

## NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE CROSSES AND CULTURE OF IRELAND. By A. KINGSLEY PORTER. Yale University Press, 1931. 9os. Pp. 143 + xxiv, 11 in. by 7½ in. 276 plates.

Professor Kingsley Porter is one of the most active students of the art and iconography of the early Middle Ages in western Europe. His published works have added enormously to our knowledge of the early sculpture of Spain, France and Italy, and though some of his theories and conclusions may appear at present too unsupported to acquire general acceptance, it is yet only by such means that the study of any obscure subject can be anywise advanced.

Professor Porter has now turned his attention to the sculptured crosses of Ireland, a subject which has hitherto occupied too little place in the art-literature of Europe and which has been too little studied by writers of more than insular outlook. The author brings to his task this wider point of view and the results are apparent throughout his pages. The basis of his work is iconographical and the treatment is in five chapters, devoted to—the earliest period, St. Patrick and the Pagans—to St. Columcille—to the Irish Missions abroad—to the fall of the Celtic Church and to the Vikings in Ireland. The associations of these chapters are, as we have said, purely iconographical, but the chronological development of Irish art is not lost sight of, though it is not presented in any consecutive scheme.

As this is perhaps the most vexed question in relation to the subject, it may be well to say that in general the author accepts the English dating of the Anglian monuments with which he incidentally deals and the German (i.e. Zimmerman's) dating of the Irish manuscripts, thereby avoiding Professor Macalister's alternative of casting overboard the otherwise accepted date of the Lindisfarne Gospels. The author, throughout his work, accepts no date for any work of Christian Irish decorative art earlier than the beginning of the eighth century, with the possible exception of the Book of Durrow. He also realises the direct borrowings from Northumbria exemplified in the vine-scrolls of the crosses of Monasterboice, Clonmacnois and the Book of Kells. He does not, however, carry his argument to what seems to us the logical conclusion. If no decorative Christian art appears in England before the defeat of the Irish Church at the Synod of Whitby in 669, and if no decorative Christian art appears in Ireland until a generation or more later, it is surely arguable that Irish art was very largely an introduction from North England, where its component motives make, almost without exception, an earlier appearance. This view receives striking support from the most interesting of Professor Porter's

chapters—that dealing with Irish missions on the continent. Though these Irish missionaries spread themselves as far afield as Italy in the sixth century and numerous important monasteries were founded, the author finds no trace of typically Irish art from any one of them before the eighth century. Thus a manuscript of 669 from Luxeuil is quite devoid of Irish characteristics. It would thus seem that the Irish missionaries brought with them to Scotland, England, Germany, Gaul and Italy, none of that art which is associated with them, and it was only after the Irish had themselves received it from elsewhere that these monasteries became a channel for its further propagation.

In the identification of the sculptures of the Irish Crosses, Professor Porter has struck out a line of his own, in attempting to equate certain of the scenes with incidents in Irish mythology. The tentative identification of such scenes in some of the Northumbrian carvings is perhaps evidence for the possibility of their exemplification in Ireland. Their supposed occurrence, however, is so haphazard and is in such queer juxtaposition to Christian incidents as to render their identification highly dubious. Thus the main subject on the E. face of the head of the W. cross at Monasterboice is identified as Finn and the Fianna, the W. face being occupied by the Crucifixion. Surely this juxtaposition is, to say the least, unlikely in the tenth century and it would be more reasonable to assign the group to The Second Advent, or some more appropriate subject.

The author well brings out the queer tendency in these Irish sculptures, to so conventionalise distinct subjects as to render them indistinguishable. The Temptation of St. Anthony, Daniel in the Lions' den and the Taking of Christ are three cases in point; in their earlier renderings they are all readily distinguishable, but in their later versions the devils of St. Anthony tend either towards the lions of Daniel or the human figures in the taking of Christ.

The second part of the book is devoted to a photographic record of the crosses and a few cognate subjects. This record could hardly be bettered, and if some of the subjects lack definition it is due to the weathering of the stone and not to the reproduction.

The index also forms a very valuable adjunct as in it will be found a complete list of the crosses with their subjects in tabular form.

We have noticed a few slips which might be remedied in a future edition. On p. 90 it was the Ealdorman Alfred and not King Alfred who restored the Golden Codex to Canterbury, and on p. 94 Brixworth is described as in Essex instead of Northamptonshire.

A. C.

THE STORY OF ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND. By WALTER H. GODFREY. London: Batsford; Part i, 1928; Part ii, 1931. 6s. 6d. each. Crown 8vo.

These two volumes sketch the history of building in England from Roman times to about 1830, the division taking place at the beginning of the sixteenth century, when the influence of the Renaissance makes its first appearance. They are not intended for experts, but for the

intelligent and inquiring layman, the author's purpose being (in his own words) 'to interest the reader in a subject that ought to touch the imagination of every one, and to link its outstanding features with the everyday life of those who dwelt in our own country and beautified it with that glorious craftsmanship to which few persons profess an indifference at the present day.' He goes on to express a hope that the book may be found useful in schools, 'where the value of English building as an illustration of and commentary on the history of English social life has not yet been realised, but is bound to claim its place in the near future.' If a new treatise of this kind on English architecture was wanted, no one is better qualified for the task than Mr. Godfrey, with his historical sense added to practical experience, and, above all, his capacity for making a building intelligible and interesting to educated readers. The result is that in spite of the inevitable compression of so large a subject into less than 300 pages, the volumes are eminently readable. It must not be thought, however, that this treatment on broad historical lines means that architectural details have been neglected. There is hardly a constructive or decorative feature of buildings, whether medieval or later, which is not explained or touched upon. One might indeed have wished for a rather more explicit account of the transition from round to pointed arched vaulting, and of the construction of the fan-traceried vault, which often puzzles the uninitiated. The useful glossary, which is combined with the index to the second volume, was evidently an after-thought, so that the first volume is deprived of this advantage, a defect which would, no doubt, be remedied in a second edition.

Familiar as is the story of the evolution of medieval architecture through the Romanesque and Gothic styles, Mr. Godfrey has invested it with freshness and even originality. It would obviously be impossible here to follow him through every chapter. But to illustrate his treatment let us note his remarks (pp. 68, 71) that the Romanesque 'in itself a completely satisfying form of building (indeed many people prefer it to Gothic even to-day)' might easily 'have degenerated under the overplus of ornament with which it was threatened' had not the reformed orders, especially the Cistercians, 'set themselves against elaboration, and sought to bring their buildings to an almost puritan simplicity. In their search for means to express the purer and more exacting service of religion to which they addressed themselves they adopted the pointed arch, which had already occasionally appeared, and they applied it to the whole system of building.' The ruins of e.g. Rievaulx show what a change this made, 'not only in the actual form, but in the very atmosphere of the architecture.' Though this may not be the whole truth, the point of view is important and suggestive.

After the work of 'this inspired period in the English art of building,' the thirteenth century, the style which, perhaps, interests Mr. Godfrey most is that of the great fifteenth-century churches with their unobstructed naves and vast window spaces, due, he thinks, to the influence of the town churches built by the preaching

orders of friars. It is true that 'a normal late fifteenth-century church is lacking in a very large measure in the sculptural quality, the mystery and the rhythmic cadence of the earlier buildings'; and 'the vast apartment would have been tame were it not for the sumptuous fittings with which it was furnished'—the carved wood-work of roofs, screens, seats and stalls, the mural decoration, and, above all, the painted windows that glowed like walls of glass. The last chapter of the first volume is devoted to domestic buildings, whether monastic or manorial, the smaller houses, guildhalls, hospitals, market crosses, bridges, and other secular forms in which medieval architecture expressed itself.

