

NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, ENGLAND.
An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire, Volume II.
Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1932. Price £1. 10. 0 net.

The second volume of the Royal Commission's Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire comes very quickly after the first; it covers the eastern portion of the country, an area containing 1,629 monuments in 97 parishes.

The exceptionally high standard reached and maintained by the Commission, which has now published 15 volumes, is so well known that it is unnecessary to dilate on the excellence of the text or the beauty and interest of the very numerous (over 220) plates. These, as usual, include all the important and the exceptional monuments. One point may here be ventilated. It has not seldom been remarked that the Commissioners in their Reports 'do not make enough of' this or that monument, a criticism which reveals a surprising lack of gratitude for the wholly admirable objectivity of the descriptions. In the Inventory, attention is drawn to the principal monuments in each parish, and, in the Preface, the outstanding monuments in each category are mentioned. That being so, we can well do without superlatives. For my part, if given facts and illustrations I can supply the necessary superlatives for myself, and I doubt not that most serious students of architectural or other monuments are in like case.

Eastern Herefordshire is a comparatively unknown rural district, with only one or two small towns. It is a well-wooded, undulating, and in places hilly countryside, yielding excellent red sandstone for building and, in former times when it was thickly forested, much oak timber for the same purpose. The chief feature, indeed, which strikes one on looking through the illustrations in this book is the wealth of fine timber-framed buildings. The majority of these are of course of the late sixteenth-early seventeenth century; but there are well-preserved and finely-wrought examples of an earlier period that merit close study, both for their design and craftsmanship. Amberley Court, Marden, is a remarkably complete and beautiful example of the late fourteenth century; Upton Court, fifteenth century, may also be cited.

Constructionally these buildings have features different from those present in the timber districts of those Eastern counties which the Commission has so thoroughly surveyed. The chief of these is the use of the spere truss; in which a post is carried down from the truss to the ground, clear of the wall. The surviving examples of such trusses—fourteenth-fifteenth centuries—are incorporated in

the screens of Halls; they probably represent a survival of the (wooden) aisled hall, giving us an idea of the construction and appearance of the early manorial Hall in the west, no example of which has as yet been seen by the Commissioners. The second point of interest is that while, in East Anglia, one gets into the habit of recognizing an early timbered building by the close-set studding, in this part of Herefordshire the timber-framing of the earliest buildings is widely spaced to form a square framework, 'the close-set studding not being commonly employed until the latter part of the fifteenth century.' Some day, in the twenty-first century, when the Commission's work is complete, it will be most interesting to work out the distribution of these regional differences and see to what extent they fit in with historical and archaeological facts relating to the settlement of Britain, or with the geographical distinction between Lowland and Highland.

One of the most interesting features of the first Herefordshire volume was the careful survey, both by illustration and description, of the twelfth-century Romanesque art preserved at Kilpeck, Rowstone and other village churches. The range of this 'Herefordshire School' of stone-carving extended into Eastern Herefordshire; in this volume a font at Castle Frome Church in the Kilpeck style, decorated with elaborate interlacing, symbols, and human figures is illustrated; it is resting on three prostrate human forms. The imaginative quality of the work, the depth of the undercutting, and the wide range of motives employed, make the work of this school worthy of far more attention in its archaeological, artistic and historical aspects than it has yet received. It seems to have died without influencing the work of the succeeding century. We are perhaps surveying the work of one individual of exceptional genius rather than that of a school of carvers.

There are many fine secular buildings of stone in the district, of which the manor-house of Brinsop Court is the best example. The absence of Pre-Conquest ecclesiastical building is surprising, but there are many Churches containing good Norman work of the late eleventh and twelfth centuries. The tympanum reset above the west door of Fownhope with a seated Virgin and Child flanked by beast and bird and foliage sprays, is one of the most interesting and important examples of its kind in the country.

Fine thirteenth-century work is found in Ledbury and several of the villages, and Ledbury Church contains a rich example of early fourteenth-century work in its north chapel. The district is not rich in work of the Perpendicular style. There is an important series of medieval effigies, the most attractive being those of ladies, at Ledbury and Much Marcle, in which the drapery trails over the side of the tomb. These are of the early fourteenth century.

It is refreshing to find a proper sense of proportion maintained in the estimation of early Renaissance tombs. Some of those included in the Inventory are fine works, duly appreciated; but of the well-known examples at Bosbury, dated 1559-78, by John Guldow, it is said that 'they are remarkable for a profusion of heterogeneous

ornament in somewhat barbarous taste'—a description which would apply to a considerable proportion of such works highly praised by the indiscriminating.

Of other Church fittings one may note as especially interesting the fine fourteenth-century and fifteenth-century glass from Brinsop, Ross, and Credenhill, the screen at Bosbury, and the delightful door-knocker of the late twelfth century at Dormington Church.

Much attention is devoted in this volume, as in previous volumes of the Commission, to the cottages, barns, and smaller houses in general in the district. Several examples of the crutch type of construction, of unknown antiquity, but persisting down to the end of the Medieval period, if not later, in Western England, are given on plate 32. This early form of roof-truss consists of two long, slightly curved timbers with their free ends resting on the ground. It is probable that the horizontal timbers of the roof—the purlins—originally rested directly on the outer curve of the successive main trusses and that the building was thus necessarily roofed (thatched?) almost down to the ground. But in all the examples figured in this volume, and seen elsewhere by the reviewer, the building is framed up as a rectangular structure with a normal roof, the timber framing of the walls being built out from the main trusses, so that nothing in the present appearance of these houses, save the 'out-crop' of the main timbers at the gable-ends, marks their peculiar origin.

The Commissioners in their summary state that 'The condition of both the ecclesiastical and secular monuments is, in general, good; but an exception must be made of a number of small churches which have been suffered to fall into ruin, mostly in the second half of the last century. Two of these, at Edvin Loach and Tedstone Wafer, are of more than ordinary interest as examples of early post-Conquest building, but both are badly overgrown; the N. wall of the former threatens to fall at any moment, and the tympanum of the doorway at Tedstone Wafer has already fallen and now lies on the grass.' Here would seem to be a case for immediate diocesan enquiry.

CYRIL FOX.

THE PERSONALITY OF BRITAIN: *Its Influence on Inhabitant and Invader in Prehistoric and Early Historic Times.* By CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A. (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 1932.) Large 4to, 84 pp., 8 pl., 35 ff., cover map and three coloured maps, paper covers 2s. 6d. net.

In regard to this essay of Dr. Fox's, the hackneyed phrase 'epoch-making' can be used in a more than usually complete sense. For the work does in fact mark a definite epoch in the study of the prehistory and protohistory of these islands. It collates and epitomizes those tendencies which have during the past twenty years given a special character and distinction to our archaeology, and at the same time it carries them a stage further. A brief

examination of the tendencies in question, of their course and origin, may appropriately preface a review of this book.

The general importance, not only of the geographical position of the British Isles, but also of their geological structure, had been present to the minds of the principal archaeological scholars of this country during the first dozen years of the century. Haverfield had clearly demonstrated the geological basis of the Roman occupation; Thurlow Leeds, dealing with a more limited area, had appreciated the geological environment of the Saxon settlements. But it was from the geography school of Oxford and to some extent under the pervading influence of Professor J. L. Myres that, just before the Great War, finally emerged the impulse which was to establish the priority of geology and geography amongst the ancillary sciences of prehistoric archaeology. The corporate form of that impulse was Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, whose subsequent work as Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey is in direct continuation of his earliest pre-War researches.

Amongst those who, in the last decade, have developed the principles underlying this impulse, Dr. Fox stands without peer. His detailed study of the Cambridge region in close relationship to its simple but highly significant surface-geology is a classic in our archaeological literature. Later papers, notably in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, have widely extended his range; and now, in the present paper, with the aid of forty-seven excellent maps (three of them in colour), he encompasses within the narrow limit of seventy-four pages the whole of the British Isles and all periods, save the Roman, from neolithic to Viking times. As told, the story of the succession of cultures, each conforming with and modified by—rarely themselves modifying—the physiography of the countryside, assumes a combined reasonableness and inevitability which partakes of drama. The dramatic qualities of geology are not, perhaps, among the least of Dr. Fox's discoveries.

