

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

“The Register and Records of Holm Cultram,” by Francis Grainger and W. G. Collingwood. (Record Series of our Society, Vol. vii; T. Wilson and Son, Kendal, 1929; demy 8vo., cloth, pp. x, 310, 25/-).

The President of our Society is heartily to be congratulated upon the welcome appearance of this, the seventh volume of the Record Series. By its publication he has achieved a two-fold claim upon our gratitude. In the first place, he has collected and edited the valuable papers upon the history of Holm Cultram, left unpublished at the lamented death of their author, Mr. Francis Grainger, of Southerfield.

The history of Holm Cultram was a subject which Mr. Grainger had made peculiarly his own, and the publication of his researches lays all future students of the history and antiquities of that deeply interesting neighbourhood under a deep obligation.

But this work alone does not represent the full sum of our indebtedness to the editor of this volume. During many years there has been, as Mr. Collingwood reminds us in his preface, a demand for the Holm Cultram Register or Cartulary, in a readable form. The original MS. in possession of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle is a sealed book to the general reader, and, hitherto, there has been no edition of the Cartulary to rank with those of Wetheral and St. Bees. We must, therefore, extend all the more hearty a welcome to the present volume which contains an abstract by Mr. Collingwood in English of all accessible charters relating to Holm Cultram.

We have been requested to mention an error, pointed out by Mr. W. Gladstone Leitch, on p. 189, where the four names following the Rev. Francis Redford are represented as vicars of St. Paul's, Holme Low and not as curates to Mr. Redford, who held the vicarage until 1885. To his curates ought to be added Richard Taylor, 1854-55 (afterwards vicar of Bromfield and Hon. Canon of Carlisle) and Mr. Stott (afterwards vicar of Flimby).

We can only hope that this interesting volume upon a subject of such importance to all students of local history may have the wide circulation it deserves.

“ A History of the Ancient House of Curwen of Workington in Cumberland and its various Branches,” by John F. Curwen, F.S.A. (Kendal, Titus Wilson & Son, 1928; demy quarto, pp. 364, with 30 full-page illustrations, 3 guineas).

We congratulate our vice-president on the completion of this important work. To labour through so great a mass of detail a second time, for this is a revision of the book which appeared in 1904, means devotion and assiduity of which few are capable. But, as the author points out, much new material has come to light, mainly through the studies of the Rev. F. W. Ragg, the late Dr. William Farrer and the late Canon Wilson of Dalston; all this has now been used and the work brought up to date. Beginning from Ketel f. Elftred, who granted Morland and Workington churches to St. Mary's, York, shortly before or after A.D. 1100, we have here unbroken pedigrees down to the present Curwens of Workington, and through the Sir Henry who died in 1628 to “ the present writer ” of this book, with many other branches in various parts of England, America and the Antipodes. Some of the episodes in the family history are of great interest; if the popular tradition about Mary Queen of Scots and the Curwens must be abandoned, still the family was in that age active and influential; the story of the Curwens in America has elements of romance, and the development of the Tonic Sol-fa has much more than a domestic or even local importance. From these, however, the antiquarian reader turns naturally to the question of the family name; what was the real link between Colvend or Curwen and Workington? On the strength of the pedigree compiled in 1725 the theory is accepted here that Thomas of Workington f. Gospatrick f. Orm married first Amabilis, granddaughter of Uchtred of Galloway, and secondly “ Grace ” or Grecia. We note in passing that there was a Grecius of Kendal in the 13th century (*Records of Kendale*, i, 13) and perhaps ‘ Grecia ’ is only the feminine of this name. But while the second wife of Thomas is amply attested, Mr. Curwen does not seem to have succeeded better than others in finding ancient authority for Amabilis. This is a difficulty still to be cleared up; but the subsequent pedigree is much more complete than any in the older histories or in the late Mr. Jackson's articles in these *Transactions*, o.s. v. It is most helpful in the many cases where Curwens and their kin come into the medieval affairs of Cumberland. We ought to add that this handsome volume is a credit to the old firm of printers under its new management.