What churches are to the first part of this history, houses are to the second; and here, perhaps, Mr. Godfrey is at his best. Due space, indeed, is given to St. Paul's and the town churches designed by Wren and his successors; but it is with the development of the English house, whether large or small, its arrangements, fittings, and decorations, that the chapters are mainly concerned. The amount of detail that Mr. Godfrey has packed into these chapters, the number of houses mentioned, and of the less familiar names of architects, are extraordinary; but through it all he never loses sight of the thread of historical development. At one end of the story he does full justice to the 'Elizabethan' house, for 'no style has ever so perfectly accorded with our national tastes,' and at the other to the merits of the 'Adam' period, a perfect room of which 'is one of the permanent consummations of architectural art.' The development of the staircase is treated with special care, and such subjects as windows, panelling, iron and lead work are not neglected. The book ends with the house and shop fronts of the Regency, when London and its suburbs were growing, and Brighton and Cheltenham were being developed.

Illustrations are of the first importance for a treatise of this kind, and Mr. Godfrey is to be congratulated on his abundant collection of examples, always interesting and to the point, and yet often unfamiliar. They are mostly taken from line-drawings and sketches, which for a book of this size are generally more instructive than half-tone blocks from photographs. They are derived from sources of all kinds. It was a happy thought to reproduce Holbein's fine drawing of the family of Sir Thomas More (ii, fig. 6) in order to illustrate a Tudor domestic interior, but we think it would have been better to give up the whole page to it, so that the details might have been clearer. At present it has to share it with Fairholt's restoration of a room in Feering House, which tells a similar story, and is more or less superfluous. Another interesting novelty is an outline reconstruction of the mural paintings on one of the walls of Eton College Chapel. The bulk of the illustrations, of course, are purely architectural. A personal touch is the tail-piece of the second volume, a sketch of that excellent specimen of provincial street architecture, Newcastle House, Lewes, which Mr. Godfrey made such heroic efforts to save from destruction.

Considering the amount of detail which these volumes contain,

we have noticed very few misprints or errata. 'Gloucestershire' should be altered to 'Somerset' in the description of Prior Park. No one nowadays is likely to be misled by the term 'fresco' for English mural paintings, but it might be as well to avoid it altogether. In one of the few passages where it occurs (i, 94), the typical Doom over the chancel arch should not be described as 'God the Father sitting in judgment,' for the judge is invariably the Saviour surrounded by the instruments of the Passion. It would have been better not to give the black Tournai marble font at Lincoln as an illustration of English twelfth-century sculpture, for its foreign origin cannot be doubted. A purist might object also to the use of a characteristically Irish example in the 'Lindisfarne Gospels' to illustrate Anglo-Saxon art (fig. 16). The carved Ely casket (now at Brunswick) belonging to the same period is correctly described in the text as of bone, but in the illustration (fig. 14) as of ivory. True ivory was, of course, not available as a rule for Northern craftsmen, and they made use of various substitutes.

G. MCN. RUSHFORTH.

HEREFORDSHIRE. Vol. 1—South West. Royal Commission of Historical Monuments. Demy Quarto, cloth, xlviii + 295 pages. Frontispiece, map, two folding plans and 201 plates.

It is now twenty-three years since the issue of a Commission 'to make an Inventory of the Historical and Ancient Monuments of England.' During the period fourteen volumes have been compiled including that under review, which is the first of three volumes to be devoted to the County of Herefordshire. It is a charming volume, even more attractive than its predecessors, wherein the descriptive matter is skilfully marshalled, and the illustrations worthy of special commendation.

The area treated comprises the SW. portion of the county bounded by the Black Mountains and the beautiful River Wye, here pursuing its course from Clifford in the north, through Hereford to Goodrich in the south.

Although the area may not possess many structures of exceptional merit, nor is it to be associated with incidents of outstanding historical interest, it is nevertheless rich in the variety of its architectural features.

Essentially the pre-eminent feature in the volume—the Cathedral Church—is exhaustively described and illustrated, as also the beautiful Cistercian Abbey Dore. Of sixty-three parish churches enumerated and accompanied by plans, more than half were founded in the twelfth century and many of them enriched with exceptionally fine Romanesque details.

The architectural history of the Shire, as is natural, is to be associated with the Cathedral. The earliest extant masonry comprises a fragment of the church built by the first Norman Bishop, Robert de Losinga (1079-1095). But the scheme of the great cruciform church which we regard as the Cathedral was begun by Bishop

Reinhelm (1107-15) and completed so far as the considerable remains indicate within fifty years.

Reinhelm's contribution, it may be assumed, extended to and included the transepts, and embodied features which call for notice. Its eastern arm terminated in a square-ended presbytery beyond which projected an apse, and on either side smaller apses to the aisles. One of the unusual features is the opening to the central apse, which is a tall, comparatively narrow arch of five orders, another the transepts which are without aisles, or even apsidal chapels as at Gloucester and Tewkesbury. But the unique feature, of which Hereford is the only example in England, is the conclusive evidence of towers over the eastern bays of the aisles flanking the eastern gable of the presbytery. A discovery of the first importance to be credited to the Commission.

The succeeding structural periods of architecture are generously illustrated. Within the fabric are an unusual number of episcopal monuments and effigies, richly canopied stalls, beautiful ancient glass, and on the walls of the south transept a remarkable map of the world by Richard de Haldingham (1305). In the Cathedral library is a noteworthy and extensive collection of chained books.

In the Bishop's Palace is a rare twelfth-century timber roof which spanned its original three-aisled hall; and adjacent to the Cathedral the picturesque College of Vicars Choral with its richly carved corridor roof. Nevertheless it must be admitted that in scale and dignity the Cathedral is not comparable with many of its rivals, and has further suffered more than usual at the hands of the 'restorer.'

In and about the city there is much of real interest, including the remains of the earthen ramparts of the castle of Earl William Fitz-Osborn, skirting, as the Bishop's Palace, the river Wye, and in odd places existing fragments of the twelfth-century city walls. Among parish churches is the richly endowed St. Peter's and that of All Saints, with dominating spires and excellent woodwork, the triangular shaped canopied stalls at All Saints being identical with those in the Cathedral. Other interesting items include an unusual number of hospitals and almshouses, notably Coningsby's with a hall and chapel arranged about a quadrangle, and near to it the ruins of the Blackfriars, alongside of which is the only example surviving in this country of a preacher's cross.

Dore Abbey, pleasantly situated in the Golden Valley, is the only monastic house of which appreciable remains are preserved (now appropriated to parochial uses), and comprising the presbytery, crossing, transepts and eastern chapels of the original foundation. The original church (1180) combined the distinctive features peculiar to the Cistercian plan, namely a typical square-ended aisleless presbytery of two bays, with transepts whose chapels were divided by solid walls. But at Dore the eastern arm was expanded in the thirteenth century by extending the presbytery a bay (with N. and S. aisles) and providing a range of five eastern chapels two bays in depth, the inner bay external to the east gable of the presbytery, forming with the added aisles a rectangular ambulatory. Of the

twelfth-century work the simplicity of its details, the early use of the pointed arch, and the absence of a triforium will be noted, and in the vaulted extension of diminutive proportions a very beautiful expression of thirteenth-century architecture.

Record is made of other Orders, including a plan of the Grandmontine Priory at Craswall, exhibiting the typical lay-out of this little known order, a plan of an unusual building at Flanesford, and another showing the round nave of the Templars' church at Garway, where also is a detached tower.

Of parish churches, in the section of the county under review, Madley of considerable size is of first-rate importance, its plan being determined by a twelfth-century cruciform church of which the north transept, now a porch, is the only fragment. Its rebuilding in the thirteenth century is interesting and its architectural details of uniform excellence.