The essay is itself so concise that it is unnecessary here to summarize its conclusions. Two or three points of special novelty or interest may, however, be emphasized. One of these is the startling but illuminating thesis that the Straits of Dover were non-existent, or practically non-existent, as late as the neolithic period. Working in collaboration with a distinguished geologist, Dr. F. J. North, the author has reviewed the evidence of the submerged forest-beds and has postulated that in the third millennium B.C. the contour of the coastline must have approached the line of the hundred-foot submarine contour. This line would leave a substantial land-bridge between Kent and the Continent, and if, as appears probable, this bridge was still largely intact at the time of the diffusion of the megalithic long-barrow culture (end of third millennium B.C.) the westerly distribution of that culture and its failure to penetrate the present Straits of Dover are easily explained. Also, as Dr. Fox points out, the swift pervasion of eastern and southern Britain by the Beaker folk, mainly from the Low Countries, at the beginning of the second millennium is more readily understood if

we bear in mind the probable shortness of the channel-crossing at that time.

Another illustration of outstanding interest is a coloured physical map of southern Britain showing the distribution of antiquities (mounds, settlements, implements and ornaments) of the Bronze Age as a whole. No similarly comprehensive map has ever before been printed; indeed, much of the material has never previously been collated, and the active help of Miss L. F. Chitty is acknowledged in this connection. As a cartographic picture of a relatively primitive culture, the map is of unsurpassed value, and the concise but detailed analysis to which Dr. Fox subjects it may claim a large measure of finality as a study of the influence of environment upon the human occupation of Britain between 2000 and 500 B.C. Once again, the reader is referred to the essay as to an essential document.

The general basis upon which the survey rests—a reconstruction of the natural environment of man in ancient Britain—is discussed succinctly in special sections dealing with Climate, Flora and Fauna. In these sections, Dr. Fox has collected the significant results of many workers, including his colleague Mr. Colin Matheson, whose researches into the history of the British fauna are beginning to fill a long-felt want. The material for a classification of our fauna between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 1000 has accumulated rapidly in recent years, and, in particular, the time is approaching when a reasoned account of our ancient breeds of cattle and dogs should be forthcoming.

And one more need is emphasized by this work—the need for a co-ordinated geological drift-map of Britain as a whole. The Geological Survey could render no better or more timely service to the sister-science of archaeology than to produce such a map at an early date.

It remains to add that the National Museum of Wales, taking a wise view of its responsibilities as an educational institution, has issued this treatise at a modest price which can only represent a part of the actual cost. The production is excellent.

R. E. M. W.

CHRISTIAN ART IN ANCIENT IRELAND. Edited by Adolf Mahr.
Vol. I. Stationery Office of the Irish Free State, Dublin, 1932. xxvi pp.,
80 plates, 14 in. by 10 in.

This splendid volume of illustrations of the early Christian Art of Ireland is a welcome first instalment of a work which will place before the general reader a pictorial and annotated survey of one of the most remarkable periods of art history. Dr. Mahr in his too modest introduction gives a general account of the scope and purpose of the book which is intended to serve as a catalogue raisonnée of the art of the Irish metal-worker, with a background of the other arts of architecture, stone carving and illumination, rather than as a complete survey of the whole subject. The editor also gives an extremely clear and stimulating account of the development and

various phases of Irish art, written from an essentially broad and European standpoint which is so necessary for the proper approach of the subject. The present state of our knowledge is such that only an approach is yet possible, for perhaps in no other department of archaeology is opinion so undecided as in the matter of the ultimate origins of that brilliant art which formed the glory of early Christian Ireland. The contributions of Ireland itself, of Celtic Britain and Wales and of Brittany to the revival of Celtic art have all to be considered, and the time has not yet come when their respective proportions can be finally assessed.

Even since the publication of this work, there has appeared Mlle. Henry's book on Irish sculpture, a work of equal importance for the general study of the subject. The two combined should lay a sure foundation for future research and it only remains for the manuscripts to be dealt with on similar lines, though this branch of art has already received attention in the monumental work of Zimmerman.

We must await the second volume of Dr. Mahr's work for the description of the objects here illustrated and for the dates assigned to them. It would thus be premature to do more at this stage than to express our warm appreciation of the action of the Free State Government in promoting such an enterprise, and to congratulate both the editor and producers on the bright promise of such a beginning. Not the least welcome feature of the book is the inclusion of numerous objects of Irish art preserved in foreign museums and either not otherwise illustrated at all or only available in foreign publications. A few of these objects may ultimately prove to be of Anglo-Saxon origin but their affinities with Irish work are so close as to form a valuable commentary on the community of motives in the two arts.

The illustrations are, with very few exceptions, admirably reproduced, and one can only hope that the series will ultimately be extended to the illustration of all branches of Irish art.

A. W. CLAPHAM.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1914-1931. By T. D. KENDRICK and C. F. C. HAWKES. 8vo. Pp. xx + 371; 30 plates and 123 text-figures. London: Methuen & Co. 18s. nett.

The advantage of a deferred review of a book of this kind is that it enables the conscientious reviewer (and what reviewer is not conscientious?) to test the book adequately in normal use. From a six-months' rigorous ordeal, Messrs. Kendrick and Hawkes have emerged triumphant. They have survived alike the midnight furnace and the pale but blistering flame of Monday morning. Few works of reference can be found to suffer with hardihood so prolonged and incessant a questioning.

'We begin with eoliths,' are the opening words of the first chapter; and the last chapter ends with the phrase, 'that supreme English masterpiece, the Madonna of York Minster.' Within these

wide limits—i.e. between the year x B.C. and the eleventh (rather than the twelfth) century A.D.—the authors can have missed very little of any importance that has happened in British archaeology during the last two decades. No collection of the kind can be expected to meet with universal agreement in detail; but it is difficult to imagine a synthesis to which so little exception can reasonably be taken. All points of view which are in any degree worthy of consideration receive fair space, and the balance is nicely held throughout between the various subjects and interests. If the present reviewer allows himself one small complaint it is that the idiom and thought of certain parts of the book become rather tiresomely subjective. Having said that, however, he has nothing else but praise.

It would be easy to reproach the book with not being what it is not intended to be. It is not a text-book of British archaeology; it is not an essay in the development of civilisation. It is, first and last, a summary of work done. It has a limited and practical purpose—that of keeping the archaeologist and, to a less extent, the interested layman, in touch with the multifarious efforts of a period of astounding productivity. If, from the two decades, we subtract six years of war, we are left with an archaeological output unapproached in any other similar period or in any other country. Not the sturdiest professional antiquary can carry the details of this vast output in one small brain. As a readable work of reference, "Kendrick and Hawkes," therefore, is essential to every archaeological library. So will be its successors as, decade by decade, they appear (for surely they must) to take up the story.

And the story is worth while. It is one which is calculated to arouse in the reddest heart all the worst vices of patriotism. It is the record of the upgrowth in this country of a generation of trained explorers who have now, with finality, established a high position for archaeology in the hierarchy of Science. That is something new—so new that the distinguished scientific periodical, *Nature*, does not yet include the Society of Antiquaries amongst the scientific societies. . . . But perhaps, after all, archaeology is an Art.

R. E. M. W.

THE MAP OF ENGLAND. By COL. SIR CHARLES CLOSE, C.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., F.R.S. Pp. 166, Pls. 8. London: Peter Davies, Ltd. 6s.

The tenure by Sir Charles Close of the office of Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, was in several respects a notable one. Above all, it marked the definite entry of the Survey into the field of scientific archaeological research. Since the earliest years of the Survey—which is dated from the mapping of the Highlands by Roy and others after the 1745 rebellion—the recording of structural antiquities had indeed been an incidental function, or at least a pardonable foible, of this service. But only since the Great War has this inevitable aspect of the Survey's work received that serious consideration which the complicated science of modern archaeology demands. The creation of the official post of Archaeology Officer,

the appointment to it of Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, and the wise encouragement given by Sir Charles Close to the pioneer-work of the new Officer, all combined to lend the revised Ordnance maps an authority and utility which their predecessors had lacked. Terminology which had scarcely been amended since Roy's day was now overhauled and brought up to date; the Romans and the Druids, for example, who had previously shared with the Devil an unjust proportion of the antiquities of the island, now receded into their proper places, whilst, on the other hand, many noteworthy antiquities which had escaped the spasmodic vigilance of the earlier mappers were now added. And, as a by-product of the archaeological research (some of it carried out from the air) necessary for this primary purpose of map-revision, special archaeological or historical maps and memoirs of the utmost value have emerged in recent years from the offices of the Survey.