"Roman London. Vol. III of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in London." (H.M. Stationery Office, 1928; pp. xxi, 207, with 161 illustrations, 18s. net).

This very handsome and interesting volume is the work of a committee of which our member, Mr. R. G. Collingwood, was Chairman, and he signs the chapter on the inscriptions. In the introduction, written by Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, Hon. Secretary to the Committee, we find a valuable sketch of the history, not only of London from its beginnings to the last period of Roman influence, but in many ways giving the best information on the course of events in general. The last chapter, on London in the 5th century, is especially interesting in connexion with the overlap from Roman to Anglo-Saxon times and the position of the walled towns as islands in the flood of barbaric immigration; islands that lasted for a while and provided (in the case of London at least) centres for the re-introduction of Roman Christianity. The illustrations to this book, showing fine mosaics and fragmentary sculptures, bring before one's eyes the very considerable wealth and culture, imported no doubt and not locally produced, of a town which at its prime ranked with the larger provincial cities in the north-west of the Empire.

"Whithorn Priory, Wigtonshire. Official Guide." By W. G. Collingwood and R. C. Reid. (1928, London, H.M. Stationery Office; pp. 28, with illustrations, 3d. net).

Some of our members may recollect the meeting of June, 1925. This pamphlet gives an abstract of our proceedings at Whithorn, to be sold at the Museum there under sanction of H.M. Office of Works, for the instruction of visitors. The illustrations include a plan of the priory and drawings of the early monuments.

"English River-Names," by Eilert Ekwall, Professor of the English Language in the University of Lund. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1928, pp. xcii, 488, 25s. net).

It is not necessary to commend our distinguished member, for he is well-known to all of us as the chief authority on the place-names of England; and of this book he remarks in his preface, "it may be said that all my previous place-name work has been a preparation for it." We know how well he is equipped, not only with the languages involved in such a study but also with personal knowledge of all localities which he describes; qualifications most unusual. And when he makes short work of previous attempts,

their authors must and do accept his corrections with the rueful gratitude of a scolded schoolboy. At the same time he has the strength to go back upon his own earlier interpretations, where needed, and to confess a puzzle when he finds one. This alone would encourage confidence in his leadership, and the fact that he takes so wide a scope and purview enables him to go beyond provincial limits and to explore many dark corners by the comparisons he can apply. The list of names in our district is given on p. lxi; we will not anticipate the reader's curiosity by picking out plums. We would rather refer to the introductory chapters V-VII, where the phonology and philology of British and Old English are usefully summarized, and press it upon our members that no sound history can be written without attention to the matters therein set forth. The jovial time is past when one used to talk antiquities by the light of nature; too often, by the light of the moon.

"Adam of Bremen's *Hiring*," by Per Wieselgren. (Lund, 1929, pp. 500-511 from *Studier tillagnade Axel Koch*). The author is known by a scholarly discussion, published at Lund in 1927, of various points in the Icelandic saga of Egil; the same who, among other adventures, visited York in the time of King Eirik. Dr. Wieselgren agrees with a paper in these *Transactions* ("The battle of Stainmoor," n.s. ii) which he quotes, in identifying this king with Eric Bloodaxe, and he adds to the argument. He then goes on to suggest that Hiring, confused by some chroniclers and moderns with Eric, was probably the Hring who, according to Egil's saga, was killed at Brunanburh and according to the annals of Clonmacnois was "the king of Denmark's own son."

"The Registers of Newbiggen (Westmorland), 1571-1812." Transcribed by Colonel J. F. Haswell, C.I.E., M.D. (Privately printed for the Parish Register Section of the C. & W. A. & A. S.) This number, following the large volume of 'Bridekirk,' and preceding as it is intended, an important instalment of 'Crosthwaite,' is comparatively slender, including only 107 pages; but it leaves a small balance on the right side in the Section's accounts. The parish registers include of course Crackenthorpe of Newbiggen, and the other surnames of most frequency are Atkinson, Barker, Baxter, Gaskin, Gowling, Harper, Harrison, Jackson, Langley, Richardson, Robinson, Stable, Thompson, Watson and Wiseman. These issues of our Register Section will no doubt become very valuable, for without them the hunting of Cumberland and

Westmorland pedigrees is hopeless, and the issue is limited to subscribers.