In the smaller churches more than ordinary interest attaches to a group of similar plan comprising nave, chancel and apse. Of these Kilpeck is the outstanding example whose apse is vaulted, and its chancel arch, S. door and eaves corbel-table enriched with carvings of figure and animal subjects and of Romanesque ornament of singular beauty, constituting the building one of the most interesting in the country. Moccas of like apsidal-ended plan has simpler details excepting the imposts of chancel arch and S. door which are richly ornamented. Peterchurch of the same school has a chancel of two divisions, apse and nave, and a western tower and spire of later date. At Welsh Newton is a fourteenth-century triple-arched stone screen, and in numerous churches wooden screenwork, pulpits and other furniture above the average in point of design and execution.

Of subsidiary objects Rowstone possesses an unusual pair of fifteenth- to sixteenth-century wrought iron swinging brackets with double rails, the lower spiked for candles, the upper ornamented with a row of quaint cocks and swans. At Bacton is a fine fifteenth-century chalice and paten, an altar frontal said to be the work of Blanche Parry, a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth, and a monument whereon she is kneeling before the Queen and holding not 'a scent box,' but with greater probability a jewel case.

Due to its borderland position, Herefordshire is studded with examples of castellated architecture of which Goodrich is the most extensive; it formed part of a second line of defence against the Welsh, in rear of the famous three castles Grosmont, Skenfrith and Whitecastle. Perched on an eminence above the river Wye, it can now be viewed with greater advantage than has been possible since it was 'slighted' during the civil wars, consequent on its treatment by the Office of Works who have removed the accumulated rubbish of centuries and skilfully exposed its many features, including its deep moat hewn out of the rock. Here the protection of the gateway is skilfully arranged; it is approached by a long causeway and bridge, and covering the latter is a large open barbican of semi-circular plan with a smaller gate and passage at right angles to the direction of the causeway.

At Longtown and Snodhill are sturdy keeps surmounting mounds, and at Clifford and Wilton interesting examples of the smaller border castle. At Welsh Newton and St. Weonards the buildings enclose a courtyard. Of the seventeenth-century manor house type there is a pleasing variety, and a single example of the great mansion in the vast pile of the Scudamores' at Holme Lacy. Of timber-framed buildings which abound in the county there are many excellent specimens.

This indifferent summary but indicates the variety of subjects and the ground covered, but the excellence of the work which goes to the making of this valuable addition to our knowledge of the county must be seen to be appreciated. Each item structural and otherwise is exhaustively and lucidly described in terse systematic manner, and generously illustrated with admirable photographs and excellent plans, those of the prehistoric camps and castles of the motte and bailey type with their quaint accessories forming delightful specimens of draughtsmanship. They cannot fail to waken an interest in the casual reader, and afford an added pleasure to the serious student, to whom also the admirable index will be a real assistance.

If I may be permitted a few observations it would be to suggest that the number of cottages illustrated is more than adequate, and that the lettering of the smaller plans is too large. The historical introduction to the Cathedral is a welcome exception to the rule regulating the inventory; pity it could not be extended to just a few other subjects with outstanding associations, such as the never-ceasing quarrels between the Cistercians of Dore and the Canons of Llanthony, or the strangely interrupted descent in the male line of the owners of Goodrich. Of pardonable slips one observes Bishop Stanbery so referred to in the text, but on the plan of the Cathedral as Stanbury. And on the plan of Dore Abbey the building W. of the cloister is mistakenly named 'frater,' and most unfortunately the Commission seems to have been unacquainted with the results of recent excavations which demonstrated that the nave was of ten, not nine, bays in length.

It should be noted that the records and sketches beyond those illustrated in the volume are accessible to accredited persons at the Commissioners' Chambers. If further the originals of the illustrations could be exhibited in the Public Library, Hereford, it would be helpful in stimulating an interest in the preservation of local monuments.

W. J. KNOWLES.

MONASTIC LIFE AT CLUNY, 910-1157. By JOAN EVANS. Oxford University Press. Pp. 137, 9 in. × 5½ in., 23 plates and 2 maps. 15s. net.

This book is a short and sympathetically written account of the history and constitution of the abbey of Cluny down to the death of Peter the Venerable, that is to say, the period of its rise and prosperity. The first two chapters are devoted to the history of the house and the foundation of the order. Then follows a chapter devoted to the lives

of the individual inmates and abbots of Cluny, a fourth on the administration and two more on the daily life and art and letters at the great Abbey. The information, here set forth, is drawn wherever possible from contemporary documents which are extensively quoted and borrows from them not a little of the colour and atmosphere of the early Middle Ages. The *media via* of the Cluniac order, avoiding as it did the extremes of asceticism on the one hand and of laxity on the other, was hardly of stern quality enough to make head for long against the fiercer forces of an intolerant age. It had its own internal troubles but it leaves the impression of an oasis of broad-minded charity and reasonableness in an age which knew little of such things. Its contributions to art and architecture were the reflection of this spirit and may be said to have been one of the chief if not the chief motive forces in French Romanesque art.

The authoress has dealt with her subject with erudition, skill and a light handling of her material, which renders her work not only authoritative but eminently readable. It can be thoroughly recommended to the general reader, and if the student desires at times fuller and more complete information this could hardly have been done without overloading the pages or changing the general form and intention of the book.

The illustrations, largely architectural, form a fitting commentary on the text, and we can only regret that a plan of the medieval buildings at Cluny and perhaps one also of the grange at Berze la Ville were not included.

A. C.

THE HISTORY OF HAMPTON SCHOOL FROM 1556 TO 1700 WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE YEARS BETWEEN 1700 AND THE PRESENT DAY. By BERNARD GARSIDE. University Press, Cambridge. xvi + 281 pp. illustrated.

Mr. Garside, who is Senior History Master of Hampton School, presents an eminently readable account of this foundation, in a most attractively produced book. Written primarily for old Hamptonians, it merits a wider circle of readers, and Mr. Garside honours his calling by his scholarly treatment of his theme. The history of our schools has received of late years much intelligent examination, mainly as a result of the researches of Mr. A. F. Leach, and the publication of such records as those under review is of great assistance in extending our knowledge.

Hampton School dates its foundation from the year 1557, when Robert Hammond left to the vicar, churchwardens and parishioners property for the erection and support of a free school. Hammond died a Catholic, and was instrumental in refounding the ancient school at Kingston, besides being a considerable benefactor to Kingston Bridge. There seems little doubt that his school at Hampton came into being, but it lapsed soon after its foundation and was not revived until 1612, the lacuna being skilfully filled by Mr. Garside with an account of Tudor school life which avoids any

suspicion of substituting fiction for fact. The reconstitution of the school owed much to Nicholas Pigeon, who had become lawfully possessed of the property, but relinquished his rights and helped to make effective its re-assignment to its original purpose. The school's chief subsequent benefactors were Captain John Jones and his executor, Nathaniel Lacey. The story of Jones, a prominent citizen and M.P. for the City during the Commonwealth, is told in detail, and Lacey's contribution is the fortunately not unfamiliar one of the conscientious and generous trustee who refused to succumb to difficulties, due to defective testamentary instruments, and finally achieved his object. One of the results, the purchase for the school of Nando's Coffee-house in Fleet Street, gives Mr. Garside the opportunity of an interesting topographical excursion, and in addition to this the rectory of Hampton, also held by the school, is fully dealt with. Many of the relevant historical documents are printed in full and sections of them illustrated; plans, heraldic drawings and excellent records of the Pigeon monument in Hampton Church are among the illustrations. One omission of importance is the lack of a plan of Hampton, which will be felt, no doubt, only by those not familiar with the district; otherwise the book is a model for all Hamptonians to follow and should be an excellent stimulus to those among them who acquire a taste for historical research.

