

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Archæology of Surrey.—By D. C. Whimster, with 8 maps and 53 illustrations. Methuen & Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.

While antiquities of all the early periods are well up to the average in Surrey, there are several finds in the county that must excite the envy of its neighbours, and deserve even more enthusiasm than Mr. Whimster has shown in this business-like summary of the county's remote past. The Farnham palæoliths and the Battersea shield are works of art unsurpassed in their own way; and the Weybridge bucket and Wotton bowls are of supreme archæological importance. Discoveries in recent years have also attracted much attention. The author does not explain how life was possible on a site impregnated with Epsom salts, but the excavations of the Roman villa at Ashted, where the water-supply was thus contaminated, has increased our local knowledge of one period as much as the Mitcham and Guildown cemeteries have enlarged our material for the identification of Surrey's first Teutonic inhabitants.

Everything has been extracted from the few historical references to the county in pre-Norman times. In sympathy with modern philologists, the author discredits Camden's conjecture that Wimbledon was the site of the battle in 568, and thus delays the appearance of Surrey on the stage of history. But he leaves us, as an item of local interest, the affray at Merton in 786 (recorded in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* under 755, or more correctly 757). The death of Cynewulf, king of the West Saxons, does less credit to the county (not then formed) than the defeat of the Vikings at Ockley in 851, if indeed Aclea does not belong to Kent or Hampshire. The name Surrey, interpreted as Southern Kingdom, may imply a connection with Middlesex to the north of the river, London being the metropolis since the foundation of the see; and numerous finds in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries show that the sixth-century occupation was Saxon, not Jutish like the neighbouring kingdom of Kent.

The scope of the volumes in this series and the size of page adopted both set a limit to illustrations, but a little more could

have been made of the alleged eoliths on page 17, which look like decayed teeth; and two pages later, the rostracarinatè requires as usual an explanatory diagram with the technical terms added in their appropriate places. This type of implement does not speak for itself, and can only be appreciated by those who are able to recognise its constant features. At the end of the same chapter, one or two implements from Limpsfield might have drawn attention to one of the most puzzling palæolithic sites in the country, especially as "no adequate description or illustration of these has been published."

The gazetteer and appendices show that very little has been missed, and archæologists may perhaps want to efface the memory of a hoax perpetrated in the eighteenth century in the guise of a Roman monumental inscription said to have been found at Wotton (*Gent. Mag.*, LIV (1784), 403; LV (1785), 512, 680; *CIL*, vii, no. 1). There are fashions in archæology, and at present the Early Iron Age so monopolises attention that it might have been advisable to reproduce, as an encouragement to others in quest of continental contacts, the diagrams of two urns in Weybridge Museum (*Antiquaries Journal*, V, 75). But local problems are more to the point; and Mr. Whimster shrewdly observes, in connection with Cæsar's crossing of the Thames, that "the key will come in the future from a study of the land approaches which have not changed greatly since Cæsar's time, rather than from the bed of the river, which has." Can the County Archæological Society map the road that must have led westward to the ford opposite Queen Elizabeth's lawn at Kew Gardens, even if Brentford meant a passage of the tributary not far away? Further, can local effort decide the course taken by the Stane Street after leaving Mickleham Downs on its way to the Thames near London Bridge? A geological clue is given by Mr. Henry Dewey in *Antiquaries Journal*, IV, 275; and if the line can be fixed between Woodcote Park and Ewell, its straight prolongation would indicate the site of London Bridge in Roman times. Another clue is the line of the Ermine Street, which must have reached the north bank of the river at a corresponding point.

