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978-1-107-45071-4 - An Introduction to Comparative Philology:
For Classical Students

J. M. Edmonds

Frontmatter

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AN INTRODUCTION
TO
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AN INTRODUCTION
TO
COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY

FOR CLASSICAL STUDENTS

BY

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PREFACE.

IN preparing pupils for Classical Scholarships I had long felt the want of a book on Comparative Philology adapted to their attainments, and now in compiling this little Introduction I have tried to supply it. In aiming at simplicity I have felt bound sometimes to sacrifice completeness and omit details; but I hope that what I have said will be found correct as far as it goes. The theory of the Long ‘Sonants’ I have left alone. I have given more space to the Consonants than to the Vowels. English, especially the History of English, I have treated with some neglect. When it is remembered that the ordinary Sixth-Form boy knows little of Phonetics and nothing of Old English, the reason of these and other inconsistencies will, I hope, be clear. In smaller matters, such as the division of words by hyphens and the marking of quantities, I have sacrificed consistency to clearness. In the case of forms only presumed to have existed, I have omitted to denote this by an asterisk, and have preferred, for instance, μέμημεν to *μέμημεν as the supposed original of μέμαμεν. Confusion with English spelling I have tried to avoid by enclosing phonetic spelling, where necessary, in round brackets, and by various expedients such as printing *t^h*, *p^h* for the usual *th*, *ph*, and using *w* and *y* for *ϝ* and *ϊ*. Readers acquainted with the alphabet

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PREFACE

of the *Association phonétique internationale* will find some of my phonetic symbols unfamiliar. But I felt that, in the present state of the teaching of Phonetics, to adopt that system would necessitate the multiplication of symbols needing explanation to the majority of Classical students; and in an elementary work of this kind the fewer strange things the better.

The books I have laid chiefly under contribution are those mentioned on page 201, but I am also indebted to the writers of various articles in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Special thanks are due to Mr E. Abbott of Jesus College for his great kindness in reading the whole book in manuscript; to Mr H. J. Cape of the King's School, Canterbury, for reading part of the proofs; to Mr L. A. Burd of Repton for advice on several points; and to Mr Giles for permission to use an illustration from his article on Writing in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. I may add that the drawings for the diagrams are nearly all the work of my wife.

J. M. E.

REPTON,

September, 1906.

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Note: *Inverted commas* denote meanings: thus, 'fire.'
Italics denote ordinary spelling: thus, *fire*.
Round brackets denote, where necessary, phonetic spelling:
thus, (fɛjə).

Errata: p. 80; 'About this time *j* began to be differentiated,' etc.:
transpose this sentence to 4th line from bottom.
p. 118, line 16; *Wycombe* would seem to be unhappily
chosen; according to Shore, *Origin of the Anglo-Saxon
Race*, p. 266, it is a modern misspelling of *Wicham* or
Wickham.

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Note: Nos. 2, 3 & 4 are adapted from Rippmann's *Elements of Phonetics*.

No. 5 is from the *Companion to Greek Studies*.

No. 8 is from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Supplementary Volumes, under 'Writing.'