Sancti Benedicti Regula Monachorum: editionem critico-practicam adornavit D. CUTHBERTUS BUTLER. (Herder, Friburgi Brisgoviae, 1912.)

ALL who are interested in the text of the *Rule* of St Benedict are aware that a paper of the late Ludwig Traube, called *Die Textgeschichte der Regula Benedicti*, which appeared in 1898, marks a new epoch in the textual criticism of the work. Traube pointed out that in St Gall MS 914 (saec. ix in.), formerly of Reichenau, we possess a copy of the copy which Charlemagne caused to be made of the original autograph of St Benedict himself, which at the time was at Monte Cassino. The current text represents another (secondary) family, to which even the oldest MS known, the seventh-century Oxford Hatton MS 48, belongs. This family is distinguished from the other by its more polished Latinity On the basis of these discoveries Dr Plenkers has prepared an edition for the Vienna *Corpus*, which he has generously lent in MS to Abbot Butler. Butler has distinguished himself as the most acute critic of Traube's theory, and has materially widened the basis of the textual criticism of the *Rule*.[1] Dom Morin's edition of the surviving Cassinese tradition, published in 1900, is worthy of mention, but there is now only one edition to satisfy the reasonable requirements of students, and that is Abbot Butler's. Not only is the type used large and admirable, easy to be read by monks of failing eyesight, but important variants are given, and for the first time something like a complete record of the sources from which the *Rule* is compiled has been provided. There is further an introduction in which the textual tradition of the *Rule* is expounded with perfect clearness, and there are lavish indexes of sources, words, matters, &c., besides an epitome of Benedict's teaching. It was a difficult task which Abbot Butler planned to make an edition suitable both to the philologist and to the monk who may not be a philologist. In both his aims he has attained perfect success, and the work cannot be too highly commended.

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[1] Cf. the JOURNAL vols. iii pp. 458 ff, xi pp. 279 ff, xii pp. 261 ff.