This special development of the Ordnance Survey is here stressed, because of its association with Sir Charles Close; but it is in fact only symptomatic of a general and healthy tendency of the Survey to regard itself as a faithful servant of the public and not merely a traditional perquisite of the Royal Engineers. The public now *wants* archaeology, and the Ordnance Survey supplies it. The public also wants, or should want, a brief and clearly-written account of the upgrowth of the great department itself, whose productions are in everybody's hands; and, fortunately, it is Sir Charles Close who has now supplied this also.

The chapter-headings of this excellent little book sufficiently indicate its scope: The old maps of England, The origins of the Ordnance Survey, History of the Ordnance Survey, How to read a map, The place-names of England, Pre-historic England on the map, Saxon and Elizabethan England on the map, Seventeenth-century England on the map. Not the least of the responsibilities of the Survey is the determination of place-name spelling—a matter in which some of the older maps, dependent upon local antiquaries for their material, went sadly astray. Wales, in particular, has suffered in this respect. Nor is it always easy, even when the invaluable Place-Name Society has provided all the relevant material, to decide between rival spellings of equal authority. The principle that older spellings or pronunciations are generally best can easily be overdone, for words, of course, change quite legitimately with time and usage, and these changes are often scientifically valid. But under conditions in which the arbiters of right and wrong are too often either illiterate railway time-tables or semi-literate newspapers or excessively literate broadcasters, it is to the Ordnance Survey that we look for a just and scholarly—but not *too* scholarly—balance between the place-name spellings of the genuine local populace on the one hand and the pundits on the other.

These and innumerable other contacts between the Ordnance Survey and our daily life give this book an interest which loses nothing from the simplicity and directness with which it is planned and written.

R. E. M. W.

THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF ST. ETHELDREDA AT ELY. By T. D. ATKINSON. Cambridge University Press, 1933. £5. 5. 0. 15 in. by 10 in. Pp. xxxiv + 214; xli plates, 39 figs. and xxi sheets of plans and other drawings in portfolio.

In this sumptuous production, the author, Mr. Atkinson, has not only collected together all the available information, both documentary and architectural, relating to the monastic buildings at Ely, but has also assembled a large mass of comparative material relating to monastic architecture in general. The monastic buildings at Ely form one of the most complete surviving examples of a large Benedictine house in this country and they are fortunately explained and illustrated by an almost equally extensive volume of documentary evidence.

It is seldom that the two sides of a subject such as this are treated with equal effect, the architectural or the documentary side is either over emphasised or scamped. Mr. Atkinson, however, has been eminently successful in preserving a just mean and has produced one of the most successful studies we possess of an English medieval convent. His work follows closely on the lines laid down, once and for all, by Professor Willis in his study of the monastic buildings at Canterbury. Thus the book is a tribute to the great founder of our medieval archaeology and an illustration of how admirably his principles have been applied by the author to his own immediate subject.

The subject is opened by a short historical sketch, followed by a survey of the ritual arrangements of the church at the dissolution. One may perhaps express the hope that one day the author will undertake the architectural study of the cathedral itself, which has not been attempted since the Rev. D. J. Stewart's work of 1868.

The various monastic buildings are next treated in detail. Two of these—the Infirmary and the Prior's Lodging, are of first-class importance in the study of monastic and domestic economy. The infirmary is of the same type as, but even more complete than, the great building at Canterbury, while the Prior's Lodging includes that delightful structure Prior Crawden's chapel. In this connection we may note how desirable it would be to have an exact reproduction of the remarkable pavement of the Fall, which is perhaps unique in the art of northern Europe.

It is impossible, here, to call attention to the innumerable points of interesting detail dealt with by the author, but we may mention the account, on p. 42, of the making of 18,000 bricks in 1334-5 for Walsingham's 'Painted Chamber,' which still survives. This is perhaps the earliest extant record of brick-making in England, of which the tangible results can still be studied.

The author suggests that paving-tiles were in use long before the reintroduction of brick-making, which we think is open to some doubt. It appears not improbable that the use of floor-tiles and bricks, made in the country, can both be carried back to the second half of the twelfth century, but not earlier.

The portfolio of plans and drawings which accompanies the work, gives a complete survey of the surviving buildings, the detail plans being coloured to show periods. One regrets, perhaps, that there is no general coloured plan of the whole site, including the church, but with a site of this extent it is perhaps more than could be expected. In the plan of the cloister, it is a pity that no indication is given of the later date of the doorways into the church as regards the wall in which they are set. In the comparative plans of Benedictine monasteries, account should have been taken of Sir William Hope's excavation of the frater at Canterbury Cathedral, and the Dean of Norwich's excavations have shown that the plan of the early east chapel at Norwich is incorrect.

These, however, are very minor blemishes and we are indebted to Mr. Atkinson for an account alike exhaustive, authoritative and readable, of one of England's greatest monastic houses.

The presentation and format of the book are in every way admirable. As a piece of typography it is a delight to the eye and the illustrations, particularly the colotype frontispiece, are uniformly excellent.

A. W. CLAPHAM.

THE HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL. Vol. I. From the Earliest Times until A.D. 1600. By F. G. PARSONS, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A. 8vo. xii + 256 pp., eight illustrations. Methuen & Co.

CHARTULARY OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR, SOUTHWARK. (1213-1525.) 4to, 184 pp. Published privately for the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Dr. Parsons writes easily and pleasantly on a subject that has a real importance in London history, and one that has much interest in elucidating London topography. The part played by the Hospitals in the general scheme of social economy in the Middle Ages, is often referred to but seldom properly appraised. It may be easily imagined that the House of Austin Canons, known as St. Mary Overie, on the south side of London Bridge, had its hospitality fully taxed, at this important entrance to London, and when in 1212 the priory buildings were largely destroyed by fire, it is a significant fact that the Bishop of Winchester, Peter des Roches, arranged for a hospital of independent foundation to be built on the opposite side of the way. The author, unfortunately, confuses the monastic infirmary with the public hospital at the gate and his narrative becomes at times misleading. The bishop in his Indulgence granted to those who would assist in the new building refers to the latter specifically as 'an ancient spital, built of old to entertain the poor,' which 'has been entirely reduced to cinders and ashes.' To identify this with the canons' infirmary is a complete misconception. The document of 1215, inscribed on the Patent Rolls, by which the canons agree to

the transference of the brethren and sisters of the old hospital of St. Thomas to the new hospital of the same dedication, is of extraordinary interest. Not only is the foundation to be 'free and absolved from all subjection to the Church of St. Mary' but the canons undertake to shut up the old hospital for ever, to build no hospital thereon, nor a house in the fashion of a hospital, and they bind themselves not to build another hospital in the public street of Southwark.

Like the Great Hospital at Norwich, St. Thomas's became parochial and was given the right to bury in its own cemetery, and the canons further granted that the market for corn and goods, which used to be at the doors of the old hospital, should be transferred to the doors of the new hospital, a clear indication of the site of both.

Another important point, on which the author appears to be handicapped by an insufficient knowledge of the nature of a medieval hospital, concerns the 'church.' It seems quite clear that most early hospitals were built on the infirmary plan, that is, a large hall for the beds of the inmates with a chapel at the east end. The whole building was often known as the 'church,' and Dr. Parsons himself quotes a document of 1415, in which the master, John Reede, undertakes to keep 'the lamps in the body of the church, before the poor lying there, yearly, daily and for ever burning, day and night.' It is possible that here as at Norwich, the eastern section of the hall was in use as the parishioners' nave, the hospital chapel acting as its chancel. There would be a screen between the two, and it may be that the altar of the Blessed Virgin, 'which is placed and constructed in the body of the church' (document between 1341 and 1356), was due to the not uncommon practice of erecting an altar in the hall itself, nearer the sick, like the nave altars in a parish church. But the whole would have been one great building, and if this early construction is kept in view, much that appears obscure to the writer would be made plain.

The hospital grew rapidly in property and usefulness, and Dr. Parsons gives many interesting sidelights on its history until its surrender in 1540. He tells the story of its re-foundation as St. Thomas the Apostle (with Christ Church and Bridewell) in 1553, and rightly stresses the important part taken by the City of London, with Bishop Ridley as advocate, in restoring an institution which has proved indispensable to the welfare of its citizens.

The governors of St. Thomas's Hospital are to be congratulated on their public spirit in publishing the Chartulary of the Hospital from the Stowe MSS. in the British Museum. The documents which are some 950 in number, are here given in a summarised form from translations by Miss Drucker. The book forms a handy calendar of deeds concerning a great many properties in South London and elsewhere. One sadly misses an index, but the grouping of the deeds has been carefully arranged to make reference as easy as possible.

