NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE IN WESTERN EUROPE. By A. W. CLAPHAM, C.B.E., F.B.A., F.S.A. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press. 1936. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Mr. Clapham's two volumes on the subject of English Romanesque architecture were noteworthy examples of compression of material combined with clarity of statement. These characteristic gifts are as conspicuous in his latest work, which covers a far wider field. A series of lectures delivered at the Courtauld Institute gave him the opportunity of supplying a long-needed introduction to Romanesque architecture in general, in which the three essential topics of plan, structure and sculpturesque form are discussed summarily but without undue haste. The result is a comparative study of exceptional interest to all who realise the fascination and the difficulty of those problems which beset the historian of the origin and development of medieval art.

Of recent years fresh and frequent researches among buildings and documents have considerably complicated such problems. The conclusions of the great succession of French archaeologists, hitherto supreme in the field, have been questioned by an increasing band of American students, led by the late Kingsley Porter, to whose work in Italy and Spain Mr. Clapham makes constant reference. French orthodoxy itself has not been proof against challenges to received dogma whose effect is discernible, for example, in M. Marcel Aubert's appendices to the second edition of Lasteyrie's *L'architecture religieuse en France à l'époque romane*. New theories have been confidently brought forward to explain similarities in buildings far removed from one another and have been pushed by enthusiasts beyond a reasonable limit. The influence of the Cluniac movement upon art cannot be denied, but it may be over-emphasised. The migration of St. William of Volpiano from Burgundy to Normandy in 1002 has given rise to an architectural legend which rests upon the most slender foundations. More recently attention to the possible contribution of pilgrimages to the spread of architectural forms is in danger of being pressed by romantic imaginations to an extent for which existing monuments afford no warrant.

Mr. Clapham approaches these subjects with judicial caution. His general agreement with the reasonableness of the principles adopted by Kingsley Porter in his revision of the dates of buildings leaves it quite clear that their application in detail is by no means beyond criticism. He recognises that the work of Cluniac builders in the dissemination of Burgundian architecture beyond provincial boundaries, though indisputable, was less marked than that of the Cistercian order. In this connexion it may be noted that the highly

centralised organisation of Cluny did not hinder it from a compromise with external conditions to which the early Cistercians were less amenable, so that outside Burgundy its architectural influence was by no means so definite as that imposed by the rigid uniformity of Cistercian customs. In fact, monastic organisation may be easily confused with activities ancillary to its main object. The general lay-out of a monastery was, of course, a consideration of first-rate importance to its life, and William of Volpiano, as Mr. Clapham allows, may well have been the initiator of the Benedictine church-plan in Normandy. Such documents as the plan of St. Gall and the directions contained in the *Consuetudines Farfenses* illustrate the transmission of traditional plans from monastic centres to houses within their spehere of influence. But methods of construction and decoration are another matter to which in Normandy and elsewhere local architects and sculptors had more to say than the monastic employers who approved their designs.

Again, as regards pilgrimage theories, Mr. Clapham is wisely reticent, reminding us that up to the present they have been entirely built up on a twelfth-century itinerary of the roads through France to Compostela. Later evidence for the routes pursued by pilgrims to shrines throughout the whole of Europe, although it exists in fair abundance, has not been drawn upon, perhaps fortunately, to substantiate the conclusions derived from the earlier document. The architectural connexion of the cathedral of Compostela with Saint-Sernin at Toulouse is obvious, and Saint-Martial at Limoges and Sainte-Foy at Conques, no doubt owed much to the offerings of pilgrims on their way to Spain, but the argument which would link together these churches in one continuous scheme of architectural or sculpturesque development is purely conjectural. For the outstanding features of such buildings more likely prototypes may be discovered than those postulated by this theory, the grounds for which seem almost as illusory as the assumptions on which the Comacine myth took its origin. We need scarcely say that Mr. Clapham treats the evidence of the Lombard laws for the *magistri commacini* at its proper value. We would demur, however, to the statement that the very meaning of the term *commacinus* is still obscure. It would be more true to say that its obvious meaning has been obscured by ingenious theorists whose imagination needed the discipline of scholarship.