"The Registers of Crosthwaite [Cumberland], Vol. I, 1562-1600." Transcribed by Henry Brierley, LL.D. (and edited by Col. F. Haswell, C.I.E., M.D.), pp. 266, privately printed for the Parish Register Section of this Society, 1928. It is with the greatest pleasure that we see these registers at last in print, for the ancient parish bounded by Skiddaw, Helvellyn and the Great Gable was the home of many Cumbrian families of importance such as Bank, Birkett, Braithwaite, Bunting, Fisher, Grave, Radcliffe, Stanger, Udall and Williamson, as well as the German mining colony, whose real names are here disentangled from the curious misspelling of the Elizabethan clerk at Keswick. The index, carefully done by the editor of the volume, gives also many place-names in forgotten forms. We note that it is intended to continue this register next year, if subscriptions come in; a most desirable proposal, for nothing would be more serviceable as material for the history of the northern part of the Lake District.

"Arthur and Athelstan": by W. G. Collingwood (pp. 15, reprinted from the *Saga-Book*, vol. x, of the Viking Society for Northern Research: Burlington House, London, 1928). A study of the origins of Arthurian legend as told by Geoffrey of Monmouth. The writer tries to show that the incidents are those of Viking invasions, retold in a garbled form.

"Some notes on the Wordsworths of Peniston and their Aumbry." Collected by Gordon Graham Wordsworth. (75 copies privately printed by Middleton, Ambleside, 1929; pp. 34 with two illustrations). Our member, Mr. Wordsworth, is careful to disclaim original research, but he has collected so much matter not generally known that it makes a most interesting record of the early ancestry of his grandfather, the poet. The carved aumbry or vestment-press, now at the Stepping Stones, Rydal, is dated 1525 and inscribed with a pedigree of the Wordsworths going back to Nicholas, who is known also from a deed he witnessed in 1392. Thence onward the Wordsworths held a reputable position in S.W. Yorkshire and some of them as successful merchants in London, until Richard, of the Falthwaite branch, entered the service of the Lowthers. He became chief steward of the Lowther estates, Receiver-General of the county and clerk of the Peace during and after the 'Forty-five,' and he was the grandfather of

the poet. Notable in the history is a strong religious character; the family included many clergymen, both before and after the Reformation, and in the 17th century they took the Puritan side without separating from the established church. By Mr. Wordsworth's kindness, a copy of this rare book is given to our Society and deposited at Tullie House.

"History of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, and Annals of the Parish." By Legh Tolson, F.S.A. (Kendal, printed by Titus Wilson & Son, 1929: quarto, pp. x, 199, with numerous illustrations, many in colour).

Not only because this sumptuous volume is written by our member and produced by our printer it is noticed here, but also on account of a passage valuable to readers of "The Memoirs of Sir Daniel Fleming." Sir Daniel knew that Richard le Fleming, bishop of Lincoln 1420-31, and Robert le Fleming, dean of Lincoln 1451-83, "did bear a distinct Coat of arms from that usually borne by this Family" (of Rydal) and he mentioned with caution their supposed connexion with his ancestors. Mr. Tolson, speaking of Fleming House, Dalton in Kirkheaton, gives the arms as placed by the Bishop on the door of Crofton Church:—Barry of six argent and azure; in chief three lozenges gules, which differs completely from the Rydal fret. He also recounts the pedigree of the Yorkshire Flemings from Rainer, seneschal of Skipton Castle c. 1130, a contemporary and no doubt a compatriot, but not necessarily a relative of Michael le Fleming of Aldingham, down to the last of his direct descendants, who was killed at Wath in 1471. Cognate with this main line was a branch at Bradley, Hartshead and Crofton, of whom Magister John Fleming (died 1415) appears to have been father of the bishop and grandfather of the dean. The interesting question now remains, to ask whether any connexion can be traced in spite of the difference in the arms.

