

## NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE THREE AGES. An Essay on Archaeological Method. By GLYN E. DANIEL, M.A., Ph.D. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1943. Pp. 60. Price 3s. 6d.

The division of human history technologically, into a Stone Age, a Bronze Age, and an Iron Age, was first inductively worked out between 1816 and 1820 by Christian Jürgensen Thomsen, in his classification of the Danish antiquities in Copenhagen Museum; he published it in 1836, and his pupil Worsaae thereafter confirmed it from his stratification of finds in Danish peat-bogs. An ancient speculation thus became a scientific concept; but since then the Three-Age system has tended to lose its original simplicity in a diversity of usages. These Dr. Daniel deplures. He considers four leading ones in turn, and brings objections against each (as thus)—the typological (types of artifacts often transgress in use the limits of their proper Age), the cultural (cultures should be named from type-sites or regions, not as sub-divisions of Ages), the chronological (in many areas the Ages will not chronologically 'come clean': in many more the Bronze Age is lacking), and the functional-economic (excellent in its way, but really a different system altogether: a 'food-producing revolution' cannot make a New Stone Age, but only a New Food-Producing Age). Any usage conceived in terms of race is of course still worse; on the other hand, an age-system agreeable to the findings of modern prehistory will not be the old Three-Age system at all.

Therefore, says Dr. Daniel, let us recognize that Thomsen's Three Ages are nothing more than technological stages, which prehistory need no longer make so much of anyway; let us stop using their names as epithets to denote things, cultures, and periods; and let us instead denote things and cultures by descriptive, geographical, or type-site names, and periods by some numerical system—both of which we have of course begun in part to do already. Since Thomsen, prehistoric studies have gone through a long phase of 'dull development' and 'pedestrian specialization', out of which we can only help ourselves successfully by achieving a more critical-constructive attitude to the whole subject; and of this a terminology so reformed should be a token.

Dr. Daniel himself recognizes that criticism is easier than construction. But without it one cannot construct; and it is as a plea for clear thinking, quite rightly, that he justifies this critical little book. The trouble about his subject is, though, that criticism will always still leave construction hard. And how hard, does not altogether appear from his dapper summarizing of the critic's case. For instance, you cannot properly name cultures by type-sites until you are sure of which type-sites to choose. And to be sure of that, you have to know a good deal more about the business, e.g. than anyone knew about the British Iron Age in 1931, or even than Dr. Daniel (pp. 36-9) knows about it now. His gay suggestions about chronology (pp. 55-7) prompt one in part to somewhat similar reflexions.

It is hard; and while we are getting on with it, the accumulated untidinesses of old nomenclature will only die by inches. This book at any rate will not kill them outright. But it will do more good to archaeology if it provokes more constructive thinking about the whole subject.

C. F. C. HAWKES.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN PERU, 1941-1942. By W. DUNCAN STRONG, GORDON R. WILLEY and JOHN M. CORBETT. 10 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. viii + 222. Pls. 21. *Columbia Studies in Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol. I. London, Milford. 1943. 25s.

This work consists of a series of studies which will be of intense interest to specialists in South American archaeology. The cultures of the Chimu area in the north and the Nazca area in the south are known to many from their striking pottery which is well represented in museums, but few on this side of the Atlantic have any acquaintance with the cultures which flourished in Central Peru, with which this volume is concerned.

For our knowledge of the archaeology of the Peruvian coast we are basically indebted to the studies of Dr. Max Uhle, carried out around the beginning of the present century. To him the authors of this work pay handsome tribute, but a single pioneer could not cover all the ground and much remains to be done. Unfortunately his results are not always as clear as they might be, largely owing to his reluctance to publish them, with the consequence that others have had to prepare them for publication from his finds and field notes after a lapse of twenty years or more. Apart from two reconnaissance trips, the present volume describes a number of excavations near Uhle's sites, designed to fill gaps in his work and to resolve doubtful points. At one site, in the Chancay Valley, it was found necessary to reverse the order of succession of two cultures which he had postulated, but in general his results were vindicated and some interesting data added.

This work is one of ten projects sponsored by the Institute of Andean Research, working under the auspices of the office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs. British antiquaries will note with interest this indication of the importance ascribed to archaeology by the government of our ally.

G. H. S. BUSHNELL.

BUILT BEFORE THE FLOOD. The Problem of the Tiahuanaco Ruins. By H. S. BELLAMY. Pp. 139, 20 figs., bibliography. Faber & Faber. 12s. 6d.