The progress of research, while serving to define more positively the limits of local schools of Romanesque architecture, brings out more clearly the interplay of such schools, not only in boundary districts but in centres where local customs might be expected, if anywhere, to be deeply rooted. Close examination of the distribution of the cupola vault has led French archaeologists to abandon the tradition of the distinctive school of Périgord. The circumscription of the Auvergnat school, whose characteristics are described by Mr. Clapham with admirable clearness, to one geographical area is qualified by the kinship of certain structural features with those of churches outside the province, such as those already mentioned at

Conques and Toulouse. It is possible to make too much of the remoteness of Auvergne, the stronghold of Roman culture in Gaul during the early centuries of the middle ages and the seat of the famous shrine of St. Julian at Brioude. The early appearance of the ambulatory plan at Clermont-Ferrand is an important fact which places Auvergne in a position at any rate of influence with regard to the adoption elsewhere of a plan which found its way to the heart of Normandy at Rouen and Jumieges. The incompleteness and ambiguity of documentary evidence, combined with the tendency to read architectural evidence into texts irrelevant to the matter, will always render the task of establishing final conclusions difficult and dangerous. Fixed and logical theories of development are seriously disturbed by the arguments, admitting little room for refutation, which attribute the sculptures of the splendid capitals which adorned the apse of the abbey church at Cluny to a date as early as 1095. Neither for this nor for the premature employment at Durham of the ribbed vault upon a scale and with a completeness unparalleled elsewhere at the date is there any historical explanation. Durham indeed is the more surprising of these phenomena, occurring as it does in a region far removed from such artistic opportunities as were enjoyed by Cluny.

It is natural to dwell upon French developments of Romanesque, for, whatever the part taken in its inception by Italy, it was among those feudal states which were to be welded into the French kingdom that its activities came into full play and its vitality was manifested in that fertility of versatile experiment from which Gothic art eventually emerged. Mr. Clapham points out well the historical circumstances amid which these manifestations took place, particularly the rivalry between the medieval Empire and the growing national monarchy which was to supersede it as the first power in Europe. He does full justice to the Romanesque art of Germany and to the imposing character of the great churches of the Rhineland. His interesting chapter on Germany discusses among other things the prevalence of centrally-planned buildings and the widely diffused influence of the palace chapel at Aachen, the affinity of the trefoil plan of St. Maria im Capitol at Cologne to north Italian models, and the outburst of creative energy among the artists who worked for St. Bernward at Hildesheim. At the same time he remarks upon the stationary quality of German Romanesque as compared with the progressive element in French. When the transition to Gothic came in Germany, the vernacular style was already giving place to the dominion of French art, though communicating a strong local accent to borrowed forms. Less familiar to English students is the early Romanesque art of Spain, much neglected till recent times, into which Mr. Clapham enters with keen appreciation of the advance in its study by which the existence of formative influences anterior to its invasion by French forms and methods has been revealed.

Mr. Clapham's sure sense of perspective has enabled him to execute a most difficult task with success. His subject abounds in controversial topics which afford temptations to digression, while

the attractions of individual buildings might lead a less skilful writer to linger over them to the detriment of his main object. Mr. Clapham, however, concentrates his attention upon the essential facts which it is necessary to record, and his use of illustrative examples is always subsidiary to his purpose of giving a connected picture of the expansion of Romanesque art from its original home to the rest of Europe. His numerous references to buildings may be followed in a series of excellently drawn maps; a collection of small-scale plans and photographic reproductions chosen with exemplary care and taste forms a most useful appendix to the volume; and last, but not least, there is a carefully compiled index.

A. HAMILTON THOMPSON.

MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN IMAGERY, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE PAINTED WINDOWS OF GREAT MALVERN PRIORY CHURCH, WORCESTERSHIRE. By G. McN. RUSHFORTH, F.S.A. 11 in. × 7½ in. Pp. xx + 456; 188 illustrations. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1936. Price 63s. net.

England can indeed count herself favoured by fortune through the survival of so considerable a portion of the stained glass which is to this day the glory of Great Malvern Priory. Even a casual visitor must realise how much these windows matter artistically in the effect produced by the interior of the church; and the world of medieval thought and feeling which the scheme of decoration discloses upon closer scrutiny has a profound and varied fascination all its own. The elucidation of this scheme has long presented attraction to students: indeed, the first attempt at a full description of the subject matter of these windows possibly takes us to the closing years of the sixteenth century. This attempt is due to the Worcestershire antiquary, Thomas Habington, who escaped the consequences of his connexion with Babington's plot in 1586 through a reprieve in return for which he had to pledge himself never to leave the county of Worcester and who beguiled the tedium of his enforced sojourn in the district by collecting the materials for his *Survey of Worcestershire* between 1588, the year of his reprieve, and 1647, the year of his death. Another and fuller description of the Malvern glass was published in 1737 by a local antiquary of much thoroughness and accuracy, Dr. William Thomas (1670–1738); and both these descriptions contain material of the utmost importance to the student, since they were made before the windows had suffered the vicissitudes which later overtook them. It is impossible in the present connexion to attempt to give even a bare outline of the chequered history of the Malvern windows; it must suffice to record that in 1910, *post tot discrimina*, a beginning was made with the releading of the windows and the re-arrangement of the subjects as far as possible on the original lines; and this complicated enterprise of rational restoration was brought to an end in 1919. Meanwhile, Mr. Rushforth, a resident of Malvern ever since 1903, had

gradually become more and more deeply interested in the problems of iconography and art history generally offered by the windows: indeed, from 1905 onwards, the work of restoration was carried out under his personal supervision. It is the result of his studies continued for many subsequent years which are contained in the present monumental volume, which, it may be safely predicted, will at once take its place among the standard works on medieval iconography.