W. H. GODFREY.

THE MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES OF SUSSEX (1250-1650). By H. R. Mosse, M.D. 2nd Edition. xx + 251 pp. Illustrated. Combridges Brighton.

It is an encouraging sign of public interest in our parish churches and the history they enshrine, that a second edition of this useful little book has been called for within two years. Dr. Mosse has taken the opportunity to correct and expand his material, and the volume is a perfect compendium of information, for in addition to a detailed description of the effigies, the historical and heraldic notes are full and are made more serviceable by the references given to other works. There is still room for revision (the elision of sixteen words from the inscription to Robert Hassard on page 126 excludes the names of his wife and her father) and the author will need the co-operation of his readers to this end. We may hope that he may yet be able to complete his work and include the memorials of the later renaissance which are now beginning to win their proper place in public estimation. One new feature seems to be somewhat tentative. A list of inscriptions without effigies is given in Appendix I. Such a list, if it is not confined to memorials which originally had effigies, would run to great length. If on the other hand it is only intended to include those of special importance, we miss such inscriptions as that to Gundrada de Warene.

W. H. G.

ENGLISH ART IN THE MIDDLE AGES. By O. ELFRIDA SAUNDERS. Pp. xxii + 272, large crown 8vo. 100 illustrations. Oxford. 12s. 6d.

Professor Tancred Borenius, in his Preface to this book, aptly points out that until recent years the words 'medieval art,' when applied to England, were taken as synonymous with 'medieval architecture,' this being the form of art best able to survive the religious iconoclasts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Examples of art in other branches were the easy prey of the zealot, and surviving specimens are consequently far less numerous in England than in some foreign countries.

In this account of English art, however, Miss Saunders has refrained from dealing with architecture, save incidentally when discussing artistic development. Instead, she has gone carefully through the surviving works of art in other branches, and as a result has given us an interesting and eminently readable volume dealing with sculpture, painting, illumination, metal-work, embroidery and stained glass from the seventh century to the fifteenth. She divides her subject broadly into three periods—Pre-Conquest, Romanesque and Gothic—and opens with an account of the introduction of art along with Christianity into seventh-century Northumbria. In her second chapter, which deals with Anglo-Saxon art, a short note on its general characteristics precedes an analysis of the art of the period, which is divided into six branches, namely metal-work, embroidery, wall-painting, illumination, sculpture and ivory carving.

A similar arrangement is employed for the Romanesque and Gothic periods, with the addition in each case of a chapter on the subject-matter of the works under discussion. These preliminary notes on each period are of value in illustrating the ideas and influences that inspired and guided the artists and workmen of the time. Miss Saunders points out, for instance, how biblical scenes in illuminated manuscripts, from being highly stylised and symbolic, are seen to grow more and more realistic in treatment with the development of the Gothic period, and how scenes occurring in such forms of art as stained glass and embroidery, which were mainly the work of laymen, seem to derive their subjects, not from illuminated manuscripts, but from the dramatic performances organised by religious or trade guilds.

Such is the general outline of the book. In illustration of her subject, Miss Saunders gives an excellent variety of examples. The topographical index at the end of the book shows references to works of art all over England, nor has the author omitted due reference to English specimens in European and American collections. Another index is devoted to subject-matter, and is of use for comparative purposes, for studying the development, say, of the treatment of the Crucifixion, from the crosses of Northumbria to the Gloucestershire window of 1500. The photographs with which the work is illustrated are well-chosen, numerous and uniformly good.

One error has crept into the text. In the description of the tomb of Eleanor of Castile on page 210, she is referred to as the wife of Henry III, whereas the husband who erected this tomb to her memory was Henry's son Edward I. The queen of Henry III was the unpopular Eleanor of Provence, whose arrogance and extortions drove the Londoners to assail her with rude names and to hurl stones and filth into her barge as it passed under London Bridge. On her husband's death she entered a nunnery at Amesbury, and died there.

With this reservation, the book can be heartily recommended both as a useful work of reference, and as an interesting history of the subject.

M. R. HOLMES.

THE OXINDEN LETTERS: 1607-1642. Edited with Notes and an Introduction by Dorothy Gardiner. xxxvi + 328 pp., with 12 half-tone plates, a map, and a genealogical table. Constable. 12s. 6d.

The Oxinden Letters, which occupy in relation to seventeenth-century Kent much the same position as the Paston Letters do in relation to fifteenth-century Norfolk, comprise the correspondence of the East Kent family of the Oxindens (who, like the Pastons, belonged to the squirearchy) and of their extensive circle of friends. The letters which are now published, mainly from MSS. in the British Museum, cover the period from 1607 to 1642. Much more effectively than any history text-book they enable us to obtain a vivid picture of life and manners in seventeenth-century England,

and of the effect upon everyday life of the events which preceded the Civil War.

The central figure of the letters is Henry Oxinden of Barham, a prolific correspondent, who meticulously kept not only the letters which he received, but also rough draft copies of many of those which he himself wrote. Thanks to these draft copies, the reader is spared that exasperating one-sidedness which too often detracts from the interest of a collection of letters. It is as fortunate as it is rare that a complete body of correspondence should thus survive the vicissitudes of three centuries.

The letters are primarily concerned with private and family matters, but in the seventeenth century means of communication were so unsatisfactory and news so difficult to obtain, that the ordinary family letter contained much more news than does its successor of to-day, and we can understand why, to Henry Oxinden, residing on his country estate at Barham, a letter from London with a detailed account of the recent happenings in the capital, was so welcome. But these letters from London friends form only a part of the correspondence, which deals with a wide variety of topics, to only a few of which reference can here be made. Henry Oxinden sends presents of rabbits and partridges to his neighbours, and joins them in hunting and hawking; he writes to his brother-in-law on behalf of Goodwife Gilnot, who is accused of witchery, and it is indicative of the contemporary attitude towards witches that Oxinden thinks it necessary to prove at great length that the charge is groundless; he learns that he has much angered Sir Thomas Palmer by failing to comply with his request to wait until the harvest is over before having his man hanged for poaching on Oxinden's land; Mrs. Katharine Oxinden, his mother, sends a request from London, whither she has gone on one of her frequent visits, that he will 'loke in the trunk for a paire of skurtes taide with a black bone lase, praye if you can finde them, send them up next week'; Margaret, Lady Oxinden of Deane, prescribes remedies for sick relations; brother James, at Cambridge, sends frequent requests for money; Henry Oxinden's uncle, Robert Sprakeling, warns him against rash litigation and adds, concerning lawyers, that they 'often times so wrest the law as they will make it seeme to be such as they suppose doth best accord with the desire of their client.' Truly, the Law is conservative!

As a background to these domestic details is unrestful England, gradually and inevitably stumbling towards Civil War. Disquieting rumours reach the Oxindens in their country home. The price of corn rises; the tenants cannot pay their rents; money is scarce, for 'they that have monie will not part with itt: they that have none cannott.' From London, come tidings of frequent and threatened disturbances; how, when the Bishop's Chancellor went to St. Lawrence, to require the ministers, churchwardens and sidesmen to subscribe to the Articles set forth by the Bishop, and they refused, 'one wag amongst them cryed outt, a madd Oxe, upon which the whole Company, the Chancellor with the rest, betooke them to ther heeles, and gote into and over the pues as if they them-

selves had bene madd'; the Bishop of Rochester, in a letter to Henry Oxinden, reports the quarrel between the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Mowbray in the House of Lords, the Lord Chamberlain using his white staff as a weapon, 'and the other threw a Standish, but missed'; it is not safe for a man to write, or even speak, his thoughts, so dangerous are the times; the country is divided between allegiance to the King, and to Parliament; brother is against brother, father against son. From Sir Thomas Peyton, Henry Oxinden's brother-in-law, who sat as Member of Parliament for Sandwich, we learn much of the proceedings in Parliament during the fateful sessions of the 1640's, and these letters are probably the most interesting of them all.

Mrs. Gardiner has edited the letters admirably. It may truthfully be said of her that 'she is never in the way, and never out of the way,' for she supplies us, in the Introduction and the head-notes, with all the information which we require for a full appreciation of the letters, and yet does not fall into that common error of editors, of interlarding the original with such copious annotations that the commentary overshadows the text. A very necessary genealogical tree is provided, and also a map of the Oxinden's part of East Kent. The editing of these letters, including the collection of the innumerable scraps of information about the many characters who hurriedly cross the stage, and the transcription of Henry Oxinden's draft letters (the latter an unenviable task if the facsimile specimen draft is typical of the rest) must have involved a large amount of labour, and skilfully Mrs. Gardiner has brought a difficult work to a successful conclusion.