Archaeologists do not know as much as they would like about the remains of Tiahuanaco, near Lake Titicaca, but they have at least a general idea of the age of its culture in relation to the other great cultures of Peru, none of which can be much, if any, older than the Christian era. Mr. Bellamy does not agree with them, neither does he approve of the accepted principles of geology, and he does not hesitate to say so. Instead he offers us a nightmare, involving the close approach to the earth and breakdown of a satellite preceding the present moon, a process which caused catastrophic changes in the distribution of oceanic waters, all at a time when *Homo sapiens* was already capable of building the great monuments of Tiahuanaco, at least a quarter of a million years ago!

The second part of the book is a claim that the monolithic gateway at Tiahuanaco is a calendar which gives numerical support to these theories. Suffice it to say that there is no particular reason why it should be regarded as a calendar at all.

We cannot do better than conclude with a quotation from the book itself. "The assertion that the slanting strandline upon which the enigmatic ruins of Tiahuanaco are situated was formed in the time before the breakdown of the predecessor of our present Moon sounds so extravagant that the reasoning mind refuses to accept it." Very true, Mr. Bellamy!

G. H. S. BUSHNELL.

THE PERSONALITY OF BRITAIN. Its Influence on Inhabitant and Invader in Prehistoric and Early Historic Times. By Sir CYRIL FOX, F.B.A., and LILY F. CHITTY, F.S.A. Fourth edition, revised. Pp. 94, 3 coloured maps, Pls. xii, figs. 40. National Museum of Wales. 1943. Price 5s.

The appearance of the fourth edition of this brilliant essay is a matter for acclamation rather than for detailed review, and for a renewed tribute to those who collaborated in it. In the eleven years that have passed since it was first published, it has taken its rightful place among the books essential to anyone approaching the study of a period or a locality in British pre-history; the distribution map, first used systematically in it, has become the recognized key to the analysis of a group of prehistoric objects. The fact that it has now gone to four editions, which must be a record for a book of this kind, shows that it is fulfilling an equally important function for the student; those who have tried to teach archaeology know the value of the distribution map, and the author's ecological method, in a popular exposition.

Although Sir Cyril Fox would have liked to recast the essay, and has been able only to bring it factually up to date, one should be grateful for even this in time of war, and it is instructive to be given this chance to compare the first and fourth editions, and to see thus the remarkable progress that has taken place in the intervening years. Much has been done to fill the gaps pointed out by Fox; the chronological table is now fuller and firmer; the concluding propositions, in which the essay is summarized, are modified in some directions and expanded in others. Perhaps the most notable difference in these last is the greatly increased weight now attached to the influence of Brittany, and the clearer relationship established with the whole continental background. Readers of the first edition were startled or shocked at the theory that the land-bridge with the continent may have been severed only as late as 2,000 B.C. The date is now put back three millenia, and much evidence has been accumulated about the change of land level in southern Britain.

For this edition maps have been revised and new ones drawn; it is fitting that Miss Chitty's name should appear on the title page, to mark the increased significance of her contribution. The limitations of the distribution map remain; there are still areas where fortuitous activity, such as ironstone mining in north-west Lincolnshire, presents an exaggerated contrast with areas inadequately explored, such as the Cotswolds. But this does not lessen one's gratitude to the cartographer, nor the positive value of the maps, if one of their lessons is to show the direction future field work must take.

It is gratifying that the National Museum of Wales should maintain the wide view it takes of its responsibilities as an educational institution, and one must hope that this example will not be overlooked after the war by other bodies which could learn from it.

M. W. BARLEY.

HISTORIC HUNTINGDON. By PHILIP G. M. DICKINSON. Pp. 43. W. H. Smith & Son, Huntingdon. 1944. Price 1s. 6d.

A LITTLE HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GODMANCHESTER. By P. G. M. Dickinson. Pp. 19. Friend & Flint, Huntingdon. 1943. Price 1s.

One of the unexpected results of war has been the increased interest taken by the general public in our history and antiquities, which has manifested itself in crowded museums and a demand for literature. It is the duty, as well as the interest, of the archaeologist to foster this interest by providing works of 'vulgarization' that are both scholarly and readable.

These two pamphlets by our member Mr. Dickinson are to be warmly commended as models for those who would essay the difficult task of writing the new local guides and local histories that should be in every bookshop and railway bookstall in the land. It is no mean achievement to have adequately described the monuments past and present of an ancient borough in little more than forty pages. The author, unlike the Royal Commission, is under no compulsion to shut his eyes to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and not the least interesting part of his book is the description of the prisons, banks, inns and houses of a hundred years ago.

In wishing a long life and vigorous growth to this pamphlet—for many editions will surely be called for in happier times—we would urge the inclusion of a plan of the town, marking the sites of the buildings described, and that the excellent plans of the old Grammar School and the churches of St. Mary's and All Saints be reproduced at twice the scale so that the conventional signs might be readily legible. The account of Godmanchester Church shares the virtues of the longer pamphlet and has a good full-page plan.