No aspect of the intricate subject matter of his study has been neglected by the author. As regards the dating of the windows, he is able to show that they were probably produced within little more than half a century, namely between *circa* 1440 and 1501. By far the greater part of the windows Mr. Rushforth inclines to regard as the work of a firm of glass painters (of Coventry ?) who set up their kilns and shop at Malvern; the two latest windows in the church—one of which was the gift of Henry VII and a group of his courtiers—being, however, attributable to the atelier of the royal glaziers at Westminster. All this emerges with full clearness from Mr. Rushforth's analysis, which, however, has as its principal subject the iconography of the windows: and here the author has given freely from his inexhaustible store of learning about this particular province of archaeology. He has not been content to give minute descriptions of all the existing windows, admirably reinforced by Mr. Sydney Pilcher's excellent photographs, of which close upon two hundred are reproduced in the book; he has seen the whole of the elaborate scheme of iconography carried out at Malvern against its international background; and this, together with his gift of penetrating observation, has enabled him to produce a work which is as solid and convincing as a piece of archaeological reconstruction as it is stimulating to read.

It is truly refreshing in an age like ours, when hasty generalisations tend to rule the field, to come across a performance of such strenuous and many-sided scholarship; and the evidence of gradual and leisurely maturing of the author's results is patent upon every page. Where everyone sits down to gather instruction and profit, there is obviously little or no scope for controversy or animadversion. At most it might perhaps be urged that on certain points one would gladly have received even more than is here so generously given: thus in the case of certain subjects, the iconographic background is somewhat inconsistently curtailed—I may instance the representations of St. Edmund of Abingdon (pp. 111–2, 226) whose very interesting iconography, in point of fact, has never yet been properly worked out. Among the parallels to the series of spandrel heads of saints, royal and noble and other personages noted on p. 146, there might have been mentioned the series of heads of kings and queens, painted in 1246 on the border of the wainscot of the King's Lower Chamber at Clarendon.

It but remains to add that the production of the volume is worthy of the quality of Mr. Rushforth's erudition and the traditions of the Clarendon Press.

TANCRED BORENIUS.

THE MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN EUROPE. *A Study of the Food-gathering Peoples of Northern Europe during the Early Post-glacial Period.* By J. G. D. CLARK, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. 9½ in. × 7 in. Pp. xvi + 284; 8 plates, 74 text-figs., and map in end-folder. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1936. Price 25s.

This book is one of the most important studies in the archaeology of early Europe that have ever appeared. That is not a mere exaggerated tribute to the author's personal achievement: one's admiration of his work can be most fitly expressed by saying that it is worthy of the intrinsic interest and importance of the subject-matter. The truth is that Northern Europe, where prehistoric archaeology was first born a century ago, has now brought to bear on its peculiar wealth of material a synthesis of scientific method which has revolutionised the prehistorian's technique. Dr. Grahame Clark is the first man to have brought the full measure and stature of the results within the covers of a single book, and in so doing he has not only expounded and interpreted them with the greatest clarity and skill, but has brilliantly illumined the modern method of research which has brought them into existence.

A reviewer cannot do better than quote the opening paragraphs of his Introduction. 'This book is concerned with the cultural development, during the earlier half of the post-glacial time, of the food-gathering peoples of the western end of the plain of Northern Europe, a region defined to the west by the mountain backbone of Britain, to the south by the highlands of Southern Germany, and to the north by the mountains of Scandinavia, but to the east lying open to the vast expanse of Russia and Siberia. The great influence exercised by physical environment on the development of primitive cultures has for a long time been a commonplace of anthropological and archaeological research; it is less generally recognised that this environment has undergone changes in the last few thousand years so profound as to alter its influence on cultural development and so rapid as to afford a natural time-scale for the dating and synchronising of human cultures. . . . The fact that archaeological remains can be related to different phases in the history of environment by such methods as pollen-analysis, determinations of associated fauna or the relation of the finding-places to ancient sea-levels, implies the possibility of a natural chronology. In my first chapter I suggest a triple division of early post-glacial time in Northern Europe into periods I, II, and III, which are used throughout the chapters that follow. This natural chronology is valuable, not only for elucidating the internal development of culture-groups, but also for synchronising cultures which have never been found in contact with one another.' In this first chapter in fact, we are given the essentials of what modern science has disclosed of the 'Natural History of the Area of Settlement,' from the retreat of the Pleistocene ice-sheets, through the pre-Boreal, Boreal, and Atlantic periods, to the latter's end after 2500 B.C. The order adopted is: glacial geology, the Geochronology of Baron De Geer, change in land and sea levels, climate-successions, forest development, and the technique and

