

He might have written *ad carceres* instead of *ad victoriae notam*, but as the finishing-line needed to be marked in chalk as well as the lanes, *ad victoriae notam* is more appropriate.

Pliny, of course, is writing about the circus in Rome. His statement is not necessarily relevant to the starting-gate at Olympia.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR*

Dear Sir,

Prosit by all means to the new Oxford Latin Dictionary, which appears to me admirable in every way but one, and I am at a loss to understand this one strange omission. Perhaps there is some reasoning behind this defect, and I for one should like to know what it is.

The matter I refer to is the failure of the lexicographers to indicate the 'hidden quantities' of Latin vowels. This information is included in many previous dictionaries, from the Thesaurus to Smith's, but is unfortunately absent from Lewis and Short.

Is it too late to appeal to the compilers to change their minds about this important feature? I sincerely hope not.

Yours faithfully,
J. Hazel

Lycée Français de Londres.

* *Note.* Mr. P. G. W. Glare kindly writes to say that he understands Mr. Hazel's point of view. The matter was fully discussed and it was felt that the area of dispute with regard to hidden quantities was so great that it would be best to omit them. As publication is now in progress, the decision will have to stand. *Ed.*