The Oxinden Letters will be of interest to the historian, to the sociologist, and to the student of the English language (who will enjoy the unorthodox and phonetic spelling of the female correspondents and will not share Mrs. Gardiner's regret on account of their lack of education.) But it needs no considerations such as these to justify the publication of the letters, which their own intrinsic value makes well worth while. It is to be hoped that the reception accorded to this volume will warrant the publication of the remainder of the letters, which cover the period from the beginning of the Civil War to the reign of Queen Anne.

FRANK W. JESSUP.

THE FLINT-MINERS OF BLACKPATCH. By J. H. PULL. With a Foreword by Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S. London: Williams and Norgate, 1932. Pp. 152, 24 illustrations. 10s. 6d.

One of the happier effects of the recent widespread enthusiasm for excavation has been the broadening of the basis of the old controversy about the age of the classic flint-mines of Cissbury and Grime's Graves. Side by side with the continued work at the Graves, we have had such men as Dr. Curwen digging on Harrow Hill, Dr. Stone on Easton Down, and at Blackpatch the author of the book now before us. It is no secret that they have put the alleged palaeolithic

flint-miner on trial for his life. And the evidence is all the more impressive when it comes from unbiassed and unacademic workers like Mr. Pull, whose chief qualifications are unbounded enthusiasm, a cheerfully objective outlook, and a scrupulously accurate technique in excavation and recording. Not that his results need be claimed to have universal validity, but he has certainly performed a most creditable achievement in so thoroughly exploring and putting on record the mines, working-floors, dwelling-sites, and round barrows of the flint-miners of Blackpatch.

The site lies on the Sussex Downs 4 miles west of Cissbury: Mr. Pull was its original discoverer. With a single helper, Mr. Sainsbury, he has methodically excavated it in the spare hours of eight years, from 1922 to 1930. Not only have seven mine-shafts, with the galleries radiating therefrom along the rich flint-seam 11 feet down, been fully cleared and examined, but a careful study has been made of their relation to each other, to the working-floors in and around them, and to the associated dwelling-sites and barrows containing Beaker and Middle Bronze Age pottery. It is a welcome contribution to archaeology.

After two interim reports,¹ the final publication is a book in narrative form. The method has the defects of its qualities. The narrative of the excavations is always readable, and displays valuable observation without overcrowding of detail, but for reference one would give much for the tabular records of stratified finds made throughout the site which Mr. Pull doubtless possesses in his study. When one turns to the book to see exactly what has been found where, one has to search, and to search in awareness that one is dealing with selected material. Obviously everything of importance has been included, but Mr. Pull could have provided relic-tables without necessarily publishing like a Pitt-Rivers.

Indeed, while it is good to see publishers undertaking such work at all, their heavy hand lies very evidently over the whole book. The illustrations are sadly inadequate. Where are the sections of the shafts, showing the floors and burials in their infilling, and the barrows overlying or cut through by them? The sketch-plan on pl. 17 is good, but it is not enough, and the narrative, clear as it is, cries out for fuller illustration. Again, why are we denied drawings of a fuller series of the flint types? How can the author's record of his work, let alone his scouting of academic typology, seem adequate without them? How long will it be before publishers realize that in any book of this kind, illustrations are not an 'extra,' but an essential and profitable investment? Reviewers are bound to shy at a poorly illustrated book, and the interested public will inevitably shy in its turn. We do not expect publishers to be archaeologists, but we do expect them to be business men.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Pull's success under the limitations imposed on him is far from small. His introductory chapters and his main narrative are good work, and the studies which follow, on

¹*Sussex Arch. Colls.* lxxv (1924), 69 ff.; *South-Eastern Naturalist & Antiquary*, xxxiv (1929), 24 ff.

tools, on flint charms, and on the skeletal material, fauna, land-mollusca, and flora, are all interesting. There is also a sensible essay on patina. The dating evidence is well summed up, and the attempt to set the culture revealed at Blackpatch against a full European background has been bravely made, and cannot be called a failure. There are a few misprints: '1000 B.C.' on p. 99 should presumably be '1600' or '1500,' and on the next page appears the word 'Turburian': but the book is the reverse of slovenly. The author modestly does himself less than justice when he emphasizes the weight of what still remains unsolved on his site: he has worked well and truly, and the book which his work has made is indeed good enough to make one wish it could have appeared better.

C. F. C. H.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP OF NEOLITHIC WESSEX. Pp. 35,
2 text figures, and map, four miles to one inch. The Ordnance Survey.
Price 4s.

The Ordnance Survey Professional Papers dealing with the megalithic monuments on Sheets 8 and 12 (the Cotswolds, and Kent, Surrey, and Sussex) are now well known among archaeologists. The present map of Wessex carries the National Survey a step further towards its ultimate goal, which is to construct a map of England and Wales setting out the distribution of neolithic antiquities. There is, however, this difference between the former Professional Papers and the map of Wessex: previously the tendency has been for the text of the publication to be regarded as of greater importance than the map, but here, as the Director General makes plain in his Foreword, the map is to be considered as the principal feature of the publication, the schedule from which it was compiled, together with the rest of the text, being subordinate parts.

The schedule identifies by consecutive numbers all the sites marked on the map, and gives their altitude, precise location, and a reference to the O.S. 6 in. sheet on which they may be found. The type of monument is also indicated, and references are given to published descriptions. The references are not full and complete for reasons of space, but they do cover the most important literature, including the Wiltshire Archaeological Society's list of long barrows, and the inventory of Somerset long barrows published by the Spelaeological Society of Bristol University.

The map, quarter-inch sheet No. 11, covers a wide area extending from Cardiff and Sidmouth in the west, to Reading and Portsmouth in the east, a tract of country of which the boundaries are not conterminous with those of the historical kingdom of Wessex. At the same time, the term 'Wessex' describes very conveniently a definite geographical region, and no one can possibly criticise the use of the name in that sense to denote the region covered by the map. The map is contoured and coloured on a grey background which at times becomes difficult to read through the overprinting of symbols, but it is hard to see how this is to be avoided. No attempt

has been made to restore the coast line, and this cannot be done from the present state of our knowledge. The natural regions of heavy woodland and marshland have, however, been restored on a geological basis, and it is pointed out that certain of the clay-lands remained densely wooded even down to A.D. 1300, when the Royal Forests were perambulated. The chalk downs capped with clay-with-flints are here shown as forested regions, for it was not until Roman times, or just before, that such areas were cleared and rendered fit for habitation. The seeming contradiction between the map of Roman Britain and the neolithic map is thus explained.

Neolithic antiquities in Wessex have a very marked distribution. The main settlement-area is on Salisbury Plain; north of this, another important group is centred round Avebury and the headwaters of the Kennet; and southward, between Downton and the Tarrants, a chain of long barrows stretches across Cranborne Chace; and a fourth group is to be found in south central Dorset, near Black Down. The key to the distribution is to be found in the geological map, from which it will be seen that the chief areas of settlement coincide with regions of chalk and limestone country, which in early days were free from dense woodland and well suited to the needs of a pastoral people. Other open spaces there were, as the map shows, but these were in the main sandy heath-lands, and apart from occasional riverside settlements, they were not well populated until the Bronze Age, and did not come into prominence until the downland pastures of the interior were fully occupied.

With the existence of a forest belt surrounding downland Wessex, natural lines of communication were of great importance, and in the text accompanying the map the various routes in and out of Wessex are considered in some detail. Two text-maps emphasise the particular geographical features of the Lacock and Frome forest crossings. (The position of places mentioned in the text which are not numbered sites might well have been indicated by a map-square reference; without the help of Fig. 1, Lacock is extraordinarily difficult to find.) Although there is no direct evidence that the forest crossings were used in prehistoric times, both of those mentioned above connect regions which were settled by long-barrow people, and there are, in addition, other considerations which make the presumptive evidence very strong. Apart from land routes, two other lines of communication, the Hampshire Avon and the Dorset Stour, lead directly to the main centres of settlement: the Avon and its tributary the Wyelye to Salisbury Plain, and the Stour and the Allen westward through a gap in the forest belt to Cranborne Chace. Christchurch Harbour forms the natural outlet from both these river systems. Possibly Studland Bay and the Frome mark the route followed by the south central Dorset barrow builders; a long barrow and a stone circle are to be seen near Studland, and another long barrow just above Bincombe.