application of pollen-analysis. This last needs no advertisement here since the recent appearance of numerous articles in England and Ireland, particularly the excavation-reports of the Fenland Research Committee, of which Dr. Clark is the Secretary. It need only be said that his description of both method and application could hardly have been better done. The chapter ends with a section on fauna, and its results are then combined in a chronological table which sets the stage for the main action of the book.

'Three groups of cultures, three traditions, distinguished by differences of origin and by adaptation to differing types of environment, can be recognised during the early post-glacial period in Northern Europe.' The first to be discussed are the Tanged-Point Cultures, hitherto the least well known: Dr. Clark shows their importance and establishes their dating and derivation from the recently-discovered 'Hamburg culture' of late Palaeolithic age. They fall mainly into his Period I (pre-Boreal, before *c.* 6800 B.C.), and if it is true that tanged points also characterise the Lyngby culture of the same period, an important link will have been forged between Palaeolithic and later times, for it is the Lyngby reindeer-antler axes, the oldest known in Europe and perhaps in the world, which start the tradition of 'heavy industry' characterising the great stream of the northern Mesolithic 'Forest Cultures' that leads straight on into the Neolithic world of 5,000 years later.

The Maglemose 'Forest Culture' of Period II is treated by Dr. Clark on a large scale: the mass of material which he analyses and presents cannot be summarised here, but the basic truth of the culture's unity over the whole area from Esthonia to Britain is well brought out by his fine folding map, one of the most remarkable things in the book. His exposition of the Ertebolle culture of Period III will be a revelation to those who have thought of it as just one long meal of shell-fish producing nothing but the notorious kitchen-middens which stretched in never-ending line along the margin of the Littorina sea. The essential value of the co-operation of natural science with archaeology is that it makes possible a detailed picture of material human life. The pollen-diagrams, lists of fauna and flora, geological findings, and the rest, are no barbarous excrescence on the polite field of human studies: they are to the prehistorian what Domesday Book is to the student of early Medieval England.

And Dr. Clark does not neglect the art of his period; elementary though it may appear, Maglemose art fully repays his attention, and even apart from its technical and cultural implications might well be brought, in a humble way, to the notice of those interested in the 'abstract art' of the present time. He is clearly right to distinguish it absolutely from the zoomorphic Arctic art-groups, which are anyhow mainly of later date.

In the chapter on the Microlithic Cultures, the chronology of the Tardenoisian, and in particular its relations with the other cultures, are presented with the mastery to be expected from one who has made that subject, in this country as elsewhere, peculiarly

his own. It would be interesting to have an analysis on similar lines of the microlithic element in the Cortaillod culture or *Néolithique ancien* of the Swiss Lakes. In fact, the main regret which the British archaeologist must feel on closing this book is that so little has yet been done to make possible a companion volume on the Mesolithic Settlement of Western Europe. A definite meaning really must one day be given to the mystic word *Campignien*.

Finally, it is no disrespect to Dr. Clark, and it is his University's due, to say that he could hardly have produced such a work, in four years not inactive in other directions, without the advantages of continued residence in Cambridge as a Bye-Fellow of Peterhouse. How long will it be before British archaeology receives adequate endowment for post-graduate research ?

C. F. C. HAWKES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY FOR 1935. Edited by GRAHAME CLARK. Pp. 176. Price £1.

The appearance of this volume marks the transmutation of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia into a new and wider sphere. Since its foundation in 1908 the Society had faithfully served the interests of its chosen region and an inspection of the Proceedings shows how much of the modern advance in the earlier periods of prehistoric study was owed to those who directed its policy. But recently it had become apparent that an undue specialisation either in place or time would be against the wider interests of the Society and a gradual expansion has taken place. The process is now complete and the Prehistoric Society, dropping the regional title, stands forth as the only national body devoted exclusively to prehistory.