W. H. GODFREY.

**MEDIEVAL SCULPTURE IN FRANCE.** By ARTHUR GARDNER, F.S.A. Cambridge University Press. xx + 492 pp. 112 plates + 498 illustrations.

Mr. Arthur Gardner, to whom students are already indebted for his contributions to the study of English medieval sculpture, has now produced a most welcome volume on the sculptor's art in France. No emphasis is needed on the importance of the subject, for it represents one of the supreme episodes in the history of art, and this comprehensive collection of brilliant views of French work in the Middle Ages will be a real aid to a more general appreciation of its meaning.

The dual nature of sculpture, its independent place among the fine arts, and its dependent function as an integral part of architecture, will ever provide a pitfall for the archaeologist and the historian. Whatever the challenge of modern theories to old doctrines, it still remains true that architecture both in its structure and in its applied ornament reflects faithfully the life of its time, being, by its very nature and its alliance with practical needs, the corporate effect of corporate action. With this aspect of architecture sculpture is closely allied, and yet it also possesses that incalculable quality that comes from the timeless genius of the individual artist. We must always be prepared for the appearance of an Alfred Stevens who can miraculously escape the limitations of his age, and the power of the sculptor to cast loose from his environment may be charitably urged

in explanation of some of the strange phenomena of our own day. Nor must we lose sight of the different reactions which his tasks make upon the sculptor, who now is eager to submit to conventions which give to his work architectonic qualities, and again rushes to the other extreme in seeking to display his technique in restless realism.

The archaeologist who is always looking for 'origins,' and who is too prone perhaps to perceive similarities or to exaggerate their bearing, finds sculpture a difficult ground for enquiry. And the connoisseurs of the art, with their ready-made but strangely mutable standards of excellence, affect to despise even the most tentative efforts to apply scientific methods. And when we add to these the patriotic obsessions that mar the logic of our logical friends the French, we have prepared a theatre of disputation that discourages the timid as much as it attracts the incurable controversialist.

Mr. Gardner steers his way very skilfully through this difficult atmosphere. He designs—and attains—an impartiality of statement which is beyond reproach, but there is generally some indication that he can see through prejudices, and his own occasional comments are charged with common sense. The battle which still rages round the celebrated capitals from the apse of Cluny is a case in point where Mr. Gardner pertinently observes that 'the delicacy of the Cluny work is not a mark of late date, but is often a feature of early work where the sculptor attempts to make up for his lack of knowledge and technique by careful copying of and attention to details.' How much might be written on the stimulus which comes of immaturity, and the disability imposed by too facile a craftsmanship! A great occasion will triumph over all deficiencies, as the mind habitually dominates matter, and the pre-eminent mission of Cluny is surely nowhere shown in such eloquent fashion as in these capitals which are the very soul of architectural poetry.

The reader will find in Mr. Gardner's narrative a most useful guide to what has been discovered and what has been hypothecated by recent writers. But it is in the wealth of its illustration that the book will appeal most, and practically the whole of this large collection is the author's own work, in which the technical level is very high, and the judgment used in selecting subject and position is even higher. Alike in the great tympana and the sculptural façades we have excellent general views which give a just idea of design and composition, and in addition we are given ample details, and individual studies taken with unflinching sympathy and insight. A considerable number of carved capitals are included, and one of the pleasures in perusing the book comes from the recognition shown in all the photographs of the architectural significance of the sculpture. In these pages we may forget prejudices and prepossessions, finding ourselves enjoying the beauty of the art for its own sake, and in so doing, it is not impossible that we may light upon a wider scholarship or its equivalent—a more profound and just appreciation.

W. H. GODFREY.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BERKSHIRE. By HAROLD PEAKE, M.A., F.S.A. London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1931. 8vo. Pp. xi + 260; 31 illustrations and 1 folding map. 10s. 6d.

This book continues the series of County Archaeologies of which Mr. T. D. Kendrick is the general editor. Anything from the pen of Mr. Peake is bound to be thorough and accurate, and this is certainly no exception, being a monument of patient industry. The last 80 pages comprise the archaeological gazeteer which contains an incredible amount of detail, both of local discoveries and of bibliographical references, all of which will be invaluable to future workers. The first 170 pages give a general history of the county from palaeolithic times to the Norman Conquest. The geographical and geological survey which opens the book forms the basis for the study of the palaeolithic and mesolithic ages, and an attempt is made to correlate the Acheulean, Mousterian and Aurignacian flints with the various plateau and valley gravels that are found in the county, but with admittedly inconclusive results. If only early collectors had been more precise in indicating the exact provenance of the flints, some more definite results might have been possible.

On p. 37 the author classifies the two main varieties of neolithic pottery as Wexcombe ware and West Kennet ware. This is a pity, and will be confusing, because the Research Committee of the Congress of Archaeological Societies has recently agreed to style these two classes respectively as Windmill Hill (with sub-types as yet undescribed) and Peterborough. On p. 39 after describing three neolithic bowls of West Kennet (*i.e.*, Peterborough) type from the Thames opposite Cholsey and Hedsor, he speaks of the Pangbourne bowl as being 'of a similar type.' This is a rather important error, for the latter bowl unmistakably belongs to one of the Windmill Hill types.

A most tiresome feature of the book is the trick the author has of filling page after page with lists of isolated discoveries made in tiny villages that few readers have ever heard of. Unless one is prepared to tick off all these details on an ordnance map—a task which still fewer readers will be likely to undertake—these pages will mean little or nothing, and will be merely irritating. Surely all such details should have been arranged in tabular form and relegated to an appendix, for reference only, not for general consumption, the text being reserved for a readable outline and general conclusions. Other parts, particularly those describing Saxon and Danish times, are extremely well written.

Another thing that needs to be settled is the chronology of the Early Iron Age. Perhaps it is as yet too soon to expect this, but confusion will only result if every author supplies his own version of it. Some scheme should be provisionally agreed upon. Here our author (p. 64) will have a La Tène IV period (A.D. 1-43), but do we know enough yet about the pottery of that time to warrant making a distinction between it and La Tène III? Surely also he is a little rash in assigning all hill-forts to La Tène I (p. 67). Very many are no doubt rightly so assigned, not because there was an influx of fort-

building people then, but perhaps because the existing people had about that time reached a tribal state of organisation which demanded defence, whereas previously they had been scattered settlers. Such is the inference obtained from South Down hill-forts. But no hill-fort can safely be dated apart from excavation until we know a great deal more about the subject. It is to be hoped that one day we may be able to date them by their 'architecture,' as we can date churches.

Each period is illustrated by a very prettily drawn distribution map, showing as a basis the rivers, contours and very artistic forests. Unfortunately the format of the book (which is too small for an archaeological work) does not permit of these maps being reproduced to a scale which does them justice, with the result that the different symbols are not always easy to distinguish and they are sometimes apt to get lost among the trees. The ideal would have involved folding plates set on fly-leaves, thus facilitating reference while reading the text.

A minor grumble concerns the absence of the year of issue at the foot of the title-page. It is true that this appears on the following page, but every reader has the right to see at a glance how up to date (or otherwise) a book is, and it is to the title-page that he naturally looks. This ought to be compulsory.

E. C. C.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOMERSET. By DINA PORTWAY DOBSON, M.A. Methuen, 1931 (The County Archaeologies series). Pp. 272, 58 illustrations and 7 maps. Crown 8vo. 10s. 6d.