Very excellent notes on the various types of antiquities are given in the text, and here it is shown that the material from which long barrows were built depended entirely upon the geology of the

country. A large area of Wessex is stoneless, and in stoneless regions earth was used in barrow construction, the burial chambers being probably of wood as at Wor Barrow in Dorset.

The map is the result of a commendable co-operative effort, and certain acknowledgments in connection with its compilation are made in the Foreword, but Mr. O. G. S. Crawford has been unduly modest in not signing the text-notes if these, as we believe, are his own work.

R. F. JESSUP.

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DEVON. English Place-Names Society, Vols. VIII and IX, with maps in separate cover. Pp. lx + 754. Cambridge University Press, 1931-2. 40s. nett.

The English Place-Name Society, proceeding with its work of elucidating the nomenclature, and indeed much of the history, of our countryside, has here made its detailed survey of England's third largest county. The area covered is greater than that dealt with in any of the County volumes previously issued, and the correspondingly large mass of toponymic material which it yields cannot fail to add to our knowledge of those problems which place-name study raises and to some extent solves. Moreover, such material becomes all the more interesting when Devon's position between English Wessex and Celtic Cornwall is taken into consideration; here if anywhere we might expect light to be thrown on the relations of Briton and Saxon during the later years of the English conquest. Nor has there been a subsequent Scandinavian settlement of any importance to complicate the matter.

The conclusions arising out of the Survey as to the survival of the people and language of *Dumnonia* side by side with those of *Defnascir* are set forth, along with other matters of interest, in the Introduction. The apparent absence of heathen or other early elements in the Saxon place-names of the County accords with historical fact and with the negative archaeological evidence implied by the absence of pagan cemeteries. History would indicate that the English settlement could not have begun here before the latter half of the seventh century, and the place-name evidence shows that that settlement was still going on after the Norman Conquest. Now the small proportion of towns, villages and farmsteads bearing wholly or partly British names is taken to mean that the settlement was made in an almost deserted country—far more deserted than Somerset or Dorset, in the local nomenclature of which a British element is much more evident. Nor does the fact that most of the larger rivers bear pre-English names—though many rivers and streams do not—materially affect this. The county also contrasts with its two eastern neighbours in its scarcity of remains of Romano-British occupation outside Exeter. It may also be pointed out here that the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells of a fierce contest between the two nations for the possession of the narrow country between the Severn Sea and the English Channel, beginning with the battle at

Old Sarum in 552 and ending more than a century later with Cenwalh's victory at Penselwood and the rout of the Britons as far as the Parret. After that, with the exception of the driving of the Britons 'in flight as far as the sea' in 682, the Anglo-Saxon advance westwards seems to have been comparatively uneventful, for the silence of the Chronicle leads us to infer that Exeter, unlike Old Sarum, fell without a struggle, and Wynfrith, the evangelist of Western Germany, was receiving his education there before the end of the seventh century. When battles are again mentioned by name, they are found to be taking place in the neighbourhood of the Tamar; and at *Hehil apud Cornuenses*, *Gafulford*, and Hingston Down the Britons were again vigorously defending what was left to them of the south-western peninsula. Thus after Penselwood the British defence seems to have collapsed, and the invaders met with little resistance in west Somerset and east Devon, regions too scantily peopled then to offer any, and indeed too poor to be worth fighting for.

Nevertheless, one may suppose that the place-names, if taken by themselves, do rather less than justice to the survival of a British element—not that it may have been of any great numerical or social importance—in the Saxon population of Devonshire, and the possibility of such a failing in the evidence has not perhaps been sufficiently stressed in the Introduction. But before turning to evidence from other sources it may be instructive to consider the distribution of the surviving Celtic or partly Celtic names, including those in which a Celtic personal name is compounded with another element. In the north of the county, they are found on the fringes of Exmoor and westwards along the coast to Hartland Point; here their survival may be due to their remoteness. Going from west to east through the centre of the county, we find a fairly well-marked cluster near the middle course of the Tamar, answering to an area of similar names which comes up to the river on the Cornish side, but farther east they are more scattered, although some occur in districts round Exeter and between there and the Dorset border. North and north-west of Exeter they are rare, and in the South Hams, a fertile region in which there has been much settlement at later periods, a few have survived. They are noticeably rare in a zone extending from east to west between Exmoor and the centre of the county, and this zone, particularly in the west, is still the poorest agricultural land in the county. It is not surprising too that they hardly touch even the fringes of Dartmoor, which in historic times at least must always have been deserted. If their distribution is compared with that of names—such as compounds of *tun*, *worthy* or *cott* with mediæval or continental personal names, and names which are really Anglo-Norman legal terms applied to places—which may be taken as indicating late settlement, it is seen that the two are to some extent complementary. This is particularly marked in the country to the south-east of Barnstaple (e.g., South Molton hundred), where the late names are at their thickest, and where no Celtic names are known. It is obvious that settlement was taking place here in

wooded or infertile country at a time when the colonization of the more desirable parts of the county was more or less complete, and an interesting commentary on this is supplied by the name Meshaw, the *mal essart*, or infertile clearing. Also, the late names are found encroaching on the wastes of Dartmoor. It may be said then that, *wherever settlement could be expected at such an early period*, Celtic names are not entirely unrepresented, and they suggest that Celt and Saxon could be found living side by side in those parts of Devon which at that time sufficed for human habitation.

Evidence other than that from place-names is also forthcoming. According to Polwhele the Cornish language was still spoken in South Devon in the reign of Edward I, but he does not bring forward anything in support of his statement, and it cannot be accepted without question. The writers of the Survey do indeed suggest (p. xxii) that the name Penquit in Ermington may indicate a late survival of British-speaking people near there, although Mr. Henry Jenner tells me that *cuit*, *quite* or *quit* are very early Cornish forms. We are on firmer ground with the older historical sources. Asser, who knew British names for towns and rivers in districts farther east, also knew British names for Exeter and for a stronghold, probably the promontory fort at Countisbury, on the north Devon coast. William of Malmesbury's statement that Exeter was jointly occupied by Britons and Saxons as late as the reign of Athelstan might also have been mentioned, well known though it is, as it surely implies that the surrounding countryside could not have been entirely devoid of British settlers, however scanty the traces that they have left of themselves. It is usual to locate the ancient British quarter of Exeter on the north side of the city, where the churches still bear Celtic dedications, and a number of such dedications have survived elsewhere in Devon.

The Survey of a county in which the element *combe* occurs with such monotonous persistence has also brought up another vexed question, related to the last. Whether or no *combe* is a Celtic loan-word, it is now quite clear that the Saxons brought it with them into Devon, and did not adopt it there from the older inhabitants, whose Cornish compatriots never used it in place-names. The same may be said of *tor*.

Like the other volumes of the series, the work is concluded by useful analyses of the material collected in the foregoing pages, but the classification of the various elements has been taken further than usual, so that personal names compounded with other elements in the place-names have been grouped under their respective national headings—Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Scandinavian, and Continental. The last but one of these groups must represent settlement in the tenth and eleventh centuries, when Scandinavian names were popular; it is a curious fact that, out of the twenty or so places thus distinguished, four are in the immediate neighbourhood of a *burh* (Halwell) given in the Burghal Hidage, and four more are less than twelve miles from it.

Where so much documentary material of varying character and

date has had to be dealt with, and by a number of collaborators, it is inevitable that here and there details might be singled out for criticism. Thus, among names not mentioned, but still on the map, is Chelston near Torquay, although the Cartulary of Torre Abbey gives a thirteenth-century form, *Chilleston*, which on the analogy of the forms given for Chelsdon in Petrockstow might suggest that it is one of those difficult names containing OE *cild*. Other names in the same neighbourhood, some still surviving, others lost, may be gathered from the same source, and for one of the lost ones, *Tyvaldeclive* (this, and not *tuyveldeclive*, is the spelling in the Public Record Office copy of the Cartulary), a derivation from *twifeald* and *clif* is suggested, and such a description would still apply to the eastern part of Corbyn's Head (*in parte orientali de Corvenasse*, which should surely not be translated, as in the text, 'in the part east of *Corvenasse*'). Every allowance having been made, however, for human fallibility (surely reduced here to a minimum) and the uncertainties which must arise whenever place-names are made the subject of enquiry, books such as these prove beyond question that toponymic philology, having deserted the disreputable ways of its youth, has entered upon a period of solid and entertaining usefulness.

F. COTTRILL.

DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT: RÖMISCH-GERMANISCHE KOMMISSION: ZWANZIGSTER BERICHT, 1930. Frankfurt am Main: Joseph Baer & Co., 1931. Pp. 226, illustrated. Rm. 10.