It is fitting that the first volume of the new Proceedings should open with Professor Childe's Presidential Address on ' Changing Methods and Aims in Prehistory.' The conception of ' culture ' which forms the burden of his charge is one to which all pay homage, but in restating its basis and its implications he has performed a necessary service. In particular his remarks on cultural diffusion are a lucid interpretation of the value which should be assigned to evidence of various types. His plea for the retention of the various ages (paleolithic, neolithic, etc.) to distinguish the great phases of social and economic advance should be adopted not only on account of its intrinsic merit but as a link with the earlier schools of prehistoric research.

Dr. Grahame Clark's article on the Isle of Man is an admirable study in regional archaeology. The island absorbed many influences from the neighbouring coasts, at times combining them to form distinctive cultures. The sites and the objects are succinctly described and their affinites indicated. The megaliths may be compared with those of south-west Scotland and the opposite coast of Ulster. The circle of cists at Mull Hill to which no parallel is quoted, is probably

related to the similar megalithic construction at Cerrig y Gof, near Newport, Pembrokeshire. The culture termed 'ultimate Bronze Age,' which is contemporary with the Iron Age of Britain has many features of interest. It appears to be confined to the Isle of Man and illustrates the tenacity of earlier traditions within the Highland Zone.

Three articles deal with the problems of Neolithic A culture. Mr. W. J. Hemp draws attention to certain structural details in the megalithic burial chambers of this country and cites parallels from the West Mediterranean area, arguing that the British examples are conditioned by ritual needs and the technical limitations of a country where soft rock suitable for the excavation of caves does not occur. Mr. S. Piggott advances as a working hypothesis the theory that the orthodox sequence megalithic barrow, earthen long barrow, must be reversed, supporting his arguments by chronological data based on the objects found in the long barrows. Mrs. Hawkes controverts the suggestion that later developments of the Neolithic A culture are to be derived from Michelsburg preferring, if a separate foreign source is postulated, to regard them as the product of a second invasion of people akin to the Lake dwellers of Cortaillod, who she regards as responsible for the earlier culture of Windmill Hill.

The remaining articles illustrate the editorial desire to include reports of excavations of more than local interest. The sites on Plumpton Plain (Sussex), which Mr. G. A. Holleyman and Dr. Cecil Curwen have investigated belong to the Late Bronze Age and Mr. Hawkes' careful analysis of the pottery establishes their affinities with other insular and continental material. The first, a pure settlement of an immigrant people, belongs to the period 1000–750 B.C., while the second falling with the following 250 years shows traditions surviving from the native Middle Bronze Age mixed with a new and substantial instalment of foreign elements. Mr. Bury discusses the Farnham terraces, arguing that they are all river gravels affected by alternate frost and thaw during the glacial periods. The Darmsden Flints are the object of a further study by Mr. Reid Moir, while Mr. J. E. Sainty describes three Combe-Capelle Hand-Axes from Norfolk. Mr. C. W. Phillips' careful examination of the long barrow on Therfield Heath (Herts.) serves to elucidate several of the problems not solved by the more summary methods of 1855. As the last example of these mounds on the chalk ridge running north-east into East Anglia the barrow occupies a position of some importance for the study of this culture.

The foregoing analysis shows how well the Prehistoric Society is interpreting its mission to study the cultures of every period from the earliest days of human history down to the Pre-Roman Iron Age. A series of notes of excavations in every part of the British Isles, which will enable the prehistorian to keep in touch with current work, is a valuable feature taken over from the final issues of the older Proceedings. In conclusion we would offer our congratulations to the Officers and Council and express the hope that the Society will receive the support which it deserves.

C. A. R. R.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS. *Vol.* 2 (*Southern England*). By THE RT. HON. W. ORMSBY GORE. His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1936. Pp. 86; 21 plates, 1 map. Price 1s. net; postage extra. (Obtainable at H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; York Street, Manchester; 80, Chichester Street, Belfast.)

This little volume by the late First Commissioner of Works is fully entitled, *Illustrated Regional Guides to Ancient Monuments under the ownership or guardianship of His Majesty's Office of Works*. Volume II, *Southern England*. The book is divided into two parts, of which the larger is a description of the monuments by periods, and the smaller an alphabetical list of them by counties. The first part is subdivided into prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Renaissance sections, and it is a tribute to those who have done so much since the war to promote interest in the earlier periods of British archaeology that the prehistoric and Roman sections occupy slightly more than half of the first part of the book. There is an added reason for this, however, for, though the author disclaims the intention of writing an archaeological textbook, he has given in a neatly compressed outline all that the interested traveller need know to appreciate the remains of theremoter past. The Roman and subsequent periods, however, are naturally treated with diminishing stress on the historical setting and increasing emphasis on architectural monuments.

