

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

---

“ The Gosforth District; its antiquities and places of interest,” by C. A. Parker, M.D., F.S.A.Scot., etc. A new edition revised by W. G. Collingwood, M.A., F.S.A. (Extra Series of our Society, Vol. xv; T. Wilson and Son, Kendal; demy 8vo, cloth, with many illustrations; 10s. 6d.).

The late Dr. Parker’s “ Gosforth District ” has long been regarded as the standard description of a little known but highly interesting part of Cumberland—the southern stretch from Egremont to Bootle, including Wasdale and Eskdale and all the land between Scafell and the sea. The first edition was exhausted some years ago but the book is still in demand. One reason for delay in re-issuing has been the great amount of new information, largely from Dr. Parker’s own discoveries, which has accrued in the course of a quarter of a century since the work was written; something more than a mere reprint was needed to bring the matter up to date. All such additions the editor has attempted to supply, together with the revision which he believes his deeply regretted friend would have made if he had been spared to do it himself.

One addition which escaped the notice of the editor has been pointed out by Dr. Magrath, Provost of Queen’s College, Oxford, and may be noticed here. On p. 130 (new edition) the letter from Richard Jackson, quoted from the Historical MSS. Commission report on the Rydal papers (no. 3887, p. 282) has already been given in facsimile by Dr. Magrath in *The Flemings in Oxford*, vol. ii, pp. 204-5, showing that the calendarer misread one of the characters, printing R. for N. This has obscured the interpretation of the inscription, which is pretty clearly “ Elizabetha spousa [eius] ” and seems to have belonged to the tomb in Calder Abbey (p. 111) which was under the canopy where the effigy of Sir Richard Fleming’s head now reposes.

“ Préhistoire de la Norvège,” par Haakon Shetelig. (Oslo, etc. and for London, Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1926, pp. 280 with 10 plates; paper covers, 7s. 6d.).

Dr. Shetelig of Bergen, Hon. F.S.A., etc., needs no introduction to those who are at all interested in the archæology of the North; and the connexion of prehistoric Norway with our own country, from the earliest periods down to the Viking Age is so close that no apology is offered for including his latest book in this list. The present writer confesses that he has written an abstract of the work for his own use, and feels the time well spent. "Beware of handbooks," say the wise; and too many handbooks are compiled without thorough original knowledge, or—in this subject—are out of date. What we want is the comprehensive view, based on expert dealing with innumerable facts, but so cleared of detail as to leave the broad vistas of the past in their perspective. This we have found here and would comment upon, if space allowed; failing which, we commend the book with confidence to any who desire to be students of antiquity.

W.G.C.

"The Registers of Bridekirk, 1584-1812." Transcribed by Colonel J. F. Haswell, C.I.E., M.D. (Privately printed for the subscribers, 1927).

In a volume of over 400 pages Colonel Haswell gives the contents of the two parchment registers, with additions from the Bishop's transcript and register, making a remarkably continuous and full record of this large and populous parish. Much has been said recently in newspapers about parish history; in such a book as this we have the materials, and a great wealth of interesting details with more than usual variety in family names, place-names local and foreign, and trades. We gather that colliers were at work from 1632; in 1641 there was a doctor of medicine in the parish; the "master of games," translating *Ludimagister*, schoolmaster, appears early, and schools seem to abound. The briefs are many and interesting; the contributions for the plague and fire of London were handsome, and one entry gives the date of the fire at Flookburgh, unknown to Stockdale. Among these is one for the redemption of Thomas Hartley's son of Whitehaven from slavery in Algiers. It is a most valuable addition to the Parish Register Series and great thanks are due to the editor for his labour. We could wish that he received better support from subscriptions, for in spite of a handsome contribution from Canon Sutton, we regret to see that the balance sheet shows a deficit.

W.G.C.

"Roman Britain in 1924." By R. G. Collingwood and M. V.

Taylor. *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. xiv; "Roman Britain in 1925," by the same, *ibid.* Vol. xv; with many illustrations.

"A Guide to the Roman Wall." By R. G. Collingwood. With 4 maps. Reid, Newcastle, 6d. 1926. A cheap popular guide for the use of tourists, with a historical introduction and a brief description of the Wall from end to end.

"A Guide to the Chesters Museum." By R. G. Collingwood. With 2 plates. Sold at the museum, price 1s. 1926.

"Britain and the Roman Empire." By R. G. Collingwood. In the volume *England and the World*, edited by F. S. Marvin, designed to summarise the international aspect of English history, In this chapter special attention is devoted to the problem of the continuity of the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods

"Hadrian's Wall." By R. G. Collingwood, in *History*, n.s. x.

"Jupiter Tanarus." By R. G. Collingwood, in *Chester Arch. Soc. Journal*, xxvi.

"Some perplexities about Time, with an attempted solution." By R. G. Collingwood, in *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Soc.*, 1925-6.

"The Place of Art in Education." By R. G. Collingwood, in *Hibbert Journal*, April, 1926.

"The last Age of Roman Briton." By Edward Foord (Harrap), is an attempt to work out in detail the history of the fifth and sixth centuries. The author shows great learning and ingenuity in the development of his thesis, which is that Britain was not lost to the Roman Empire till the middle of the fifth century and that after this it remained essentially a Roman country, organised and defended by a succession of thoroughly Roman leaders, of whom Artorius=Arthur was one. The book has excited a good deal of interest by reason of its attack on certain arguments based upon archæological data, notably the numismatic argument for the abandonment of the Wall about 383 and the loss of Britain about 410. Numismatists like Dr. George Macdonald (in *History*) and Sir Charles Oman (in *Journal of Roman Studies*) have criticised Mr. Foord's reasoning severely, and the upshot is that we need not yet abandon the view that the Wall's final loss falls in the late fourth century.

R.G.C.

“Records relating to the Barony of Kendale, Vol. 3,” by John F. Curwen, F.S.A. (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1926; pp. vii, 344; 21/- net.), published in conjunction with the Westmorland County Council, forms a welcome and valuable addition to the Society’s “Record Series.” Our best thanks are due to Mr. Curwen for bringing to so successful a conclusion the task interrupted by the lamented death of the late William Farrer, Litt.D., and for providing what—in conjunction with Dr. Farrer’s two previous volumes—may well be considered an indispensable part of the equipment of all future students of Westmorland history.

Taking up the thread of the story where Dr. Farrer left off—at the Hearth Tax Roll of 1669—Mr. Curwen continues the Record down to modern times. Without aiming at compiling a complete chronology of local events, the author has confined his attention to matter either contained in volumes difficult of access or still hidden away in original documents. As a result he is able to supply us with copious and well arranged extracts from such sources as the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535, the Church Surveys made after the Reformation, John Caley’s MS. History of Westmorland, the Quarter Sessions Records from 1656 to the present day and, last but not of least interest, the Browne Manuscripts with all their rich store of local information.

Among the many interesting chapters in this book, not the least amusing is that giving an account of the roads; its perusal enables the reader to realise more fully from contemporary records into how shocking a condition these had been allowed to lapse before the movements of the troops in the Rebellion of 1745 called public attention to their deficiencies.

Some useful plans are given illustrating the changes during the last century in the courses of several of the Westmorland roads. It is an interesting task, during the course of a walk, to employ these plans to find here and there the vestiges of the old narrow roads and to compare them with their modern successors.

A copious and accurate index still further enhances the value of a book without which no library of local archaeology can be deemed complete.

W.T.M.