

*Classical Philology*, Vol. V., No. 4. He, too, has a metaphor from painting. 'I am convinced,' he says, 'that the pallor and flatness, the strange futility as of a bungling artist who cannot get a thing said although he keeps talking round it—all this means not that the *Culex* is a bad picture, but that the picture is sorely in need of cleaning.' So he proceeds to scrub and cleanse at various places, sometimes deftly painting in afresh a detail that has been cleansed away altogether; and the result is undoubtedly a great improvement in the picture. Professor Phillimore's dexterity of expression and his exact knowledge of the language and verse of the Roman poets enable him to elicit, or to superimpose, something cogent and graceful, where the text was clumsy or meaningless. But after reading his suggestions and emendations, I do not seem to see a good or a fairly good picture emerging from under a crust of grime and cobwebs; I rather feel, what I knew before, that as a writer of Latin verse Professor Phillimore is capable of improving the text of the *Culex*, even where it is perfectly sound. The 'strange futility' which he recognizes seems to me to pervade the poem and to characterize the mind of the writer. It is a mind which it is not easy to identify with Virgil's; its defects are not defects which could easily be shaken off or transcended in a few years. If the evidence of tradition is not conclusive—if it is imaginable or not utterly improbable that the poem could be ascribed to Virgil without being his—I suggest that the case for Virgilian authorship be dismissed as 'not proven'; a conclusion which would not deprive the poem of all interest for the historian of Roman poetry, if there are sufficient grounds for assigning it to the time at which Virgil is said to have written it, 45 or 44 B.C.

† W. R. HARDIE.

#### CORRIGENDA.

In the article on Plato *Republic* 421B, by Mr. A. S. Ferguson, in the *Classical Quarterly*, Vol. XIII., the following corrections should be made:

P. 163, l. 6, for *holiday-workers* read *holiday-makers*.

n. 1, for I, 123a 6 read 1123a 6.

P. 164, l. 5, for *πρός* read *πρός*.

P. 165, l. 16, after *ὅλον τε* insert *ἀέτι*.