The annual Report of the Römisch-Germanische Kommission has become one of the most important of its publications, and rightly so. For to the Director's record of the Kommission's activities during the year—in itself always a remarkable document—wise policy has added a well-assorted group of monographs, each by a specialist, 'reporting progress' on some particular subject within the Kommission's scope, bringing together scattered material, framing it in synthesis, and laying down the lines for future progress. In these days of enormous output of specialist literature scattered through a thousand books and periodicals, such *Zusammenfassungen* are of the greatest value, and one takes up these yearly reports secure in the knowledge that the subjects chosen and the authors' handling of them will alike be thoroughly satisfying.

To comment on Dr. Bersu's sober narrative of the enormous amount of work that his Kommission does during the year would be superfluous. Nor could it be attempted without embarking on a review of the better part of all the really outstanding enterprises and problems in Central European archaeology. In these columns the Kommission needs no advertisement. But the three treatises which follow have each a claim, which can hardly be ignored, on the attention of readers in this country.

Prehistoric agriculture has become in the last few years one of

our leading subjects of interest, and the Neolithic period, when its first phase was apparently introduced, has been illuminated by some of our best work. We should thus greet with especial appreciation the treatise of Dr. Fritz Netolitzky on the cereals and cultivated plants and vegetables of antiquity. He writes as a specialist in this branch of botany, yet in full contact with the archaeological framework of Europe: there are several interesting distribution-maps, and the spread of each of the leading species is discussed in its relation to human history. The sections on wheats are particularly interesting, as one traces their huge ultimate distributions back to the restricted homeland of the original wild emmer in the 'fertile crescent' of Hither Asia. North Africa, on the other hand, is the home of beans, and the two main breeds of oats belong originally to North-west Europe. We may hope that the recovery of cereal remains on British sites will add knowledge to the subject; more material from all our early periods is much to be desired.

It has always been the Kommission's aim to keep in full touch with the progress of archaeology outside its own terrain, and from time to time the work in each country or region outside Germany is comprehensively reviewed. In this number the country chosen is France, and the field has been ably covered by M. Raymond Lantier, of St. Germain, for the period 1915-30. It is an invaluable work of reference, with a full documentation of original sources. It is also interesting as showing the enormous preponderance of palaeolithic studies in the activities of our French colleagues. Of M. Lantier's 68 pages, they occupy 33, and indeed the material is often magnificent. Among the works of primitive art one need mention no more than the bison of Isturitz, the 'magician' of Les Trois-Frères, and the magnificent animal sculptures of Le Roc. But we are not merely given a catalogue of *chefs d'œuvre*: M. Lantier well brings out the more purely scientific side of his subject, and the importance of the stratified digging in one after another of the great French caves. The work to be reviewed on the Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages is far scantier and more uneven. M. Chenet's Neolithic village at Ante is important, especially for its pottery, but apart from some little work on the Breton megaliths, the only really outstanding material earlier than the Iron Age comes from Fort-Harrouard (Eure), where the Abbe Philippe's work on the sequence of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupations deserves the fullest publicity. The main achievements of French Iron Age archaeology since the war are two. One is the Abbe Favret's illumination of the end of the Hallstatt period in Champagne by his work at the great cemetery of Les Jogasses. The 'Jogassien' is of particular importance for Britain, as being immediately akin and doubtless parental to that of All Cannings Cross. The other is M. de Gérin-Ricard's work on the Celtic temple of Roquepertuse in Provence, where the overlap of the classical and Celtic worlds in the centuries preceding the Roman conquest has given us material of peculiar interest, including some remarkable sculptured heads. The rest of the article is occupied with the Roman period. Vaison here naturally takes first place, and

there is a good deal to record from Alesia, but considering the wealth of the great Gallo-Roman towns there is disappointingly little for M. Lantier to relate. It should be mentioned that Alsace, with Dr. Forrer's magnificent work at Strasbourg, and Lorraine are excluded from the survey.¹ The sculptures and temple-sites published are worth notice, but perhaps of greater immediate interest to students of Roman Britain are the fortifications of the later Empire on East Gaulish sites such as Bavay and St. Laurent-sur-Othain. They make interesting comparison with our Saxon Shore forts, and their place in the history of defensive architecture recalls a recent article by Dr. Wheeler on the text of the walls of Arles. One must congratulate M. Lantier on his survey. But next time he puts pen to paper may there be more to record!

Lastly, we have Dr. Leo Weisgerber on the Language of the Continental Celts. Far be it from an archaeologist, especially in view of warnings recently uttered in more than one journal of repute, to meddle with the problems of Celtic philology! But it is interesting to read a dispassionate review by one Celtist of the labours of his colleagues, and to find how little their material seems to enable them to achieve. In fact though outstanding documents like the Coligny calendar and the LaGraufesenque graffiti lose none of their importance, the greatest advance in the subject of recent years would seem to be marked by Dr. Weisgerber's own attitude and method in co-ordinating archaeological with philological data. His words on the stratifications of language in relation to those of race and material culture are eminently wise. It is one of the greater responsibilities of archaeologists that philologists should now be looking to them for a cultural framework of early history, within which to arrange their far scantier material. This is particularly true of the British Isles, and while Dr. Weisgerber speaks warmly of Professor Eóin MacNeill, he shows no less keenness over his country's archaeology. When the time comes once more for public exchanges between archaeologists and philologists, it will be basic work of this kind that will give them their value.

C. F. C. H.

THE MESOLITHIC AGE IN BRITAIN. By J. G. D. CLARK. Cambridge University Press, 1932. xxiii + 223 pp., 2 maps, 60 figs., and drawings in text.

In the good old days when the archaeologist's mind was less hampered and harassed by facts than now, the British Stone Age was a most exemplary and convincing evolutionary process. The Primeval Savage chips out his eolith; then, not so savage, he fashions a hand-axe—and so on through measureless epochs until the Old Stone Age changes, giving place to the New, and man, ever moving towards the angels, reaches a momentous stage in his journey, brandishing a polished celt.

¹ Reports on recent work in Alsace-Lorraine have appeared in the *Kommission's XV Bericht*, 1923, 24, p. 67 ff., and *XVII Bericht*, 1927, 108 ff.

Beautiful and even moral though this scheme was, sceptics began to find cracks in the structure before long. It became clear that the Neolithic cultures of Britain were in no sense a logical development out of the Upper Palaeolithic, but represented an entirely novel social organization with its ultimate origins in the civilizations of the Ancient East. The polished axe, long considered as the apex of flint-working, tottered insecurely in its pride of place as it was realized that it was far more likely to be the poor man's copy of an unattainable metal prototype. But if the Neolithic is an intrusive culture, what does it supersede? How, in fact, did the Old Stone Age die? For all the new knowledge of our Neolithic points in one direction—that while it was an astonishingly brilliant culture, it was of very brief duration and but barely antedated the earliest beakers and the dawn of the Bronze Age. A gap remained to be filled with some concrete Epipalaeolithic culture that could be compared with such Continental phases as Azilian, Tardenoisian or Maglemose. Mr. Grahame Clark presents the results of a detailed examination of the available material in a study of the first importance. He has given definition to the British Mesolithic and shown it to be a distinct phase susceptible of internal divisions both cultural and regional, and presenting evidence of various contacts with Continental cultures.

He begins with a consideration of the bone harpoons of Azilian forms found in North Britain and those of Kunda type from Eastern England, and in an appendix deals with the recent discovery in the North Sea. Professor Gordon Childe has since emphasized the importance of the Scottish harpoons in providing evidence of the priority of the Maglemose to the Azilian culture, while Professor Godwin's pollen analyses recently published confirm the identity of the peats from which the Yorkshire and North Sea harpoons were derived with those of the Kunda horizon in Esthonia.

Mr. Clark divides the microlithic flint industries which constitute the bulk of the evidence into two regions. Province A is characterized by the absence of the *tranchet* axe and the presence of abundant geometric forms, and has a predominantly Northern and Western distribution. In this group come such well-known sites as Scunthorpe and those in the Pennines studied by Mr. Buckley, while the Nab Head site in Pembrokeshire deserves especial mention on account of the necklace of small shale beads and the highly stylized fertility-figurine found with the flints.