The English county rarely bears any significant relationship to the geological or physiographical features of the countryside. From an archaeological standpoint, therefore, it is an unsatisfactory unit, and few counties lend themselves to anything other than discursive description in respect of their pre-medieval antiquities. Somerset, though not one of the most difficult cases, is no real exception. Its prehistoric and early history melt imperceptibly into those of the surrounding counties. The most that we can expect of Mrs. Dobson in this volume is that she will collect, with tolerable completeness, the various archaeological discoveries within her area, and that she will arrange them with due sense of proportion into the accepted chronological pattern. These things she has done; and if from time to time we may cavil at some of her more general statements or views, we do not thereby detract from the particular utility of her book. For this is, and can be, no attempted 'archaeology of Europe with special reference to Somerset.' It is primarily a readable catalogue of the pre-Norman antiquities of an arbitrarily chosen slice of England, and as such it must be judged.

The county is notoriously rich in antiquities of high importance relating to most periods from the palaeolithic downwards. The transition from the palaeolithic to the late neolithic—the so-called mesolithic or epipalaeolithic phase—is at present a blank; but,

since it is only a little less than a blank in the rest of England, we may cast the blame rather upon archaeology than upon Somerset. For the rest, Pleistocene caves, megaliths, Bronze Age barrows, and Iron Age settlements are of a consistent quality that it would be hard to surpass. In her description of them, the authoress has perhaps overstressed the partial contemporaneity of beakers with megalithic tombs, and has rather telescoped the latter into the stone-circles which, on the whole, represent a later phase in Britain. But these matters, be it repeated, are of secondary importance in the present context. It is more relevant to note that accounts of actual sites are for the most part clear and well documented and of permanent referential use.

With an eye to future editions, the reviewer may offer a few friendly suggestions. The chapter on Saxon Somerset is less satisfactory than the others, and only in part because of the scanty and diverse nature of the material dealt with. The account of the Saxon remains at Glastonbury Abbey precedes, curiously enough, that of the pagan Saxon burials of the county, and suffers so much from compression and the lack of a plan as to be really unintelligible, while a passage relating to this site, quoted on p. 173, needlessly reappears on p. 187. A few pages are devoted to the Saxon cross-fragments, but the author does not commit herself to any dogmatic assertions as to date. The study of pre-Norman sculpture in the West Country is still very much where Bishop G. F. Browne left it, and it is doubtful whether present-day research would confirm his chronology. Is it, for instance, safe to assume, as it seems to be assumed here, that the fragments which have been found at some of the places where St. Aldhelm's body rested do actually date from 709 or thereabout, seeing that the Frome fragment, to mention only one, has the 'attenuated dragon' motive in a form resembling that found at Ramsbury, Wiltshire, in the tenth century? The suggested ascription of the crosses at West Camel, Kelston and elsewhere to the tenth century is probably correct. A cross-fragment found at Wells, illustrated in volume lxxv of *Archaeologia*, has been omitted.

The two final chapters deal with the earthworks of the county. A certain number of the sites enumerated have been excavated; in the case of the many that have not, a brief note on the superficial indications as they exist to-day is all that is possible. The authoress is perhaps inclined to pay rather too much attention to 'tradition,' and to think that 'When Taunton was a furzey down, Norton was a market town,' is of itself quite good proof of the antiquity of the Norton Fitzwarren camp. Actually the couplet is applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to several pairs of adjacent towns in the West Country, and may generally be suspected of being an expression of inferiority complex rather than a statement of truth. The remarks on Old Barrow camp on p. 206 certainly call for criticism, for this little work is now held to be a Roman signal station, and no 'sepulchral monument.' In any case the site is admittedly outside the county. In dealing with the Wansdyke (p. 221), no modern writer should have omitted reference to Sir Charles Oman's attractive theory, published

both in the *Quarterly Review* (vol. 253, 1929, p. 298) and in the *Archaeological Journal* (vol. lxxxvii, p. 60).

As to the general production of the book, it is evident that the illustrations, both in number and in quality, have been sacrificed unduly to cost. The distribution-maps are too small, and the paper does not take them well, while the illustration of Glastonbury pottery as reproduced on p. 110 is a travesty of its subject. There are also a certain number of proof-reading errors: 'Henry IV' for 'Henry III' (footnote, p. 65), 'Castle at Comfort' for 'Castle of Comfort' (p. 79), 'Gordianus IV' for 'Gordianus III' (p. 135) followed by 'B.C.' for 'A.D.' in the same sentence, may be noted. The index will appear incomplete if it is not realised that it is complementary to the archaeological gazetteer which precedes it.

These criticisms, however, should not be allowed to obscure the real value and utility of the book as a whole—a worthy addition to a useful and timely series.

F. COTTRILL.

TARA: THE PAGAN SANCTUARY OF ANCIENT IRELAND. By R. A. S. MACALISTER. Pp. 208, 8½ in. × 5½ in. 10 plates and 5 figs.

Professor Macalister has so identified himself with Irish archaeology that it would be unthinkable that any but he should write the long needed book on Tara. Perhaps also nobody but he could approach the subject in the spirit which its age-long reputation and its venerable traditions alike demand. Here is no remorseless archaeological stripping to the bone of an ancient mystery, that perhaps may come when the earth of Tara yields up its secrets to the spade. Meanwhile Professor Macalister sounds and probes and reasons with the ancient myths and legends, with entire sympathy and understanding, and endeavours to wrest from them their secrets without robbing them of their attraction.

The first and longest chapter of the book deals with the topography of the Hill of Tara following in the steps of the ninth or tenth-century Dindschenchas, which describes minutely all the structures then existing on the hill. Perhaps the most remarkable is the 700 ft. long assembly-hall of King Cormac, the outlines of which are still plainly visible on the site, and which must have resembled an enormous timber-barn. The extraordinarily interesting plan of this hall in the Yellow Book of Lecan shows the precise allotment of the bays and divisions to the various social grades and the portions of meat appropriate to each.

The second chapter deals with the origins of Tara which the author carries back to the Bronze Age, and in the third he makes an intriguing attempt to disentangle and interpret the early dynastic lists of Ulidian, Pictish and Fir Bolg kings. These early lists synchronise at certain points and interlock, and Professor Macalister maintains with every appearance of probability that here we have various versions of a divine dynasty. The prevalence of twin-names in these early legends and lists and its significance is another

point which the author discusses. Passing on in the next chapter to the more human kings, we have a graphic account of their initiation and of a remarkable system of succession which reminds one of the priests of Nemi. Two more chapters on the Assemblies of Tara and on its later history conclude the book.

Whether or no all of Professor Macalister's theories will find ultimate acceptance, his book is of the highest value as an extremely stimulating contribution to the study of early Irish history. In addition to this it will give the general reader more than a glimpse of the rich-toned legendary background of Irish history and some substance to the vague if portentous outline of the hill of Tara.

The book is well-produced and sufficiently, if not lavishly, illustrated by ordinary and air-photographs of the site, plans and other illustrations.

A. C.

EXCAVATIONS IN WHITEHAWK NEOLITHIC CAMP NEAR BRIGHTON. *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol. lxxii, pp. 57-96. Report by R. P. Ross Williamson.

During the last few years interest in neolithic camps and neolithic pottery has been stimulated by discoveries in the Trundle at Goodwood, at Abingdon, and at Windmill Hill near Avebury, and here is an account of another important site in Sussex which has been excavated with the care it deserves.

Whitehawk camp is on the South Downs, near Brighton, close to the racecourse. It had already been damaged in the construction of part of the racecourse and by the encroachment of allotment gardens, and, as it was in still further danger from threatened building operations, the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club (a society affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society) in 1929 undertook an examination of the site while the plan could still be recovered with some certainty.

