

PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR.

"Historic farmhouses in and around Westmorland," by J. H. Palmer, revised and edited by W. T. McIntire, with an introduction by Col. the Rt. Hon. Oliver F. G. Stanley, P.C., M.P. (Pub. Westmorland Gazette Ltd., Kendal, 1944, pp. 125, price 12/6, obtainable from the publishers).

Many of our readers doubtless read with interest a series of articles on local farm houses recently published in the *Westmorland Gazette*. To edit these for republication was one of the last tasks of our late President and they are here reprinted in a style reminiscent of the palmy days of peace. Fifty-nine houses are described, a full page of text and one of photographs being assigned to each. As Colonel Stanley points out in his Preface "in the farmhouse Westmorland can hold its own with any rivals," and its riches here are most vividly portrayed in this sumptuous popular guide to some of the most interesting dwellings in our Society's district. A few of the antiquarian conjectures are more curious than convincing, but this is a minor defect in a volume for which the publishers deserve great credit, and which will be read with profit by all interested in Lakeland antiquities. It is greatly to be hoped that its appearance will spur on local historians to investigate much more fully than has yet been done the origins and histories of the families which erected and adorned these houses. The very full attention given to farmhouse furnishings and fittings constitutes one of the most valuable features of the book and brings out the importance of their fortunate owners resisting the blandishments of over-endowed "offcomers," who aim at wrenching these relics from the setting to which they belong.

"Rosthwaite Moraines and other Lakeland notes," by Thomas Hay (*Geographical Journal*, Vol. CIII No. 3, March, 1944).

Mr. Hay's keen interest in our district and profound knowledge of its geographical development is too well-known to our members to require introduction or commendation. His latest paper deals with terminal moraines at Rosthwaite, two high-level erratics, Greenup and other Lakeland combs and Rattlebeck; it will be read with great profit by all interested in the evolution of our Lakeland scenery.

"The Tragedy of King Aella," by Edmund Casson, Ulverston, 1944, pp. 25.

In his contributions to our *Transactions*, Mr. Casson has shown a rare and stimulating combination of literary and historical interests. These he has here utilised to produce a short play based on the legend of King Aella and recently produced at Pennington where it attracted much interest. A mere historian must welcome this effort to deepen and maintain local interest in our old traditions, by a method which, as our late president so pre-eminently showed us, could yield very rich returns.