The reader will recognise several modern aspects of archæology in Mr. Whimster's work, such as the bearing of geological formations on primitive settlement and the consequent distribution of antiquities at various periods. The contrast in conditions between the Weald and the northern half of the county is well seen on page 4; and there are maps showing the natural woodland and open spaces in connection with the prehistoric periods. Earthworks are generally too vast for exploration, but progress is being made in

fixing the periods of certain types, and their significance is now emerging from the mists of conjecture. Their study is a matter of urgency in many cases for fear of destruction, and there is at least one case of encroachment by buildings in the county. A list of scheduled monuments shows the part taken by H.M. Office of Works in preserving the more prominent earthworks and ancient buildings. Another useful but less satisfactory list gives some account of the various museums in Surrey; and though some enthusiasts are anxious to see a museum in every village, it is a pertinent question, in these days of stringency, whether a policy of concentration would not add to the value and safety of the collections, without rendering them difficult of access to those most intimately concerned. To be worthy of the name a museum should be fully manned and equipped, and few of the smaller collections can now count on proper supervision or endowment. If anything can stimulate interest and pride in local relics of the past, it is the series of county archaeologies of which Mr. Whimster's is an excellent example. Five volumes have now appeared, and a similar treatment of other counties is guaranteed: if those still to come are done as well as Mr. Whimster has shown they can be done, a single book-shelf will one day contain all that most people will require to know of Britain from the earliest times to the Norman Conquest.

REGINALD A. SMITH.

Woodmansterne : a Brief Historical Account.—By Sir Henry Lambert. William Pile, Ltd., Sutton (Surrey), 1931.

This is a pamphlet of 24 pages designed, no doubt, mainly with a view to supply a popular demand (it is sold at one shilling); yet, as all who are acquainted with Sir Henry's previous work on the history of Banstead would expect, it is based on documentary evidence throughout, and to some extent, as he tells us in his brief introduction, on unpublished materials. In his four chapters the author treats of the parish generally, the church, the houses and the place-names in the parish. The parish is one of the smaller ones in the county (1,591 acres), and its population for most of its history has been scanty. Only seven inhabitants were assessed in the 1332 taxation returns, and as late as 1851 the population was only 271—a number, however, which had nearly doubled by 1901, whilst now it is over 1,300. The rarity of burials as shown by the parish register is at times remarkable. The medieval church, described by Aubrey as mean, was entirely rebuilt in 1876, but contains a fourteenth-century piscina and a little old glass. Of the houses, the most famous, because it gave its name to the

celebrated horse-race, is The Oaks, at one time the property of Lord Derby. An earlier house, pulled down in 1853, was Shortes Place, which probably derived its name from a family which, as Sir Henry shows, was resident in the parish as early as 1332 at least. The two views of The Oaks and the one of Shortes Place, which have already appeared in Vol. XVI of these *Collections*, are here reproduced.

To the student the most valuable section of this little work is beyond all doubt that dealing with the place-names, for here the author has been able to use his special knowledge of local records to advantage. Many of the names that appear on the tithe map he is able to prove are of great antiquity, such as "Chamberlain," "How Green," "Lockford's Wood," and "Brockles." On the other hand, an arable field with such a name as "Downspiece and Bottany Bay" bears unmistakable evidence of recent conversion to tillage.

But for all the author's evident learning, his little history is eminently readable throughout, and well calculated, as he hopes, to help those who have come to live in the parish to find interest in it and to gain some insight into its past. In addition to the illustrations mentioned above there is a view of the ancient church and of the old two-decker pulpit.

M. S. G.

A Short History of Ewell and Nonsuch. By Cloudesley S. Willis. Epsom. Pullinger, 1931.

The author tells us in his preface that his purpose has been to collect something of the life of Georgian and Victorian Ewell before tradition dies out and to connect it with what has been recorded of past centuries. The work was worth doing, and it has in fact been well done. Mr. Willis, whose family has been connected with Ewell for nearly a century and a half, writes with the intimate knowledge and sympathy that comes of long residence, and—inevitably—with a feeling of regret for the changes which are in progress, some of which serve no useful purpose. For instance, all those who are vexed by similar solecisms (Coolsdon for Cōlesdon, Cāterham for Catterham, Cārshalton for Casehorton or Carshálton) will agree with his objection to the pronunciation Nonsuch instead of Nonesuch. The account of the palace is careful and interesting, and though a book covering so much ground contains necessarily some slips or disputable statements, they seem to be very few in number.