The camp has a characteristic neolithic plan consisting of four concentric ditches broken at irregular intervals by numerous causeways, and with stretches of level ground between the ditches. It is oval in shape, and the outermost ditch encloses an area of about ten acres. The purpose of the causeways still remains an unsolved problem; several of them were uncovered in the hope of finding traces of wooden barricades or other indications of defence, but although this method of defence was practised in Germany, it does not seem to have been used in Whitehawk, nor has it yet been recognised elsewhere in Britain. On the other hand, there is reason for thinking that the causeways are not artificial constructions but sections of the untouched land surface, and if this view is adopted, the ditches would probably have to be regarded as the source of the material used in making the ramparts; this theory would account for those causeways which have no corresponding breach in the rampart.

Often the ditches were found to be silted up and obliterated,

and their course could only be followed by percussion. They were irregular in plan and roughly dug, and there was no evidence to suggest that they had been filled in artificially, or that they had been used as living places; they seem to have served the community as refuse dumps, and, as the excavators point out, this can only mean that ditches were not needed for defence.

At Whitehawk there was no definite stratification, pieces of the same or similar pots being found at all levels, and it was not possible, therefore, to arrange the pottery in a chronological series. The finds, however, were all of one period, and there was no trace of a later occupation as there was in neolithic camps at the Trundle, at Yarnbury, and at Rybury near Devizes.

A detailed and well-illustrated description of the pottery occupies a prominent place in the report. It is at once evident that the Whitehawk pottery belongs generically to the Windmill Hill class, though it has several features which distinguish it on the one hand from pottery actually obtained at Windmill Hill by Mr. Keiller, and from that found by Mr. Leeds at Abingdon on the other. It is characterised by the absence of flat bottoms to the vessels, by horizontal lugs, often perforated for suspension, and especially by the well-marked carination or shoulder. In this last feature it resembles some of the Abingdon pottery, but at Abingdon the true loop-handle is found as well as its forerunner, the perforated lug. An interesting link with the Trundle and with Cissbury is provided by two fragments in which the carination is marked by a corresponding internal furrow. Dr. Cecil Curwen in a note to the report suggests that the Whitehawk pottery marks a chronological stage between the true Windmill Hill and Abingdon types; in common with neolithic wares from Scotland, it seems to be related to the 'habitation-site culture' pottery of Scandinavia. Decoration is simple, consisting of oblique incised lines, usually on the neck but sometimes on the rim, fluting and punctuation; several bone tools, doubtless used for decorating pottery, were found in the excavations. Finger-marking occurs on flat-topped rims, though never on rounded rims, and occasionally on the bodies of pots. The texture varies from a smooth, well-baked ware to a very coarse fabric with large fragments of flint on the exterior, and the excavators comment on the fact that however coarse the exterior of a pot may be, the interior is always smooth. It was not found possible to restore a complete pot from the great quantity of sherds, but a useful series of conjectural restorations in diagrammatic form is provided.

The flint implements show a close similarity to finds from other neolithic sites in the south of England. Here again we have re-chipped polished axes, leaf-shaped and lozenge-shaped arrow-heads, (though polished axes and arrow-heads were absent at the Trundle), scrapers, roughly-hewn axes, and a single *petit tranchet* arrow-head. Flakes were very common, and bands of lustre were present on a large proportion of the serrated examples; a photograph of a flint saw emphasises the fact that the band of lustre is quite narrow and rarely extends beyond the teeth, the probability being that these

tools were used in cutting bone or wood and not, as were certain other serrated flint flakes, in reaping corn.

Evidence of agriculture is given by grain-rubbers, mostly of sarsen stone ; and several perforated blocks of chalk are thought possibly to have been loom weights, though their presence could be explained in another way. Animal remains indicate that, as at Windmill Hill, the Trundle, and Abingdon, oxen, pigs, goats, and sheep were domesticated ; and it is noteworthy that, as at these sites, the horse is not represented. Full reports on the charcoal and mollusca are given and indicate a chalk-scrub or chalk-coppice growth with much damper conditions than those which exist at present. The report concludes with a relic table showing the exact position of every object discovered.

In its general arrangement this report follows the excellent scheme which we have learned to associate with the Sussex school of field-archaeology, and therefore it almost goes without saying that it is well produced and a model of what such a report ought to be. The excavation itself is a credit to the Club ; and Mr. Ross Williamson's able account of the exploration, together with Mr. Robert Gurd's characteristic illustrations, form no slight contribution to the literature of neolithic Britain.

R. F. JESSUP.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND SUFFOLK. A report by T. C. Lethbridge. Pp. 90 ; 6 plates, 39 text-figures. Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Quarto publications. New Series, No. iii (1931). 12s. 6d.

It does not seem that four years have passed since Mr. Lethbridge gave us an account of the Saxon hut which he found on the brink of the Car Dyke in his own garden at Waterbeach. This report, a much more ambitious undertaking, describes three cemeteries in detail and is an admirable piece of work, ably written and very fully illustrated. The technical recitations of grave-furniture are apt to be heavy reading and Mr. Lethbridge himself regrets that he is unable to decorate his pages with the vignettes and scraps of poetry so beloved by the early antiquaries ; but he does the next best thing by drawing in his sketch map a Saxon fisherman crossing Soham Mere, and a swineherd driving pigs through the woods south of the Devil's Ditch.

Mr. Lethbridge quite rightly refuses to quote the precise orientation of every grave he uncovered. It should have been realised long ago that early grave-diggers had no compass to rely upon when the sun was overcast, and that slight variations in orientation were unavoidable ; and as the author hints elsewhere in the report, Saxon undertakers were sometimes inclined to be clumsy after the funeral ale, so much so at Little Wilbraham that they were unable to deposit the funerary urns in the grave pits dug to receive them. Fortunately for us, most of the undertakers concerned in the burials at Holywell Row and Burwell took a more serious view of their responsibilities.

Holywell Row in Suffolk is a typical village-graveyard of the East Angles in the pagan period. For the most part the graves are poorly furnished, notable exceptions being a girl's grave containing among other things a pair of spiral silver bracelets, a silver Kentish pendant and bits of gold braid from a head-dress, and the grave of a well-to-do farmer's wife with four early cruciform brooches, a large necklace of glass, amber, and jet beads, a pair of wrist-clasps, an iron key, and a knife. Nevertheless, characteristic Anglian products, annular brooches, girdle-hangers, strap ends, and the like, are well represented, and there are other trinkets which certainly came from Kent, though traces of the culture are not very prominent until the seventh century, when Kentish fashions in women's dress were adopted extensively in East Anglia. Two unusual relics, a flea which had made its home in a piece of touchwood in a tinder pouch, and the shells of several duck's eggs found in a pot in a child's grave, speak eloquently of the care with which the excavation was carried out: did Mr. Lethbridge, we wonder, adopt Faussett's idea of bribing his workmen with brandy when he wanted them to exercise particular care?

The Burwell cemetery is regarded on adequate grounds as a Christian graveyard. Well-furnished graves are few in number, and in those that are at all well supplied with grave goods the objects are Kentish and not East Anglian types, and belong mostly to the seventh century. The most remarkable object is a small cylindrical bronze work-box decorated in Kentish Style II. This style is generally regarded as early seventh century, but in East Anglia Kentish Style II does not occur in the pagan cemeteries, which lasted at least until the middle of the seventh century, and it is suggested that style II was not used there until the middle of the seventh century. The ornament on the barrel of the box consists of interlaced animal bodies, the animals having open mouths and long snouts comparable with those on some of the Kentish bracteates and in the Book of Durrow. The other two surfaces are each divided into four segments decorated in a naturalistic style, two of them at each end with a man wounding a dragon, perhaps Beowulf and the Dragon. A second work-box of a more usual seventh-century type was found in another grave. The rare type of open work disc girdle-hanger from grave 55 is thought to embody in debased form the Merovingian motif of Daniel and the lions, but it is hard even with the actual object in one's hand to identify the motif with certainty.