Though prehistoric and Roman sites are numerous and important in this part of England, few monastic buildings survive, but no less than twenty-two castles come within the purview of the book. Among notable places described are Stonehenge, Avebury, Maiden Castle, Portchester, Netley Abbey, Dover Castle, and the Queen's House at Greenwich.

The second part of the book gives brief historical notes, nearest railway stations, hours of admission, etc., and is supplemented by a map. This, though extremely useful, could have been improved by the inclusion of page references to the first part of the book, where in many cases fuller historical information is given. The book also contains twenty-one plates, a surprisingly large number for its size and cost, but the reproduction of apparently good photographs is far below the standard of the rest of the work and gives it a rather unfortunate appearance.

The volume, however, succeeds in its purpose, and although an over-earnest archaeologist might quibble at a few of its statements, this does not materially detract. Its authoritative information makes it a useful supplement to ordinary guidebooks which often refer inaccurately or scantily to such places, especially the earlier or less well known ones, and its impressive array of fifty-eight scheduled monuments in southern England gives some small idea of the immense amount of work in preservation and protection carried out by H.M. Office of Works.

H. O'NEILL HENCKEN.

THE ANCIENT BURIAL-MOUNDS OF ENGLAND. By L. V. GRINSELL. Pp. 240; 24 plates and 11 plans and diagrams in text. Methuen. 1936. Price 12s. 6d.

In the year 1566, when John Walsh of Netherberry in Dorset was accused of witchcraft, it was counted as evidence against him that he had spoken with the fairies 'vpon hyls, where as there is great heapes of earth, as namely in Dorsetshire.' In this our scientific age the fairies are fled, and while the barrow-hunter, as Mr. Grinsell would call him, can scarce hope for a glimpse of the Queen of Elfame, he is at least secure in the thought that he will not be haled before the magistrate for trafficking with the Powers of Darkness. It is to amateur field-workers rather than to professional archaeologists that this book is addressed—to that ever-increasing number of intelligent people who are interested in Britain's remote past and seek guidance in the interpretation of the visible remains of prehistoric man that confront them on moor or downland. Of such remains barrows and cairns are the most numerous, and in Mr. Grinsell they will find a painstaking expositor of the prehistoric burial customs of England and of the varying forms of sepulture that resulted.

The book is arranged in two parts, the first dealing with 'Aspects of Study,' and the second with the barrows of 'selected regions,' ranging from Sussex to Cornwall, from the Cotswolds to the Yorkshire Moors. In the first part the student of English prehistory may complain that the archaeological background to the barrows—the cultures that produced them as one among many manifestations—has not been sufficiently stressed, and it may also be felt that the author's use of authorities has been somewhat uncritical. But this in some measure is to mistake the aim and scope of the book. Adequately to deal with the burials of the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Britain, to which the vast majority of barrows belong, would involve detailed examination of an enormous body of evidence and ultimately entail the complete re-writing of the archaeology of these periods, and such a work, though eminently desirable, could not be other than a strictly technical treatise and quite out of place in a work avowedly popular. The author has instead chosen to place his barrows against a lightly sketched-in background of conventional prehistory, which, though it may contain errors of detail and appear in outline simpler than in fact, cannot on the other hand badly mislead the public for whom the book is written.

Mr. Grinsell has, in point of fact, made important contributions to our knowledge of the Bronze Age by his annotated lists of barrows in various southern counties, based on his own fieldwork, which have appeared in the journals of the archaeological societies of the counties concerned, but his most noteworthy paper is that on Bell-Barrows in *Proc. Prehist. Soc. East Anglia*, vii, 203–230, the main thesis of which is again put forward, with additions, in the book under consideration. His views on the evolution of the disc-barrow from the bell, and of the genesis of both types in Wessex, probably in the areas around the great stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge,

have met with some adverse criticism, mainly on the ground that his typological sequence was too aridly Montelian and that the exterior appearance of barrows is no trustworthy guide to their date and culture. However this may be, in the reviewer's opinion the thesis is fundamentally sound, and the curious and restricted distribution revealed by Mr. Grinsell's indefatigable fieldwork and summarised on his map, is entirely in accordance with the evidence derived from other lines of approach.

A study of what has hitherto been regarded as the first part of the southern English Middle Bronze Age, but which must actually be related more closely to the preceding Beaker period, and be in its way equivalent to the Food-vessel phase of northern England, reveals a culture centred in Wessex, native in its origins but strongly influenced by trade—in bronze tools from Armorica, in gold from Ireland, in amber from Denmark. This culture, remarkably original and virile, seems to have been centred in Wilts and Dorset, and one of its manifestations was what Mr. Kendrick called the ' Henge ' idea—the circle of stone, wood or earth, which, although of earlier origin, reached its most elaborate development in this period. Mr. Grinsell's work shows that the bell- and disc-barrows are also a part of this culture, and we may suspect a strong connection between them and the ' Henges.'

