

A NEW LATIN GRAMMAR FOR SCHOOLS. *

The school edition of Mr. Roby's larger grammar has been for some time expected by scholars and should receive a hearty welcome. The sound scholarship, the freshness of conception and the logical method of the former work are now accessible within a moderate compass. In its original form of two volumes, it was a book which only professed scholars could be expected to approach; the school edition puts the results within the reach of all. It were to be wished, however, that the author had added a further appendix giving a brief summary of the reasons, given fully in the larger work, that have led him to adopt certain peculiarities of treatment, eg, with regard to the so-called Genitive of Price. As a grammar it is peculiarly fitted to become a text book for University Students; of its usefulness however, as what it professes to be, a School Latin Grammar—there is some reason to doubt.

Setting aside those disputed points, upon which all scholars cannot be expected to agree with Mr. Roby and about which more will be said, and without discussing its appropriateness for beginners, it seems hardly fitted even for higher classes. The limited time for classical work at the disposal of most schools imperatively requires the study of Sounds, Inflexions and Word-Formation, which fills the first three Books, to be taken in conjunction with Greek. And it is Mr. Roby's professed object to make his book a purely Latin Grammar. As such, the first three books, one hundred and eighty three pages in all, occupy a disproportionate space.

Some changes, Mr. Roby tells us in his Preface, he has made "to suit ordinary usage." He should have carried these concessions further, to suit the requirements of Schools. For instance we have his peculiar classification of words or parts of speech upon a basis of their denoting (1) a complete thought, (2) a person, thing or abstract notion, (3) a relation or quality, (4) a mere connexion of words or sentences. Differing totally from the ordinary usages of grammars, this necessitates the further acceptance of his doctrine of the subject and predicate, which although true of Latin or Greek is inapplicable to modern languages. A School Grammar should be as practical as possible,

* A Latin Grammar for Schools by H. J. Roby, London, Macmillan & Co., 1880.