Little work was undertaken in the Little Wilbraham cemetery, which was first explored by Neville in 1851, and there is nothing of special merit among the relics, though the domestic pottery from the cremation burials is interesting as it falls into line with the pottery from the Waterbeach hut. A wooden ball slung in bronze hoops accompanied part of a bronze spoon in one female inhumation burial, but as the spoon seems to be a Roman type, perhaps the obvious parallel to the Kentish crystal balls and pierced spoons, should not be emphasised.

A great deal of original and valuable matter is relegated to the

general notes in the appendix. Here Mr. Lethbridge has some interesting things to say about the Saxon amber-trade which he believes was centred on the coast of East Anglia rather than the Baltic, the raw amber being exported in exchange for foreign trinkets. The section on dating is particularly welcome as a corollary of the previous pages; the chief points which the author makes are the recognition of the Christian character of cemeteries such as Burwell and certain of the later Kentish cemeteries, and the persistence of Style II in East Anglia from about 650 right into the eighth century.

A special word of praise must be given to Mr. Lethbridge's drawings. At a rough guess, something like four hundred objects are figured, and this is no mean achievement.

R. F. JESSUP.

THE MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES OF SUSSEX (1250 TO 1650). By H. R. MORSE, M.D. Hove: Combridge, 56, Church Road. 3s. 6d.

It is a pity that inventories of monumental effigies have not been compiled for every county, for although few brasses remain uncatalogued it is usually difficult to obtain accurate details of any but the better preserved or historically important stone monuments. This catalogue has been arranged alphabetically according to parishes. The monuments in each church are numbered and the information regarding them classified under the following headings: material, name and date of death of the person represented, inscription, biography, and references to a few authorities. The last are usually the standard works on the subject but Boutell's octogenarian work on 'Monumental Brasses' is preferred to Mill Stephenson, and no cross references are made to Gardner's 'Alabaster Tombs of the Gothic Period.'

Breaking with the tradition of the Victorians, the writer has devoted as much attention to the stone monuments of the Elizabethan and Early Stuart periods as to their more fashionable predecessors. At the beginning is a list of the effigies chronologically arranged and at the end are appendices on heraldry and costume. Here it may be mentioned that it is not true that the cuirass was 'adopted' in the first half of the fifteenth century, but rather that it was exposed to view owing to the abandonment of the jupon. Although it is written in such a way as to be intelligible to beginners, this book contains much material not readily accessible and is a welcome addition to the literature of English sculpture.

C. C. O.

THE OLD STANDING CROSSES OF HEREFORDSHIRE. By A. WATKINS. The Woolhope Field Club, 1930. Pp. 83, and 53 plates, 8½ in. × 5½ in. 10s. net.

This is a very complete and admirable account of the churchyard and wayside crosses of Herefordshire illustrated by a well-known master of the art of photography. Many of these illustrations are eminently successful as artistic compositions (e.g. Plates 1 and 32)

quite apart from their value as a record. The schedule of existing crosses or remains of crosses is introduced by four introductory chapters dealing with Origins, Purposes, Periods and Types, and Destruction and Restoration. In these, the author (as he says on p. 15) has tried to avoid using these pages to expound his individual conclusions on alignment, and the slight references which he makes to his theories are not such as to greatly distort the book even in the eyes of his most pronounced opponents. A remarkable feature of the Herefordshire crosses is the shallow niche commonly appearing in the west face of the base; an attempt at explanation is given on pp. 21-23, but the theory here put forward does not accord with the extreme shallowness of most of the niches and consequently is unconvincing.

THE HISTORY OF SCARBOROUGH. *Editor*: Arthur Rowntree; *Contributors*: R. E. M. Wheeler, R. G. Collingwood, A. Hamilton Thompson, Jean Rowntree, A. J. Grant, D. Montgomerie, M. Black, and the Editor. London and Toronto: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1931. Pp. xx + 456: 129 illustrations and two end-paper maps. 21s. nett.

Municipal and local history has long-standing traditions in this country, and the engrafting upon them of modern standards of scholarship and presentation is a task to which much admirable work has of recent years been devoted. It is perhaps inevitable that the solution of its problems has frequently been found in putting authorship into commission: in this, as in so many other fields of study, the symposium has certainly come to stay. The result of this method in the volume now before us is the achievement both of completeness and variety, somewhat at the expense of that continuity which a one-volume history might be expected to display. The editor's task in subdividing his subject-matter can never in such a case be easy, and in deciding to form his volume of a number of practically independent essays rather than a series of closely-linked chapters he has probably chosen the better part. Certainly he has seen to it that his contributors have between them left out little or nothing of importance, though it is sometimes hard to know where to expect to find particular subjects handled.

A brief summary of the periods before 1066 leads on to compact geographical introduction by Mr. Black, after which the series of regular chapters begins. Dr. Wheeler's study of the prehistoric material deals with the barrows of the surrounding moorland, according a fit prominence to the famous Gristhorpe coffin-burial of the Early Bronze Age, and then proceeds to describe the important Late Bronze-Early Iron Age settlement discovered on the Castle Hill in 1923 by Mr. F. G. Simpson. He has had the full benefit of the excavator's notes and personal information, and in emphasizing the essential unity of the culture, in spite of its diverse material elements, he has brought a true estimate of its place in our pre-history much nearer than seemed possible from its first publication in *Archaeologia* in 1927. The people's pottery shows them to be immi-

grants from the Low Countries, probably of the seventh century B.C., and the transitional character of this whole period is well brought out by their simultaneous use of bronze, iron, and flint.

A gap follows until other rovers over sea from the same coasts came to ravage the provinces of Rome, and the system of the Saxon shore was in the fourth century supplemented by a series of tall signal-towers on the Yorkshire coast. Mr. Collingwood's inclination to ascribe them to Count Theodosius about A.D. 370 seems justified, like his dating of their destruction near the year 400, by the coin-evidence: the careful description of the Scarborough tower on the prehistoric Castle Hill site follows the records of Mr. Simpson's excavations, and incidentally shows the apparent 'reconstructions' in the curtain-wall to be in fact additions made during building.

One would expect attention to be given next to the Anglian and Danish periods, but for these we must turn back to the Introduction, where the place-name and Saga evidence is considered, and Professor Hamilton Thompson's study of the church and parish cannot begin till the chapel within the ruined Roman town calls for notice in the eleventh century. Actually it is not till the twelfth century that this or the ensuing essays on the borough and the castle really begin, with the recovery of the place after its destruction by Harold Hardrada and Earl Tosti, and it is a pity that this stirring and decisive incident has once more, like the testimony of Kormaks-Saga and the rest, to be sought for away back in the Introduction.

At any rate, once the Middle Ages begin in earnest, the ground is well and evenly covered: Professor Hamilton Thompson writes with characteristic acuteness, learning, and humour, and ably expounds Richard I's grant of the advowson to Cîteaux and its consequences in the ensuing centuries, leading to its acquisition by the prior and convent of Bridlington in the fifteenth century. Miss Jean Rowntree handles the charters and other material with a skill enabling us to follow the gradual rise of the borough to the privileged position it held by the beginning of the fourteenth century, and her clever essays on the ensuing factions and other disturbances under the municipal oligarchy of the later Middle Ages relate local history vividly to the Peasant's Revolt, the Hundred Years' War, and the changes gradually wrought by the fifteenth century all over England.

