boy who has grown too old for his toys. Often the dedication is composed of the profession or of the duties of a hunter or his spoils, or it may be anything from the rib of a sea monster to a salt cellar. The following are typical:-

"Rest, slender spear, and lean upon the long White column, holy to Panomphrasen Zeus; Your brazen point is blunt with age, you too, Old shaft, are wearied from the soldier's use."

"This beechen bough, that like an aged man Was stooped to earth, the cowherds on the hill Have cut, and now beside the road for Pan, Who guards their herds, it stands, a shining toy. New peeled of bark, to aid his woodland joy."

Of the poems descriptive of works of art many are interesting as showing the high place in which the artist was held by the Greeks. All show the intense appreciation they had for the beauty of the work done by their great sculptors. In fact, the masterpieces in stone lead the poets of the Anthology to attribute divine power to their creators. This is a good example:-

"Think not that Diodorus chased This little Satyr on the cup; He only lulled him to a silver sleep; Softly or you shall wake him up"

The Greek of course felt deeply the intimacy between daily life and art and the one was as significant to him as the other. One very beautiful poem expresses this feeling:-

"The golden stars are quiring in the west, And in their measure will I dance my best, But in no dance of man, High on my head 's crown of flowers I raise And strike my sounding lyre in Phoebus' praise, For this is life's best play, And the whole firmament were wrong Had it no crown, no song." (J. McKail)

Finally we can not omit mentioning the Greek sense of humour. Even in the epigrams it is not lacking, as in this on a man who died of the gout:-"The thing that surprises me most is that he who formerly walked with other people's feet managed in one night to run all the way to Hades." As you observe the Greek idea of humour was often a bit grim. In fact the Greeks were more like the French than ourselves. To them wit, even when it was harsh and biting, was the spice of life, though humour as expressed in fun and jollity is seldom to be found in their writings. Shakespeare in their literature would have been a paragon of contradiction. Often this wit of theirs gives way to cynicism of the bitterest kind particularly among the later poets, who were witnessing the fall of the pagan religion before Christianity. Most of these poets make tiring reading as the bitterness of their satire is unrelieved by the slightest drop of sweet good humour. However there is something magnificent in such lines as these of one of the last poets in the Anthology:- "When I am dead may earth be mingled with fire. It matters not to me for with me all is well."

British Weeks World Support

(Canadian Press) BOSTON, Dec. 15.—That the League of Nations is irrevocably committed to halt Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia was the opinion expressed in an interview with Boston Transcript by Miss Sarah Wambaugh, who has just returned from the League's Geneva sessions. Technical adviser and deputy member of the Saar Plebiscite Commission and for many years an authority on various European questions, Miss Wambaugh said England's self-interest coincided closely with the present trend of League activities, but she scoffed at what she said is a frequent allegation that England controls the League for her own purposes. "No one pretends that England controls Russia," Miss Wambaugh said. "But Russia is firmly supporting the League today. So are the Scandinavian countries, but it is self-interest for all of them that makes them do this."

"The fact is that England is absolutely committed to the principle that any action must be League action," she said. As a consequence, she added, the present situation must develop either a war, a satisfactory agreement between Italy, Ethiopia and the League, or a complete yielding by Mussolini. Miss Wambaugh said she saw a number of posters in Italy a few weeks ago which might be construed as threatening to England's African territories, one of which proclaimed "To Whom is East Africa? To Us!"

"I believe that the Italian program is the greatest threat to British power that has ever occurred in my lifetime," Miss Wambaugh said. "And I do not regard it as merely threatening Lake Tsana or her African lands but as threatening her whole prestige in the Mediterranean."

Miss Wambaugh said that Germany appeared to be eager to maintain friendly relations with England at this juncture, and that the German public has manifested considerable feeling against Mussolini ever since his interference with the Austrian-German affairs at the time of the assassination of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss.

C.N.R. Timetable

MONCTON, N. B. Dec. 13.—In connection with holiday train services, the Canadian National Railway announces that between Summerside and Borden, Train No. 217 leaving Summerside regularly at 2:45 p. m. will not leave Summerside on Saturday, Dec. 21st, Monday, Dec. 23rd, and Tuesday, Dec. 24th, until 3:30 p. m. Between Charlottetown and Souris, Train No. 51 will leave Charlottetown at 4:00 p. m. instead of 3:30 p. m. on Saturday, Dec. 21st, and Tuesday, Dec. 24th. Train No. 55 will leave Charlottetown at 4:00 p. m. instead of 2:15 p. m. on Monday, Dec. 23rd. Between Charlottetown and Murray Harbour, Train No. 65 will leave Charlottetown at 4:15 p. m. instead of 3:30 p. m. on Saturday, Dec. 21st, and Tuesday, Dec. 24th. Train No. 209 will leave Charlottetown at 4:15 p. m. instead of 3:00 p. m. on Monday Dec. 23rd.