Province B has as its type-fossil the *tranchet* axe and the pick. An intensive study is made of the industries of south-east England—mainly Sussex and Surrey—where much of the material is the result of Mr. Clark's own field-work, and a map of this area on a geological basis shows clearly the constant association of microlithic sites with sandy soils capable of supporting little save light scrub. But what is most striking is their absence from the chalk downs—a complete contrast to the distribution of Neolithic remains in the same region. It would appear that the Mesolithic folk, not being a food-producing

people and so having no need for pasture or arable, found better hunting in these heathland areas.

With regard to the Continental affinities of the British cultures, Mr. Clark points out significant resemblances between the Isle of Man industries and those of Mid Tardenois date in Belgium, and suspects further Belgian influence in the hollow-based points from Horsham and elsewhere in his southern area.

It is clear that the British Mesolithic cultures have their roots in the Upper Palaeolithic, of which they represent a final and decadent phase, and only in a strictly chronological sense can they be called transitional. Mr. Clark emphasizes the complete absence of mesolithic forms in our Neolithic flint industries (the transverse arrowheads found on a few sites, while of mesolithic ancestry on the Continent, must be a Neolithic introduction to this country) but in an appendix (No. V) he shows how several finds suggest the survival of the mesolithic tradition into the early Metal Age. It is significant that the most noteworthy of these finds, at Gorsey Bigbury, Somerset, is in an area where it is probable on other grounds that Neolithic influences arrived late and incompletely, and the same may be said to some extent of the Derbyshire finds. Such survivals provide valuable evidence of the localized and incomplete nature of British Neolithic cultures.

The illustrations grouped at the end of the book are largely from Mr. Clark's own drawings, and these are excellently reproduced. But the half-tone in Fig. 4 is a woeful smudge.

STUART PIGGOTT.

AN INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN RELIGION. By ALAN W. SHORTER, M.A. London: Kegan Paul, 1931. 8½ in. by 5½ in. Pp. xv + 140; 8 plates, 24 figures in text. 8s. 6d. net.

This is a straightforward and lucid account of religious life and ideas in the two-and-a-half centuries when Egypt was at the height of her power. Taking as a starting-point the unification of the country under Aahmose, at the opening of the Eighteenth Dynasty, Mr. Shorter illustrates for us, from contemporary documents, the position of Pharaoh, 'High-priest of a sun-religion, as well as being both son and earthly embodiment of the great solar deity.' Analysing the text of a stela of Aahmose, found in the famous Temple of Amon at Karnak, he shows us the idea lying behind each of the king's divine titles, and the fusion of two different religions which results in his being identified at once with the dead god Osiris and with the living and eternal Sun.

After a short account of the principal gods of the Egyptian cosmogony, the author goes on to describe and explain the daily ceremonies performed over the image of a god, and the position occupied by the image in relation to the god himself. The remainder of the second chapter is devoted to a description of the tomb of Pahery at El Kab, and an account of the funeral ceremonies and other scenes painted on its walls. Here, again, Mr. Shorter does far more

than supply the details of procedure as set forth on papyrus or on the walls of the sepulchre; the ceremony itself is of less importance than the reason for it, and on reading this book we gain a clear and convincing picture of the beliefs of the ordinary Egyptian, his attitude to Pharaoh on his throne and to the gods in their temples, his purpose in surrounding the tombs of the dead with magical pictures and with actual food-offerings, and even the curious mixture of ideas which thought of the dead man now as lying in his tomb, now as inhabiting his portrait-statues and taking part in the scenes depicted in the burial-chamber and now as a spirit, sharing in the life of the spirit-world.

Two important episodes in the religious history of the Eighteenth Dynasty also receive due attention. First comes the remarkable story of Hatshepsut. Debarred by reason of her sex from the right of succession to the throne of her father and her husband, she defied tradition and had herself proclaimed 'King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Ka-maat-Ra.' To justify this unprecedented act, she not only identified herself in every possible manner with her late father, but revived in its fullest degree the ancient belief that every Pharaoh was directly begotten by Amon himself. The story of her marvellous birth may still be seen in the temple of Deir-el-bahri, but on her death her stepson Tuthmosis III, whose throne she had usurped for twenty-two years, had her story discredited, her statues broken, and her name and portrait obliterated throughout the land.

Hardly less interesting is the story of Akhenaten, the curious, degenerate, sentimental monotheist, and his worship of the Sun alone, to the exclusion of all the former gods of the living and the dead. His religion, so insistently identified with himself, did not long survive his death, and the book concludes with the revival of the old beliefs and their triumphant establishment under Seti I.

The whole work is interesting to read and easy to understand, and well fulfils its title. Those who wish to pursue any particular aspect of the subject will be greatly assisted by the bibliographies attached to each chapter, and by the cross-references to them from particular points in the text. The illustrations are well chosen, and the statue shown in Plate III is a thing of more than common beauty. Mr. Shorter has written a book which can be recommended to all who would learn something of the ancient Egyptian and his gods.

M. R. H.

ROCQUE'S MAP OF SURREY (1762). Surrey Arch. Soc., 1931. Portfolio of 9 sheets 24 in. by 20 in.

The Surrey Archaeological Society is to be congratulated on this admirable reproduction of Rocque's Map of the county. The scale adopted is about three-quarters that of the original production, which was 2 in. to the mile. Accompanying the map is a prefatory sheet by Mr. R. L. Atkinson, giving a summary account of the cartography of the county, and a sketch of the career of Rocque.

The map itself is not only remarkably attractive from a purely pictorial and artistic point of view, but equally valuable from the accuracy of its delineation. Its chief interest will lie in its presentation of the terrain of southern suburban London before its features were defaced or obliterated by the extension of the city.

A. W. C.

BULLETIN OF THE BOARD OF CELTIC STUDIES. Issued quarterly by the University of Wales Press Board, Cardiff. Roy. octavo. Annual subscription £1 0. 0.

This quarterly publication, which is now in its sixth volume, appears under the distinguished editorship of Professor J. E. Lloyd, and covers the more specialized activities of the Welsh University in the provinces of Welsh language, history and archaeology. A constant feature is a section dealing with recent archaeological discoveries and with archaeological publications relating to Wales and the Borders. This feature is largely contributed by Dr. Cyril Fox, Mr. V. E. Nash-Williams and their colleagues at the National Museum of Wales, and provides an authoritative and up-to-date index of the material. As such, it is indispensable to all who are in any way concerned with the archaeology—prehistoric, Roman and medieval—of western Britain. The summaries have in the past included not only anticipations of later publications, but also from time to time, notes on excavations or discoveries which have not otherwise been recorded. It is not necessary in the present context to review the *Bulletin* in detail, but its excellence and utility deserve all possible publicity.

R. E. M. W.

THE GREAT WALL OF HADRIAN IN ROMAN TIMES. By PAUL BROWN. London: Heath Cranton, 1932. Crown 8vo, pp. 163, 4 plates and text figures. 5s.

In this lightly-written and popular little book, the author sets out to give his readers a general idea of the Wall and its significance in Roman times, and succeeds fairly well. Apart from the pictorial reconstructions, there is hardly any original archaeological work in the book, and in this, as Mr. Parker Brewis and Mr. Eric Birley point out in their short foreword, lies its particular appeal to the general public. The pictorial reconstructions form a valuable part of the book, and it is evident that the author knows a good deal more about the architecture of the Wall than he sets down in the text. A general map would have been welcome, and the size of the objects illustrated should have been indicated; it is rather misleading to the general reader, for instance, to make the Corbridge lion appear smaller than a Castor-ware beaker. For his sake, too, an *ala* might well have been explained before page 104. But these are small complaints, and do not seriously detract from the value of a book which can be recommended to those who require a simple and straightforward account of the Wall.

R. F. JESSUP.

THE VILLAGES OF ENGLAND. By A. K. WICKHAM. Pp. xii + 52.
81 plates, 18 drawings in text, 1 map. Batsford, Royal Octavo (1932).
12s. 6d.

This book cannot properly be called an archaeological work. After an introduction, a short chapter on place-names and an equally short one on villages, or rather village churches, of the Middle Ages, Mr. Wickham devotes himself to a geological analysis of this country, dividing it roughly into five sections, and pointing out the types of village peculiar to each division. His examples are, of necessity, numerous, which makes the work something of a catalogue, and the personal touch is rather unhappily introduced, on one or two occasions, to brighten up the account. By far the most attractive feature of the book is the collection of excellent photographs, illustrating over a hundred examples. Though not always up to date, they are well chosen to exemplify the author's meaning, and illustrate the beauty and variety of the English village. The geological map at the end of the book has useful cross-references to the illustrations, and is so inserted that it can be consulted alongside them.

M. R. H.