The editor's treatment of the documentary history of the royal castle, that from the twelfth century onwards dominated the town, is somewhat less satisfactory, but the extant official survey of the castle made in 1538 is a document of great value which he puts to full use, while the architectural description of the buildings at the present day is enhanced by Mr. Montgomerie's careful section of the keep and a good series of plans and elevations. Mr. Rowntree's best chapter is perhaps that on the port and harbour, for in medieval and modern, as in prehistoric and Roman times, the history of Scarborough, the only practicable haven in a long stretch of coast, is most effectively viewed from the sea. Smuggling and fishing, shipbuilding and incidents of the wars make a long story leading down to the story of the modern harbour and its lifeboat. But before the other aspects of the

borough's recent history are reached Professor Grant contributes an admirable study of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, beginning with interesting paragraphs on the Pilgrimage of Grace and the dramatic raid of Sir Thomas Stafford in 1557, and continuing in due course to give a stirring and carefully-written account of the two sieges of the Civil Wars. It concludes with Scarborough's contribution to the national movement aroused by James II's Declaration of Indulgence—the tossing of the Mayor in a blanket.

The remaining chapters, all from the editor's pen, follow the development of the famous Spa and of the social life attracted thereby to the town, and deal further in turn with municipal history in all its aspects, with nonconformity, with sport, and much else from the crowded materials of the town's more recent annals. Among his lighter material he has chosen wisely to prevent his pages becoming a mere farrago, and the substantive material of these chapters makes a valuable contribution to the number of such local studies.

Altogether the book is a worthy monument of the enthusiasm that has gone to its creation. A special word of praise is due to the abundant illustrations, especially to the long series of reproductions from prints, drawings, water-colours, and other views of the town. Turner's water-colour comes out quite pleasantly, and though it is a pity that the attractive plan of 1725 had to be re-drawn, the draughtsman, no less than the other contributors to the volume, has done his work well.

C. F. C. H.

ENGLISH FEUDALISM, 1066-1166. By F. M. STENTON, F.B.A.  
8½ in. × 5½ in., pp. 311. Oxford University Press. 15s.

Professor Stenton's writings always give pleasure to his readers. He has at least two of the qualities of literary style. He knows exactly what he wants to say, and he knows exactly how to say it.

When he was invited by the University of Oxford to deliver the Ford Lectures for 1929, he decided to put before his audience a single phase of Anglo-Norman life, the organisation of the honour, and to try to prove that the larger lordships were *imperia in imperio*, following, on a smaller scale, the lines of the central government, which was less centralised at this period than is generally supposed. His method is to give an account of each of the various classes of feudal society and of the rights and duties attached to them. The resulting summary of the available evidence is of inestimable value to the student of the period, apart from the author's success or failure in proving the existence of local government.

His search for evidence had led him far and wide, and it may be assumed that no available source of original and contemporary information has been neglected. This evidence is partly relegated to footnotes; but much of it is incorporated in the text with such skill that even the casual reader is attracted rather than repelled. The translations of the charters are a delight to the ear, enhanced by the frequent melody of English place-names.

At the outset (p. 9) he states that the long war of Stephen's time had little effect on the feudal economy. This is a self-denying ordinance on Professor Stenton's part. Had he admitted that Stephen's disorderly reign was a period of utter confusion, comparable with recent years in China, which cut right across a process of development, he would have had a ready explanation of the rarity of texts (p. 45), of the isolation of the Pipe Roll of 30 Henry I and of the obscurity which exists as to the procedure in honorial courts (p. 41). The very words of the possessory assizes of Henry II imply a state of complete upheaval; the phrase *tempore pacis* in the assign of darrein presentment was all important; as late as the reign of Edward I in an assize as to Great Somerford church, in Wiltshire, the crucial point was that a parson had been presented in the reign of Henry III during a period of civil unrest. If the centralisation of Henry I, which may not have been as unpopular as the author would have his readers believe (pp. 218, *sqq.*), were followed by a period of disintegration, in which all but the largest lordships had been mere flotsam and jetsam in the tide of battle, Henry II's tactful and successful efforts to make a fresh start would naturally have won general approval. He did nothing to suppress the honorial courts beyond presenting a better way of justice. The situation was not changed by Richard I, who cared for none of these things; but John, who exaggerated the Angevin intelligence and mobility into a headstrong restlessness, tried actively and obviously to draw litigants to the royal courts; and it may have been baronial resentment on this score rather than his more picturesque peccadillos that led to his fall.

Professor Stenton has built an elaborate structure on scanty evidence; and it is no mean achievement to have arrived at conclusions that are generally convincing. His accounts of the *vavasours*, of the household of the lord of the manor, of his knights and their knightly duties are as judicious as they are lucid. His proof of the existence of an honorial baronage is less certain. Baron was at that time a word with a wide range of application, including marital and judicial relations; and it is possible that it had a less definite meaning than the author gives it when it is used of the relation to the lord of his leading men and may have implied no more than that they were, in fact, his leading men.

Almost every writer has his favourite epithet. Professor Stenton uses the word 'famous' on four successive pages (120-124), and often elsewhere, as in a note on p. 176. Some of his readers will cherish a hope that the fame of these incidents and documents is relative and that previous ignorance of them is not unpardonable! It is at least possible that these lectures may themselves become famous as a landmark in our knowledge of Anglo-Norman feudalism.

It is reported of one reader that he could not go to bed until he had read the whole of this book. This exploit will not often be repeated; but every student of the period should read it once, twice and again, and then place it on a convenient shelf for frequent and ready reference.

C. T. FLOWER.

ANCIENT STAINED AND PAINTED GLASS IN THE CHURCHES OF SURREY. Illustrated by Dr. A. V. Peatling and edited by F. C. Eeles. 8½ in. × 5½ in.; pp. 141, 18 plates (10 in colour) and text illustrations. Surrey Arch. Soc. (extra volume).

The materials for this book were collected by the late Dr. A. V. Peatling, whose sudden death prevented him from seeing the completion of his labours. Mr. Eeles has acted as editor and to him is due the form of the subject-matter. The combined work of the two cannot but be authoritative, and we have here a complete inventory of the surviving ancient glass in the county of Surrey arranged under parishes and, in addition, notes on destroyed glass of which any record survives. The illustrations are from drawings by Dr. Peatling and form an adequate record of the more important examples of glass which survives. The earliest examples are the Virgin and Child at Compton and the medallions at West Horsley, both of the first half of the thirteenth century. There are several good examples of the fourteenth century, but the following period is poorly represented. The county also possesses an unusual amount of foreign glass of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, of which the most interesting is the Flemish Crucifixion with a Cistercian abbeß from Herck, now at Ashstead. The Surrey Society is to be congratulated on the production of this valuable addition, not only to the archaeological literature of the county, but to the study of glass-painting in England.

THE RUINED CHURCHES OF NORFOLK. By CLAUDE J. W. MESSENT. Norwich: H. W. Hunt, 14, Orford Hill. 41 pp., with plans and line-drawings. 8½ in. × 7 in. 2s. 6d. net.

This is a depressing book. It consists of a list, in alphabetical order, of the parishes in Norfolk containing the ruins of medieval churches and the sites where vanished churches once stood. Some historical data given in this inventory are of interest. There is also a foreword (by the Archdeacon of Norwich) and an epilogue (by the author), in both of which the apathy is deplored that has resulted in the neglect and decay of much that might have been saved; and suggestions are advanced for some simple means that might be adopted to prevent further destruction. But the few ruins illustrated are drawn by such an unskilled hand that the casual reader may well wonder if effort to preserve them be worth while.

E. R.