

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

LATIN PROSE.*

We are indebted to the Messrs. Rivington, the well-known publishers of London, England, for a number of works relating chiefly to Latin Prose, and we propose, as far as the crowded state of our columns permits, to offer some remarks, by way of introducing these books to such of our readers as are not already acquainted with them. We naturally turn first to:

1. Bradley's Edition of a work in very general use in some shape or other throughout Great Britain and the United States, and long the Authorized Text Book in this Province—"Arnold's Practical Introduction to Latin Prose Composition." We may say at once that those who fear to see the ancient Arnold "improved," by means of footnotes upon trifles, inserted wherever possible, laborious references to some Grammar held in copyright by the same publisher, the exercises elongated, curtailed, or otherwise mutilated, to show that "the Editor" has been there,

or padded out with clumsy and irrelevant filchings from other men's books, will be agreeably disappointed. Dr. Bradley is a master of his subject, and in his work the reader will look in vain for traces of the "'prentice han'." He has recast the old work and added much new and recondite matter. The new work is Arnold's only in name.

Dr. Bradley may speak for himself. He says in the Preface:—

"An introduction has been prefixed containing three parts, two of which are new, the other much modified. The first of these is an explanation of the traditional terms by which we designate the different 'parts of speech' in English or Latin. The exposition is confined to the most simple and elementary points. This is followed by a few pages on the Analysis of the Simple and Compound Sentence. Such logical analysis of the language is by this time generally accepted as the only basis of intelligent grammatical teaching, whether of our own or of any other language. I have followed Mr. Arnold's example in prefixing some remarks, retaining so far as possible his own language, on the Order of Words; I have added some also on the arrangement of clauses in the Latin Sentence. The matter for translation as comprised in the various exercises has been almost entirely rewritten. I have not, after full consideration, taken what would have been the easier course, and substituted single continuous passages from a number of separate and unconnected sentences. I found that for the special purpose of the present work, dealing as it does with such manifold and various forms of expression, the employment of these latter was indispensable, and I have by long experience convinced myself of their value in teaching or studying the various turns and forms of a language which differs in such innumerable points from our own as classical Latin."

Dr. Bradley in honestly carrying out this programme has not spared himself, and the result is a work of more than ordinary merit. It is not always easy to speak accurately of

1. "A Practical Introduction to Latin Prose Composition," by Thomas Kerchever Arnold, M.A. New Edition, edited and revised by George Granville Bradley, M.A., Master of University College, Oxford: Rivingtons, London, 1881.

2. "Materials and Models for Latin Prose Composition," by J. Y. Sargent, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford, and T. F. Dallin, M.A., Tutor, late Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford. Second Edition, Re-arranged with Fresh Pieces and Additional References: Rivingtons, 1875.

3. "First Latin Writer, with Accidence, Syntax Rules, and Vocabularies," by George L. Bennett, M.A., Head Master of the High School, Plymouth. New Edition: Rivingtons, 1881.

4. "Second Latin Writer, containing Hints on Writing Latin Prose, with Graduated Continuous Exercises," by Geo. L. Bennett, *ut supra*. Second Edition: Rivingtons, 1881.

5. "Exercises on the Elementary Principles of Latin Prose Composition, with Examination Papers on the Elementary Facts of Latin Accidence and Syntax," by J. Hamblin Smith, of Gonville and Caius College, and late Lecturer in Classics at St. Peter's College, Cambridge. Rivingtons, 1878.

6. "Latin Prose Exercises for Beginners and Junior Forms of Schools," by R. Prowde Smith, M.A., Assistant Master at Cheltenham College. Third Edition: Rivingtons, 1875.