"Poems (Complete Edition)," by Frederick W. Ragg, M.A., F.R.Hist.S. and F.R.H.S.; late vicar of Masworth, formerly of Trinity College, Cambridge. (London, Arthur H. Stockwell, Ltd. 29 Ludgate Hill, E.C.4., 1929, pp. xi, 145, with portrait of the author and eight other portraits, 12s. 6d. net.)

Readers who have followed the work of the Rev. F. W. Ragg in these *Transactions* for twenty-five years past need not be reminded of the debt we owe him for his services to the history of our district. Many, no doubt, are aware of similar work done by him for other parts of the country, and some will remember that

he is also an artist and a craftsman, as he showed in his restoration of Masworth church with sculptures from his own hand. Fewer perhaps know the little volumes of poetry put forth at different times, regardless of popular taste and current fashions in literature, though full of original thought and sincere feeling. They have hitherto appealed mainly to his friends; but in this Society he has many friends, who will, we are confident, welcome this volume. It reveals his inner self through more than half a century, from the brave beauty of his early psalm, dated as far back as 1860, to the graver utterances of advanced and prophetic age. These will not be his only monument, but they contribute one side of the memoria of a varied and strenuous life, which those who survive will look back upon with enhanced respect and admiration.

“Circular bath-buildings in connexion with cohort forts,” by Miss Mary C. Fair (*Journal of Roman Studies*, vol. 17, part 2.) It will be remembered that the round building at Hardknot used to be thought a temple for the devotions of wayfarers; but recent explorations at other sites have given a different and more reasonable explanation, which is discussed by our member. Miss Fair has also printed in *Antiquity* for December, 1928 a preliminary note on the ford over the Mite which is fully described in the present volume of these *Transactions*.

“The Life of the Right Hon. James Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Derwentwater.” By Major Francis John Angus Skeet. Hand-made paper edition, with extra set of photogravure plates, 30s. net. Ordinary edition, complete with photogravure plates, 21s. net. Published by Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. We call attention to the publication of the above-named book upon a subject which should appeal to many of our members. All profits accruing from the sale of this book will be given to the Hospitals of St. Bartholomew and St. John and St. Elizabeth.

“Der Obergermanisch-raetische Limes des Roemerreichs.” Lieferung xlv. Der Raetische Limes von Gunzenhausen bis Kipfenberg. By E. Fabricius, Berlin, 1928.

This latest volume of the monumental work on the Roman frontier in Germany demands notice here for many reasons. It is the first of the series to be devoted entirely to the Raetian Wall or Teufelsmauer, the only part of the German frontier to be defended, like our own Roman frontier, with a stone wall. We have therefore in this volume a closer parallel with our own Roman Wall

than in the previous volumes of the same work. English students may console themselves with the thought that their own difficulties, due to the complicated nature of the frontier-works as a whole, are in many ways very much like those encountered by foreign archaeologists. On the Raetian Wall there are three distinct continuous lines, the "wattle fence," the "palisade," and the "wall." There are wooden turrets and stone turrets, and the stone turrets are not bonded into the stone wall, which is brought up in a butt joint to their front corners. The three continuous lines cross and re-cross each other, not very often, it is true, but often enough to leave no doubt of their relative age. The "palisade" is certainly the earliest, the "wall" certainly the latest. But the peculiar problems of our own frontier, arising from the fact, now well established, that its various lines—Vallum, Turf Wall, broad and narrow Stone Wall—all belong to a relatively short period of time, and cannot be regarded as superseding one another at long intervals—these problems have nothing corresponding to them on the Raetian frontier. Here, it seems equally certain, the various works are separated from one another by considerable intervals of time.

The story of the frontier-works in this part of Raetia, as set forth by Professor Fabricius, is briefly this. First of all, isolated wooden towers were built along the line, always on high ground and in sight of one another. Later they were linked up by means of a road. Later again, a continuous palisade was added. This was laid out in what the author calls a "polygonal" manner, that is in a series of straight lines running from turret to turret, with angles at the turrets. This recalls the lay-out of the Vallum, which Haverfield long ago described as "a flexible line made up of straight sections." The palisade passes in front of the turrets, and the view that it was a subsequent addition to a frontier-line consisting originally of turrets alone is based on the general character of the lay-out. It is therefore a matter of opinion rather than proof; but in such a manner the opinion of so skilful an observer as the author carries overwhelming weight.