The essential part of a ' henge ' is the encircling ditch, with the bank normally external—that is to say, a barrier to keep something in, not something out. What more necessary to keep controlled and encircled than that unchancy and fearsome thing, a dead man's ghost ? So the ritual, carefully cut circular ditch (to be distinguished from the roughly dug quarry ditch to make the mound) might be added round the burial mound, which would itself dwindle in importance to the inconspicuous tump of a disc-barrow. Something very like this seems to have taken place in Wessex, and the distribution of bell-barrows, disc-barrows and ' Henges ' coincides remarkably with the other products of this final phase of the Wessex Early Bronze Age. Mr. Grinsell is careful to point out (p. 185) how the bell- and disc-barrows in East Anglia coincide with the occurrence of grave-goods of specifically Wiltshire type, and the same may be said of Somerset, while the complete absence of bell-barrows in such areas as Kent, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire is in agreement with the virtual lack of Wessex type grave-goods in these areas.

The second part of the book takes the form of a Guide to the Best Barrows, and is written with a view to its being used on the spot by the motorist, cyclist or walker. Mr. Grinsell writes of nothing that he has not seen personally, and the reader cannot but be filled with admiration at the enormous field he has covered in his hunt for his sometimes elusive quarry. Nor can one fail to be infected with some of his tremendous enthusiasm, and to share with him some of his almost lyrical raptures over such barrow-groups as those near Stonehenge, or that enchanted ' British Campo Santo,' Oakley Down, on Cranborne Chase.

The illustrations are largely from air-photographs by Major G. W.

Allen, praise of whose work is an impertinence, and from excellent ground-photographs by the author.

To conclude, this book can be whole-heartedly recommended to anyone who loves the English countryside and wants to add fresh interest to his travels. Mr. Crawford has said that English archaeology ' has always been at its best in the open air,' and here is a book which because it is the outcome of first-hand fieldwork, is redolent of the open air : there is springy turf under foot, the air is full of the scent of wild thyme, and Mr. Grinsell is leading you firmly but enthusiastically to yet another group of barrows on the sky-line. Put this book in your rucsack and follow him over the downs.

STUART PIGGOTT.

TREASURE TROVE IN LAW AND PRACTICE. By SIR GEORGE HILL, K.C.B., F.B.A. Pp. ix+311. Clarendon Press. 1936. Price 21s. net.

What, exactly, is treasure trove, and to whom does it legally belong ? Different ages and countries have found different answers to these two questions, and Sir George Hill's book sets before us, with admirable clarity, the variations of treasure-legislation throughout the civilized world and, what is more important still, the ideas and intentions that lie behind them.

The development of interest in archaeology has led to a change of attitude in respect of ' things found.' Of old, when intrinsic value was the chief consideration, the law was applied chiefly to gold and silver, preferably coined, and its object was the personal enrichment of the sovereign, the finder or the owner of the site. In later years, however, antiquities of other material were included in the legislation of certain communities, though the ends to be served were still the same. An interesting case is quoted in the footnote on page 111, with regard to a marble statue discovered at Rome in the middle of the sixteenth century with its body on or in the finder's land and its head in that of his neighbour. The claims of the two men, the decision of the judge and the subsequent actions of Cardinal Capodiferro and Pope Julius III combine to show a lively interest in the preservation of works of art, and we are not surprised, accordingly, to read on the same page that ' The importance of the ancient monuments on and in Italian soil led to numerous enactments, from the time of the Renaissance onwards, with the object of controlling excavation, and generally with the object of securing the results for the State.' A further instance of this extension of scope is seen in the fact that in Scotland, though not in England, articles of the non-precious metals have been accounted treasure trove, and the Crown has played the part of Pope and Cardinal in intervening, not for its own gain, but to preserve a find of artistic or archaeological importance.

The question of ownership is even more interesting. Here, as Sir George show us, two main schools of thought may be discerned. Roman law, on the one hand, recognised the claims of the finder and the landowner, and the actual or practical ownership of the find-spot was an important factor in disposing of the find. Germanic peoples, on the other hand, worked on the principle that ' masterless '

treasure belonged to the sovereign prince, and it was on this principle that the treasure-trove laws of England were based. In fact, it is only when the doctrines of Roman law begin to be studied in England that we find a definite written statement of the King's right to treasure which would, till the arrival of these new theories, have been accepted as a matter of course. An interesting note gives a list of persons and collegiate bodies to whom special rights in treasure trove have from time to time been granted by the Crown, though nothing is said of the gold helmet turned up by the plough at Harlaxton in the reign of Henry VIII and given, according to Camden, to Katharine of Aragon. (Camden's account is brief, and he is concerned, not with the question of legal ownership, but with the whereabouts of an archaeological find, so the facts are not very clearly stated, but it is most probable that the helmet was claimed by the Crown in the ordinary way and was last heard of in the possession of Queen Katharine.)

