

## SHORTER NOTES

## METAL POLISH

Aena quibus utetur lavare tergere  
 unguere adipe e recenti tricensima  
 quaque die recte debeto. (CIL 2. 5181 = ILS 6891)

Part of the baths regulations preserved on a bronze plaque, engraved more or less identically on each side, from the copper mine at Vipasca, Lusitania. The manager is to wash, clean and grease the waterheating vats once a month. Such vats, as mentioned by Vitruvius in his discussion of public baths (5. 10. 1), were three in number: *aena supra hypocaustum tria sunt componenda*. They were sizeable articles: Propertius (3. 24. 13) seems to see himself tortured in one: *Veneris torrebar aeno*. The greasing was to keep *aerugo*, copper rust, at bay; for this purpose Cato (*Agr.* 98. 2) in general recommends *amurca*, lees of olive oil: *ahena omnia amurca unguito . . . et aerugo non erit molesta*; and also for greasing axles (106) *amurca axem unguito*. For bronze tablets exposed to the weather such as the numerous public records on temple walls and the like (including the present document) Pliny (*HN* 34. 99) recommends olive oil: *aera . . . robiginem celerius trahunt . . . nisi oleo perunguntur*. The phrase *e recenti* which occurs in both versions of the text is unexampled, and the *CIL* editors suggest that it means *ex integro*, afresh. However I am inclined to think that the engraver had a faulty copy in front of him and we should read *adipe recenti*. *Adeps recens* makes several appearances in Pliny (though usually in a medical context), and was perhaps a fairly pure and odourless form of *adeps*. It is listed in Diocletian's *Edict* (4. 10), and placed next to *axungia*, grease:

*adipis recentis*, per pound, 12 denarii,  
*axungiae*, the same;

*laridum optimum* (4. 7) cost 16 denarii per pound. Diehl, *Pomp. Wand.*, 410, records (apparently) the quantity of *adeps* held in stock after sales by a shopkeeper in Pompeii: p(ondo) adipe CXXVI CXX CXII.

A stock of 200 pounds of *axungia* is recorded elsewhere in Pompeii (*ibid.* 402).

Keighley

R. SHAW-SMITH

VIRGIL, *AEN.* 6. 304

*iam senior sed cruda deo viridisque senectus*

In his note on Hesiod, *WD* 705 M. L. West tentatively suggests *adeo* for *deo*, saying rightly that 'Charon is not a god in the literary tradition generally or in Virgil's scheme' (see now Austin *ad loc.*). Palaeographically nothing could be more attractive than this emendation. But for all Virgil's fondness for *adeo* (see my note on *Aen.* 3. 203, Fordyce on 7. 427) he (like other authors) does not use it in this intensifying sense with adjectives other than those indicating number (*Aen.* 3. 203, 7. 629, *Geo.* 3. 242), nor does he ever use it later than the second foot (3 times out of 31, the other 28 being in the first foot).