

Books

Drawing Archaeological Finds for Publication by Conant Brodribb. *John Baker*. 15s.

THIS NEW handbook on drawing joins John Baker's growing list of archaeological subjects. *Drawing Archaeological Finds for Publication* is however rather a puzzle and it is necessary to ask how restricted was Conant Brodribb's brief. While accepting that his publisher has made available in *The Preparation of Archaeological Reports* a discussion of archaeological drawing conventions, it is surprising to find the standard, but by no means self-explanatory, method of combined section and elevation drawing used by archaeologists omitted altogether. Will not the purchaser of a book on archaeological finds expect just this feature to be included? Certainly the London archaeologist knows that a large proportion of his finds including the pottery and glass need to be illustrated this way. The student should therefore read *The Preparation* first and then turn to Conant Brodribb's sound advice on drawing.

The book is concerned with the materials, tools and technique of black and white ink drawing and the important implications of reductions. It ensures that the reader understands the principle of successful reproduction and illustrates this with clear but untidily lettered drawings (all hand lettering should be based on at least two guide lines). The limitations of the line block and the minimum line thickness practicable are discussed, together with types of pens available and the ways errors can be removed. This followed by a step by step procedure for drawing an object and how to hatch, stipple and show texture. The note on drawing architectural fragments needs expanding. However, the book is sensibly priced.

A Short Guide to the Parish Churches in the Rural Deanery of Brent by I. R. Dowse and H. Egan; **The Parish Church of St. Mary, Willesden** by H. Egan. Both produced for the Wembley Historical Society by the British Publishing Co. Ltd., Gloucester. 3/6d. each.

THESE ARE two useful local guide books to churches in Wembley and Willesden now combined in the London Borough of Brent. That on the medieval and later St. Mary's at Willesden follows the

conventions of such handbooks with an historical introduction and details of fabric and the brasses. A plan is provided but not a concise list of features and monuments for the visitor to use on the spot.

It is perhaps appropriate that the other guide should encourage a harder look at the Victorian and modern buildings of Brent. A short introduction to architects and artists prefaces short notes on the churches within the Rural Deanery. These describe the design, date and architects involved together with sources and details of access. Many are illustrated, such as James Book's fine St. Andrew's, Willesden Green and should promote further investigation.

A History of Gunnersbury, its Park and Museum 2s.

VISITORS TO the Gunnersbury Park Museum (administered for the London Boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow by Hounslow) may find this new guide book helpful. It contains a history of the Park with its two 19th century mansions standing side by side and describes the various garden buildings; the contents of the Museum are also briefly noted. Several excellent photographs and a poor plan are included.

JOHN ASHDOWN

ICE AGES: their nature and effects by Ian Cornwall. *John Baker* 63s.

THIS well illustrated and simply written account of the Pleistocene epoch is evidently aimed at the non-specialist reader, and as such it has few competitors. By common consent it is impossible to understand the old stone age without some knowledge of the geological epoch it spans, and accordingly any archaeologist needs to have a reference work on it. This volume can only partly be recommended. The principal reservation concerns the time scale. One course open to Cornwall would have been to doubt if any of the present dating methods suffice to date the ice ages, and a second would have been to use a time scale combining the various direct methods of dating now available. But to accept a time scale derived from the Milankovich solar radiation curve, which is in conflict with other methods to a much greater extent than Cornwall implies, is somewhat misleading.

While it would be unwise to pretend that C 14 dating was universally regarded as reliable, never-

theless large series of dates do show a high level of agreement, not only for the last 30,000 years, but as far back as the Brorup interstadial c 60,000 years ago and near the limit of the method. It is for this reason that most workers date the beginning of the last glaciation at c. 75,000 years ago. The radiation curve as interpreted by Zeuner and Cornwall provides a rather different chronology with higher ages for different parts of the last glaciation by as much as 40,000 years in places. For the beginning of the Magdalenian culture phase for example, Zeuner's figure of c. 70,000 years is higher than the C.14 figure c. 18,000 years by over 300%. It is hardly surprising that most geologists find this type of radiation dating unacceptable, and if it is wrong by varying amounts for the last 100,000 years, only coincidence could make it any better for earlier periods.

It may be that the dating proposed by Cornwall will turn out to be correct, but if it does so, it will surprise some 90% of today's geologists and it will contradict almost all known dating methods. Such an outside possibility should obviously be treated warily by the beginner.

The remainder of the book includes useful data on the features left by the ice ages, and on man's presence in Britain and elsewhere at different stages of the period. The archaeologist living in London may well find that he is living or working on one of the ice age terraces of the Thames. He will need to know something of how Man's arrival in Britain and subsequent evolution fits into these interesting natural features if he is to fully understand London archaeology.

DESMOND COLLINS

London Clay Tobacco Pipes by D. Atkinson and A. Oswald. Off a print from the Journal of the *British Archaeological Association*, 12/6 (post free).

THE PAPER contains a new chronology of bowl types for the London region which should now be used in conjunction with previous general publication on the subject as an aid in dating post-medieval deposits.

Linking the historical background with a detailed archaeological study of the pipe, the authors use a large number of illustrations to show the variety of makers' marks decorated pipes in use between 1580 and 1900. Trade and export, stem-bore dating methods, lengths of pipe stems and an account of the London Company of Pipe Makers are included, together with valuable lists containing dates and locations of over 500 makers. (Copies may be obtained from Miss Scouloudi, 67 Victoria Road, W.8.)

BRIAN BLOICE

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Medieval London

by TIMOTHY BAKER

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