The palisade must have suffered in the course of time from decay, and accordingly we find its place taken by the "wattle fence," and in one part of the line by a plank fence. These later fences—proved to be later by excavation at a point where the fence crosses the palisade—are laid out not in rigidly straight lines, but in somewhat vague and purposeless curves. It is clear that they represent the outcome of unskilful and makeshift repairs. They pass as a rule in front of the wooden turrets, like the palisade;

but sometimes a wooden turret seems to have gone out of use before the fence was made, and in one case at least the fence is brought up to the corners of a stone turret as if the stone turret was either the earlier of the two or else contemporary with the fence. In other cases the stone turrets are built on the top of the fence, showing that the fence has been there first and suggesting that a gap has been made in it and the stone turret inserted in the gap.

The stone turrets, as may be seen from these facts, are not all of the same date. They also vary a good deal in size and shape, and it does not seem possible to classify them in types assignable to distinct periods. Their construction is always rather rough; they never yield any carved or moulded stonework; their roofs, to judge by the absence of tiles or slates, seem to have been of thatch, and the author thinks that their height may not have exceeded fifteen feet or thereabouts. Almost all of them stood originally as isolated works, though some of them have the front wall thicker than the other walls. It is interesting to notice that no signs of violent destruction are found in them; they fell naturally and gradually into ruin.

The wall itself is the latest element in the frontier. It is not to be compared with Hadrian's Wall as a piece of mason's work; it is only four Roman feet thick, and is built of rough uncut stone, so as to resemble in appearance the limestone walls of the Cotswold district. Indeed, the resemblance is not accidental. It is thought that the reason why the Romans built a wall in Raetia, instead of making an earthwork as in Germania Superior, was that the ground consisted of Jurassic limestones like those of the Cotswolds. In this kind of ground it would have been difficult to dig a great ditch, and on the other hand it was very easy to collect material for a wall of this kind. Its original height is estimated at ten Roman feet.

The dates of this story are not quite firmly fixed, but the provisional scheme at present put forward is as follows. The wooden turrets were probably built under Domitian, soon after A.D. 90. The palisade was pretty certainly added by Hadrian about 121-122. This was replaced by the fence, it is suggested, in the time of Antoninus Pius. The stone turrets date from the same reign or that of Marcus Aurelius; there is evidence that the wooden turrets were not all superseded until Marcus's reign. The wall was added by Caracalla in 212, and finally under Severus Alexander the whole *Limes* was abandoned (233-234).

It would be impertinent to praise anything that Professor Fabricius writes on a subject that is peculiarly his own; the only aim of this notice is to put our members in possession of a few of the facts and inferences contained in a work which must be one of extreme interest to everyone who is concerned with the study of Hadrian's Wall.

R.G.C.

"Staedtebau der Griechen." By E. Fabricius. Pauly-Wissowa, Realencyclopaedie, 1929.

Our Honorary Member has contributed to Pauly-Wissowa's Realencyclopaedie a most valuable summary of what we know about Greek town-planning. Our Society ought especially to welcome this work in view of the fact that our own last President, Professor Haverfield, wrote the standard English work on the subject in his "Ancient Town-Planning."

"The Limits of Historical Knowledge," by R. G. Collingwood (in the *Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 1928), attempts to answer the criticism often brought against history on the ground that it can never reach certainty or demonstrative truth, and is therefore an inferior form of thought to science. The answer offered is that the historian's business is not with the past simply as past, but with the past so far as it affects the present. The historian has to answer the question "how did the world come to be what it now is?" and this question admits of being answered by historical methods with demonstrative certainty.

