

Books

The History of the Church, by Eusebius, translated by G A Williamson. *Penguin*, 1989. 435 pp., £5.99. EUSEBIUS (AD c 260-339) was a Greek Christian writer, often called the 'Father of Ecclesiastical History', who became Bishop of Caesarea in about 313. The original work was contained in ten books, the first filling in the historical and theological background to enable us to grasp the significance of Christ as the Incarnation of the Word of God. Books 2 to 7 give an account of the life of the Church from the Ascension of Christ (AD 30) to the outbreak of the Great Persecution in 303. Books 8 and 9 concern the Great Persecution itself, and Book 9 also includes an account of Constantine's victory over Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge outside Rome in 312. Book 10 celebrates the Church in Peace.

The translation by G A Williamson was first published in 1965; this edition contains new editorial matter and revisions with a new introduction by Andrew Louth. A very useful and informative addition is an 88-page 'Who's Who' with entries for all the people who appear in the pages of *The History of the Church* and articles on Easter, the Septuagint, gnostics and docetists and on groups such as the Seventy (disciples) and Apostles. This is a very clear and readable version and will doubtless be sought by students and all others interested in Church History. Marsden Anderson

St. Paul's Vista, by Penelope Hunting. *LEP Group plc*, 1988. 96 pp., illus., £6.95 paperback.

JUST WHERE precisely is St. Paul's Vista? You may well ask. Archaeologists will remember the area better as Trig Lane, excavated in 1973, and the adjacent Sunlight Wharf dig of 1981. This is another instance where modern fancy has coined a new name where an interesting old one could have been retained. What a way to treat old London! Though I suppose we were lucky it wasn't Laburnum Grove.

But never mind, this is a splendid book following the history and development of this Thames-side area from Roman times to the present, as revealed through excavation and documents. The sequence of the ups and downs of the several properties is presented in a vivid manner, and the whole is illustrated with sumptuous pictures, photographs and maps. The Trig Lane excavation revealed the development of the medieval waterfront by land reclamation behind, initially, a series of timber revetments and then a stone wall in the 14th century. The vicissitudes of the tenements forming the area are fascinating with its fishmongers (including the Trig family), dyers, brewers and others. Incidentally, Trig Lane seems to

have been called Fishwharf Lane originally. So this name-changing business is no new thing it seems.

After the Great Fire the area was the subject of much grandiose planning which never materialised, and the tatter of buildings seems to have reappeared. Ultimately this became Sunlight Wharf of the famous soap company. However, that too has gone and in its place we have, or had, the Lep House much mentioned in the text. But Lep House was leased out and is now called Swiss Bank House, and so the naming game goes on.

The book does not seem to be widely available, but I did notice it on sale in the Museum of London. Buy it while you can. Colin Bowlt

Carthage: a Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia, edited by Aïcha ben Abed ben Khader and David Soren. *The American Museum of Natural History in association with W. W. Norton & Company*, 1987. 238 pp., 52 figs. & catalogue illus., bibliog., \$19.95.

This book was published to mark the exhibition of the same name prepared under the auspices of the American Museum of National History and the Institut National d'Archéologie et d'Art de Tunisie.

The book is divided into three sections. In Section 1, David Soren, who was involved in the UNESCO International Campaign to Save Carthage, presents a series of essays under the heading of *Carthage: an American Overview*. Section 2, *Carthage: a Tunisian Perspective*, is more extensive and is authored by Tunisian specialists. Both sections are organised chronologically. Beginning with indigenous occupation, the following periods are covered: Berber, Punic, Roman, Vandal, Byzantine and Arab. The chapter on prehistory by Mounira Riahi-Harbi is particularly interesting, as this period is normally overshadowed by its more visible successors. Also of note is the emphasis on Berber culture, and Tunisian excavations at the Punic city of Kerkouane. Both Soren and the Tunisian authors draw on a variety of sources for their discussions, most consistently archaeological evidence and the ancient writers. This results in some overlap between the two sections, and it might have been preferable to combine them. Finally, the third section is the exhibition catalogue, which consists of 97 entries. The text is beautifully illustrated and the maps are well placed.

This book is essentially for non-specialists, and anyone who has travelled in Tunisia will enjoy both the illustrations and text. The uninitiated may well wish to plan a holiday in Tunisia after browsing through this book. Roberta Tomber