Australian Horses Revive Old Market

CANBERRA, Dec. 15.—A commission of their officers will visit Australia to buy 270 horses for the military forces in Netherlands, India. The Commerce Department has been advised that the requirements are 170 cavalry horse, 43 cavalry and 57 artillery officers' chargers, and 48 draught horses. Before the depression it was not uncommon for horse shipments to Netherlands, India. —Australian Press Bureau.

JACKIE COOGAN ENGAGED TO MARRY BETTY GRABLE

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Dec. 15.—Jackie Coogan, 21, who is seeking a screen comeback after amassing \$1,000,000 as a child star, and Betty Grable, 19, a budding actress, disclosed their engagement today—10 days before they leave on a personal appearance tour. Grable, daughter of Conn Grable, a stock broker, wore an emerald-cut diamond which she said Jackie gave her. The two said they intended to be married within a year, possibly in June.

A BOXING SHOWMAN

LONDON.—(C. P.)—Ambrose Palmer, heavyweight champion of Australia, who won a decision over Eddie Weston, the Canadian challenger, is a great showman. At a parade of Wembley heavyweights he could not box because of a bruised hand. His skipping and shadow-boxing however, were an entertainment in themselves. He is compact, confident and nearly as fast as a bantam.

READ The Santa Pals appeal.

BRINGING UP FATHER



Still Working at 103 Years Old

(C. P. By Guardian's Special Wire) CAMPBELLTON, N.B., Dec. 15.—Joseph Charette, 103 years old, was one of nine witnesses examined today at an inquiry into discrepancies in payrolls for provincial road and bridge work done in Restigouche County before the New Brunswick elections last June. The aged man said he had been employed at cutting bushes for three and a half days. He received an order for \$7, and his name appears on the payrolls for five days' labor. Octave Ouellet said that his son, Ovide, aged 14, had received an order for \$5. Another witness, Antonio Thibault, said he had received time orders without having worked or supplied any material.

Prairies Reduce Maternal Deaths Reports Council

OTTAWA, Dec. 15.—(C.P.)—As contrasted with the continuing high rate of maternal mortality for the Dominion, the report on Maternal Mortality issued by the Canadian Welfare Council cites records of individual provinces and institutions which have attacked this problem with remarkable results. Outstanding is the record of the Province of Manitoba, which, faced with a maternal death rate in 1929 of 68 per 1,000 births, had almost cut that rate in two in the course of five years, with but 2.8 deaths per 1,000 births in the preliminary statistics of 1934; and that of the province of Saskatchewan which had reduced its high rate of 7.1 in 1926 to 4.4 in 1934. These remarkable results were achieved in a five-year period of unusual hardship and economic distress on the prairies. The significant record is also cited of the Victorian Order of Nurses which gives prenatal and confinement care to more than 13,000 mothers annually with a rate for that large group of only 1.9 per 1,000 deaths in 1933, and 1.8 in 1934. Among the hospitals whose records are markedly low are the Royal Victoria Maternity Hospital in Montreal, with a rate of 2.5 maternal deaths in 1934-35, and the Burnside Maternity Clinic of the Toronto General Hospital which has not had more than one death annually in recent years, and in some years none at all, with approximately 500 maternity patients served each year. The Red Cross Outpost hospitals located on Canada's frontiers of settlement have also maintained an exceptionally low record of maternal deaths. Maternal deaths resulting from the increased strain of pregnancy upon women already suffering from diseased conditions or generally impaired health are variously ranked in the several studies from which evidence has been compiled in the Council's report. Placed as high as 18 or 20 per cent in some studies, among causes of maternal deaths, these conditions include heart and kidney disease, tuberculosis and defects and deformities which may have been caused by childhood rickets and malnutrition. Failure of the mother to seek early prenatal attention and failure of the physician to make all the routine tests which constitute an adequate examination allows many fatalities to occur which might have been prevented by earlier treatment. Conceded to be almost entirely preventable, and dreaded not only as a killer of mothers but also for the permanent injuries to health suffered by thousands of those who survive, septicaemia, shown little decline in these recent years in which medicine has made such strides in the control of infection generally. The report says its continuance can only be ascribed to carelessness and neglect to take precautionary measures; neglect on the part of the patient herself, her husband and members of her household in observing the careful measures of personal hygiene and other considerations that will protect her from infections in the last weeks of pregnancy. Age of the mother and the incidence of pregnancy are of course well known factors in maternal deaths. Mortality is higher in the first pregnancy, and after the fifth pregnancy. The safest age in childbirth is the nine-year period of 20 to 29 years. These factors suggest the significance of economic and social factors tending to defer the age of marriage and lower the general birth rate.