H. L.

Byegone Chiddingfold : the Church and Churchyard. Byegone Chiddingfold : Extracts from the Parish Registers. Directory and Guide to Chiddingfold. By W. H. Luck.

Chiddingfold, the earliest place in England of which we have record in post-Conquest times as a centre of the glassmaking industry, is mediævally one of the most interesting parishes in Surrey from the economic point of view, and has long wanted its historian. It is greatly to be regretted that the Rev. T. S. Cooper, a former Honorary Secretary of this Society, did not live to put the vast collections of materials he had for many years so laboriously compiled towards a history of the parish into form for publication ; but the material, as we know, is all there and, given a careful editor, should not lack a publisher in more favourable times. Meanwhile, we may welcome the public spirit and antiquarian zeal of the village postmaster, who in these little books has taken the opportunity to put into print a very considerable amount of unpublished matter relative to the history of the parish which might otherwise very easily have been lost. We may guess from his numerous references to Mr. Cooper, and from the fact that he dedicates the second of the above booklets to his memory, that he has been allowed to make some use of his materials, though why he should persist in adding to his name the cryptic initials F.S.A.I. is a mystery. Mr. Cooper was of course a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

The titles of the first two of these little books sufficiently explain the nature of their contents. The account of the church includes a good list of the rectors, with some description of the principal objects of antiquarian interest in the building, notes of the inscriptions in the churchyard, and a list of those inhabitants who fell in the Great War. In the Directory the historical matter is, perhaps naturally from the nature of the work, interspersed with the " latest local information " and the advertisements, but when extracted will be found to contain quite a large quantity of very valuable and out-of-the-way information. The section dealing with the local farm-names may be specially commended.

We hope that Mr. Luck will be encouraged to continue his good work, and perhaps some day give us all his materials in a fully digested form and in a single volume more adapted for permanent preservation.

M. S. G.

William of Ockham and Joachim : the Philosopher and the Prophet. By J. K. Floyer, D.D., F.S.A.

This is the substance of a lecture which Dr. Floyer gave at

Ockham, and as setting out the known facts of the life and teachings of one of the most famous natives of our county in medieval times we welcome his having thought well to put it into print. For William of Ockham, one of the greatest of the schoolmen, was born at Ockham probably about 1270, and is said to have spent his youth with the Dominican friars at Guildford. Subsequently he passes out of our local ken, and his activities belong to a far wider world. Most of us now perhaps take only an academic interest in the dissensions of the schoolmen and the teachings of their various schools, though we may note with some sense of local satisfaction that the influence of Ockham seems to have persisted longer than that of most of the others, his work on the Sacrament of the Altar having been a source of help to Luther and the German reformers. Even in our own day, Dr. Floyer tells us, his theories with regard to the temporal power of the Pope are still vital, and his philosophical opinions have been quoted by Sir James Jeans.

M. S. G.

The Kings and Kingdom of Wessex. By W. E. St. Lawrence Finny, M.D., M.Ch., F.S.A. Reprinted from the *South Eastern Naturalist and Antiquary*, 1931.

This is a Presidential address to the Archæological Section of the Congress of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies at Winchester, delivered in June 1931. It gives a succinct account of the Kingdom from Cerdic to Athelstan, and refers to Kingston as the place of coronation. It does not otherwise deal specially with Surrey.

H. L.

Historical Guide to the Parish Church of St. Mary, Beddington, Surrey. 1931. Price 1s.

We gather from the Rector's preface to this little guide that the writer is Mr. H. V. Molesworth Roberts, and we would congratulate him on having supplied the visitor to this really interesting church in the near neighbourhood of London with precisely what he needs to point out its principal features and the more salient facts of its history. The architecture of the various parts of the building is clearly and succinctly described, and a good ground plan, a real desideratum in all such works, shows at once the period of each part. In addition to this plan there are four illustrations, and the guide concludes with a list of the rectors from the thirteenth century.