"A Philosophy of Progress," by R. G. Collingwood, in *The Realist*, vol. i no. 1. The author criticises the idea that there are so-called periods of greatness and periods of decadence. This valuation of past historical ages depends not on their own intrinsic worth but on the likes and dislikes, the susceptibilities and the blindnesses, of the person or age that does the valuing. Every age is especially in sympathy with certain periods in the past, and relatively out of sympathy with others; but this only indicates the limitations of its own outlook, not any intrinsic superiority or inferiority in the past ages. History, when intelligently read in the light of the present, always appears as a record of progress; but this only means that we see the past as the process by which we have come into being—a kind of egotism which is necessary to mankind.

“ Political Action,” by R. G. Collingwood, in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 1928-1929. A criticism of the ordinary theories of “ the State,” arguing that these theories misinterpret history by ascribing all political events and processes to a thing called the State, which they treat as a kind of supernatural being, instead of recognising that the capacity for “ political action,” understood as the regulation of life according to definite rules, is universal in man, and that this power is what lies at the basis of any State, very much as the religious instincts lie at the basis of any Church.

“ Iscrizioni e sculture sul Vallo d’Adriano in Inghilterra,” da R. G. Collingwood. Estratto dalla rivista “ Roma,” Roma, 1928. An account of Tullie House and the other museums and collections on the Wall, for Italian readers.

“ Roman Eskdale,” by R. G. Collingwood, Whitehaven, printed and published by The Whitehaven News, Limited, 1929. One shilling net. This is a popular guide-book to the Roman antiquities of Eskdale, based on the papers on Hardknot and Walls Castle in these *Trans.*, n.s. xxvii. It has been produced by arrangement between the publishers and this Society, which has lent the blocks to illustrate it. We hope that its sales will justify, in the commercial sense of the word, a venture which reflects the greatest credit on the part of the *Whitehaven News*.

“ Roman Britain in 1927,” by M. V. Taylor and R. G. Collingwood, in the *Journal of Roman Studies*, vol. xvii.

Six-inch Maps of the line of Hadrian’s Wall. Ordnance Survey. Most of our members are no doubt aware that within the last few years the Ordnance Survey has carried out a complete revision of the detail of Hadrian’s Wall, with the help of Mr. F. G. Simpson. The result has been a series of maps on the scale of 25 inches to the mile, recording with incomparable accuracy and minuteness the whole course of the Wall and Vallum and all their attendant works. Parts of these 25-inch sheets have already been reproduced in, for instance, Messrs. Simpson and Shaw’s paper on the Vallum (these *Trans.* n.s. xxii, p. 415) and in the end-paper of R. G. Collingwood’s *Roman Britain*. But the 25-inch sheets are so numerous and so costly that they are hardly accessible to the ordinary antiquary. Now, however, the whole of the same material has been published on the scale of six inches to a mile, with the result that for about three pounds one can buy a complete Ordnance Survey atlas of the Wall on this large

scale, showing every detail known to Mr. Simpson a few years ago; which means that it is practically up-to-date and is the fruit of collaboration between the greatest living authority on the Wall and the best surveyors in the world. It would almost certainly be true, were it not that comparisons are odious, to describe this as the finest archaeological map in existence. The Cumberland portion of the Wall takes up 15 quarter-sheets at two shillings each, and when one reflects that Maclauchlan's atlas of the Wall, on a scale of only two inches to the mile, now fetches four guineas or thereabouts, it will be seen that the new six-inch map of the Wall is cheap at the price, besides being indispensable to everyone who is working at the subject.

“Knights of Edward I,” vol. I, A—E, 1929, compiled from notices collected by the Rev. C. Moor, D.D., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., forms Volume LXXX of the Harleian Society's Publications.

This first instalment of a much-needed catalogue of knights contains over 300 pages and is a monument of the labour, patience and skill of our respected member. It is intended to serve as a preliminary guide to the Knightly families of England in or about the time of the first Edward, and the armorial bearings, which were at that period the special cognisance of knights. Dr. Moor observes:—“The knights sustained in their own persons the chief shock of battle, and often foremost fighting fell. The large number who died leaving young children is evidence that war made great havoc in their ranks, and one can scarcely think that their active service lasted on the average more than ten or twelve years.” It is hoped that the second volume will appear shortly.

T.H.B.G.