But apart from its interest as a history of the subject, Sir George's book will be of the greatest use both to the law student and to the archaeologist. It is well equipped with footnotes, giving chapter and verse for every case, and, as has already been indicated, it covers all the available ground, from the *Ta Tsing Leu Lee* or Fundamental Laws of China to the latest assertions of State ownership in the very recent legislation of Peru. No future treasure-hunt can afford to be without it. M. R. H.

HELLENISTIC ARCHITECTURE. By THEODORE FYFE. 9 in. × 6 in. Pp. xxxi + 247; 58 figs, 29 plates. Cambridge: University Press. 1936. Price 21s.

In this study of Hellenistic Architecture Mr. Fyfe has attempted to give a general survey of a vast subject, many of the component parts of which are as yet imperfectly known. As a consequence the book leaves a general impression of incompleteness which is not entirely the fault of the author and a suspicion that many of the conclusions are based on insufficient data. The Hellenistic architecture of Syria, in its later phases, is perhaps the only regional expression about which our information is reasonably full, and one feels that the corresponding architecture of Asia Minor or North Africa may have differed as widely from it as French Renaissance did from Italian. The book, however, is based on the essential unity of Hellenistic culture and deals in turn with the Temples, Tombs, Houses, Cities and Architectural details in order, without much attempt to isolate the characteristics of the various regions or to show a chronological development if any such existed.

The work is avowedly written for the architectural student and the general reader has no just cause for complaint if the language is at times highly technical. It contains a large quantity of material drawn from recent discoveries and excavations, which is only elsewhere available in scattered publications. It will consequently be of the utmost use to those for whom it is written, and will provide a general survey of the subject which is not elsewhere available. The

last chapter on the survival of Hellenistic ideas into modern times has somewhat the appearance of special pleading and we confess we are unable to trace any marked Hellenistic affinities in the cathedral of Monreale, while the Renaissance of classical forms in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries must necessarily have been based almost entirely on Roman survivals which were only Hellenistic at second hand.

The book is well produced, and the admirable series of illustrations is conveniently grouped at the end.

A. W. C.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMAN TOWN AT BROUGH, E. YORKSHIRE, 1935. By PHILIP CORDER, M.A., F.S.A., and REV. THOMAS ROMANS, M.A., F.S.A. Illustrated. Published by the East Riding Antiquarian Society by arrangement with Hull University College Local History Committee, 1936, and obtainable from University College, Hull. Price 1s.

Mr. Corder carries his work at Brough-on-Humber a useful stage forward in this, the third, interim-report, published on the eve of his fourth and culminating season. He now distinguishes three main phases in the history of the defences, with slight traces of a preceding occupation of the site. The first defences consisted of a rampart of sand 9½ ft. wide, capped with turves and associated with Flavian pottery. The stretch of rampart identified was upwards of 400 ft. long and included an entrance at which it slightly changed direction. It would appear to represent a temporary fort built to secure the Humber-crossing at the time of the pacification of Yorkshire by the IXth legion and its auxiliaries, but, until closer evidence for dating is available, Mr. Corder keeps open the alternative possibility of a purely civil origin.

The second phase is represented by the addition of a stone wall and the enlargement of the bank in the second quarter of the second century—a period to which the masonry defences of a number of Romano-British towns are now ascribed. Whatever its origin, there can be little doubt that Brough was by this time a purely civil settlement, deriving its sustenance largely (we may suppose) from road and river traffic. The anomalous L-shaped gate-plan of this period is difficult to explain save as an unusual perpetuation of an earthwork-predecessor. There were no less than three ditches.

The third phase dates probably from the third century, and consists of the addition of rectangular towers to the face of the wall and a semicircular tower to the angle at the gateway. Evidence of fourth-century occupation is relatively scanty, and is restricted in distribution.

The report, like its precursors, is excellently produced, with notes on the coins by Mr. O'Neil, on the decorated Samian ware by Dr. Oswald, and on the name *Petuaria*, which Brough seems to have borne in Roman times, by Mr. Richmond. The site was clearly a large and, in some respects, exceptional one, and is well repaying the skilled attention which Mr. Corder and his colleagues are giving to it.

R. E. M. W.