HELPLESS AT BOTTOM OF STAIRS 24 HOURS

Stunned by injuries received when she fell down the cellar stairs in her home Saturday night, Mrs. Sadie W. Coffin, 65, a widow, of 12 Preston road, West Roxbury, Mass., lay in a semi-conscious condition for more than 24 hours before her plight was discovered by neighbors last night. Although too weak to give a detailed account of the accident, Mrs. Coffin told police that she called for help for hours before losing consciousness. Mrs. Coffin passed away a short time after. She was formerly Miss Sadie Gibson, daughter of the late John and Jane Ferguson Gibson of Marshfield. Her husband predeceased her a number of years ago. Mrs. John A. Stewart, Dunstaffnage is a cousin.

NEVER ARGUE WITH A MAN FOR HE IS ALWAYS WRONG

England's oldest married couple, Mr. and Mrs. William Walker are 91 and 95 respectively, and have been happy though married for 72 years. Since the report of their marital philosophy quotes only Mrs. Walker, an inkling of the secret of their wedded bliss may be hinted at. She does the talking. She has taken pains to feed her husband well, look after his clothes and give him as much freedom, "as was good for him." Never argue with a man, she advises, for he is always wrong.

FREE DUCK HAUNT OF POISON WEEDS

GLEICHEN, Dec. 15 (CP)—Stor-Lake, the scene a year ago of an epidemic that killed thousands of ducks, has been cleared of weeds in its shallows and on its beaches and as a result leeches which caused the disease have been exterminated through loss of their breeding grounds. The work was carried out by George Glickering, naturalist of the Ingleswood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, who is the proprietor of the irrigation company that uses Stobart Lake as a reservoir. This year, with the lake closed to shooting, flocks of birds are ducks, but among the 38 different species of fowl there were a few

Australia's Recovery, Railway Revenue for Last Financial Year in the State of Victoria, Australia, amounted to \$44,903,285—an increase of \$1,107,690 on the previous year. The greatest increase was in passenger traffic. —Australian Press Bureau.

Sees Large Increase In Population Of Maritimes

(C. P. By Guardian's Special Wire) SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 15.—An opinion that the population of the Maritime Provinces was low increasing steadily and that the next census would reveal startling figures in this regard was expressed last night by L. W. Simms. "We are now absorbing our natural population growth," he said, "whereas previously for many years we had been losing our young people to other provinces and the United States." He was speaking at the annual meeting of the Saint John Board of Trade. Coupling his thought with a note of optimism regarding business conditions generally during the coming year, Mr. Simms said he believed that because of the depression thousands of native young people who under normal circumstances would

second largest storage dam in the world, on the Murray River, which marks the boundary between the States of New South Wales and Victoria. Built at a cost of \$25,000,000, the Hume reservoir has a capacity of 1,260,000 acre feet of water. With the addition of flood gates, provision for which has been made, the capacity can be increased to 2,000,000 acre feet. Work at the weir is now finished, and the plant is being demolished and transhipped to Yarrowoona, where a weir is now in course of construction.—Australia Press Bureau.

MORELL EAST SCHOOL

Honor roll of Morell East School for the month of November: Grade X-1, Lois Compton; 2, Evelyn Webster; 3, Elizabeth Mullin. Grade IX-1, Helena Hogan. Grade VIII-1, Ralph McFadyen. Grade VII-1, Inez Compton; 2, Alice Webster; 3, Aeneas Rahanah. Grade IV—(Gr.)-1, Myrtle McFadyen; 2, Mary Rahanah; 3, Leo Aernault. Grade IV (Jr.)-1, Josephine Aylward; 2, Lucy Rahanah; 3, Wilfrid Hogan. Grade III-1, Grant Compton; 2, Rita Hogan; 3, Sheila Tobin. Grade I-1, Teresa Aylward; 2, Leonard Rahanah; 3, James McFadyen. Teacher—Lucella Thompson.

ALL FINANCING IN HOME MARKET

(By The Canadian Press) TORONTO, Dec. 13.—The seven months aggregate of Canadian government and municipal financing has exceeded the total in each of the preceding three years, and the November total was greater than that of any previous November since 1931, a compilation by Wood, Gundy and Company, Limited, reveals. All financing in November was carried out in the Canadian market and 65 per cent was in direct Dominion Canada issues; 29.9 per cent provincial, leaving a small balance for municipal issues. The November total was \$136,649,500 of which \$95,000,000 was made up of Dominion issues.

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Add an equal amount of cream, or sweet oil, to Minard's, and apply the mixture once daily. A simple treatment which will clear up your skin!

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AUSTRALIA BUILDS VAST STORAGE DAM

Australia has just completed the

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Central Canadian locals, 4c per word; Western and Eastern locals, 5c per word. Annual rates: 10c per word; 10c per inch; 10c per line. Letters of Condolence 70c per inch; Notices of Thanks and Appreciation, 70c per inch of 4c. per word. Other rates on application. Minimum charge for any advertisement twenty-five cents.

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KINDLY AND TACTFUL

I've come to tell you, Mrs O'Malley, that your husband met with an accident. And what is it now? wailed Mrs. O'Malley. He was overcome by the heat, m'am. What! Overcome by the heat in January! Yes, m'am. He fell into the furnace at the power station.

