Reviews of Books,

BY THE EDITOR.

RORIK OF JUTLAND AND RURIK OF THE RUSSIAN CHRONICLES. By COLONEL N. T. BELAIEW, C.B. Reprinted from the Saga-Book of the Viking Society for Northern Research. (1929).

The author, who is a Member of the Association and on the Council of the Viking Society, has published the above Paper, which is an evidence of deep learning in the Sagas and Scandinavian history and literature. He takes us back to the conditions existing in the second half of the 9th century, the records of the exploits of Roric of Jutland, and the foundation of the Russian Empire. About that time there was a fusion of various northern tribes into the three main branches of Swedes, Danes and Norwegians. The author identifies the Rorik of Jutland with the Rurik of Russia, records the achievements of the former with the Frankish Kings and the founding of the Russian States. The writings of King Alfred are quoted and also the invasions of Britain by the Norsemen. Abundant references to leading authorities are given, and all readers who desire to know more of this obscure branch of Northern European history, of the Viking Age, and of the colonisation of the Baltic, well styled "The Mediterranean of the North," should study Colonel Belaiew's pages.—P.H.D.

THE COTTAGES OF ENGLAND: A REVIEW OF THEIR TYPES AND FEATURES FROM THE 16TH TO THE 18TH CENTURIES. By BASIL OLIVER, F.R.I.B.A., with a foreword by the RIGHT HON. STANLEY BALDWIN, M.P. (London, B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1929. 21*s. net.*)

At last Englishmen have discovered that they have inherited from their forefathers great and inestimable treasures, of scenery, beauty, architecture and building. They have found also that these charming features of the English landscape are fast disappearing and that their place is being taken by bare-faced ugliness. Noble stretches of English forest land have been shorn

of their trees and handed over to the jerry-builder who delights in covering them with hideous modern bungalows built of timber and roofed with slate, and erected at the least possible cost, for which he charges his unfortunate tenants the highest possible rent.

It has dawned upon the English people that they are losing some of the most beautiful specimens of rural architecture, the old cottages of the countryside. Too long have they been neglected. Many have been pulled down ; others have been left to perish, the victims of the neglect of man and of the rude storms and frosts of winter. A derelict cottage home is one of the saddest of all sights, and you may see many such in rural England. Once a happy home with children playing in the garden, now a scene of rank vegetation, with great holes in the thatch through which the rain pours down. The once finely built chimney is now a ruin. Decay and desolation have claimed it as their own, whereas only a few years ago it might have been saved and made again a picturesque building and a happy home.

The sight of such dwellings has at length moved the hearts of the compassionate, and landlords, the lovers of beauty, architects and laymen, have resolved to do their utmost to preserve these artistic treasures bequeathed to them by past generations. The Royal Society of Arts, amidst its many interests, had determined to inaugurate a movement for the Preservation of Ancient Cottages, and two years ago I attended the inaugural meeting which was eloquently addressed by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who proposed a resolution approving the action of the Society " to assist in the establishment of a substantial fund for application on the broadest national lines in furtherance of this movement." I understand that Sir Frank Baines, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., has the honour of inspiring the Society's new activity, and the Secretary, Mr. G. K. Menzies, has worked with unflagging enthusiasm in making the movement a success.

The interest that has been aroused naturally required a special volume in order to extend the knowledge of these old

buildings and to make an appeal to those who love the English countryside and wish to preserve its traditions. In seeking one who would be the best exponent of the rural architecture, it was also natural to appeal to Mr. Basil Oliver, F.R.I.B.A., to write this volume. He is the author of "Old Houses and Village Buildings of East Anglia," and can write learnedly upon the excellence of local craft in a village, in some parts of England, such as the Cotswold country, or the South Downs of Sussex, pointing out how our forefathers attained the best results by using the materials that Nature had provided in the districts where they erected their masterpieces.

It is natural also to expect that illustrations must play a great part in a volume of this kind, and it is well-known that the House of Batsford has accumulated in the course of many years a unique collection of photographs of cottages from all parts of the country. Some years ago I wrote for the late Mr. Herbert Batsford some books somewhat akin to our present subject, and know well the value of the collection which has been greatly added to by Mr. Harry Batsford, his nephew and successor. I know also the paternal interest both take in their publications, and how anxious they were in selecting the best possible illustrations for their works. The author bears witness to the assistance he has received, and to the thoroughness of the House of Batsford.

Mr. Oliver inveighs against the habits of some rich folk who buy old cottages which were intended for farm-labourers, restore them and make them comfortable for their own convenience as country week-end cottages, thereby robbing the poor. Speculators obtain no mercy from him. He praises Rural District Councils for trying to prevent "dispossessing practices," but they are often to blame. They appoint one of their number to look after cottages and the beauty of the countryside, but often he cares more for drains and pigsties than the objects of his peculiar care.

We read again the directions of old builders, Dr. Andrew Boorde, Sir Henry Wootton, etc., the descriptions of the Peasant's Home, that certainly lacked comfort. My friend, Mr. Sydney

Jones, who illustrated some of my books demonstrates by the excellent map how the builders of old cottages, and also of churches and manor houses, used the materials that Nature supplied in their construction and thus made them truthful and genuine. Mr. Oliver wanders through the shires and by descriptions and by a wealth of admirable illustrations shows the characteristic features of each local style of architecture. We are then shown examples of stone-built cottages and travel in the delightful region of the Cotswolds, not confining ourselves to roads but taking aerial flights and seeing how villages look from the air. We journey along the course of the oolitic limestone which affords material for the greatest triumph of English architecture, and then are conducted to the lands of timber-framed cottages, and here and there Mr. Oliver gives wise advice such as to the folly of stripping off old plaster and painting the uncovered beams. Examples of pargetting are given. The author went to Stoneleigh and gives some admirable illustrations, but it is curious that he failed to notice that particular cottage in which the " struts " remain, showing the original method of building such habitation.

The final chapter on features and details, is perhaps the most charming of all and leaves nothing else that need be said about these humble dwellings. The glories of old thatch, slate and timber hangings, windows, wrought ironwork, glazing, gardening, all come within the sphere of Mr. Oliver's observations. He has accomplished well the task he set himself, and his book, with Mr. Batsford's photographs, should improve the taste of English folk and help to preserve the ancient cottages of our beloved land.

SPANISH GARDENS, THEIR HISTORY, TYPES AND FEATURES. By C. M. VILLIERS-STUART, Author of " The Gardens of the Great Mughals." (B. T. Batsford, Ltd. 1929. 25*s. net.*)

All who enjoyed Mrs. Villiers-Stuart's former work will welcome her new book in which she describes the principal gardens of Spain, with a wealth of illustrations that delights the eye and instructs the mind. These include six plates in colour from her own water-colour drawings and a large number of plates

from her photographs. The "Loom of Destiny" has woven many strange strands in the history of the Spanish Peninsular and in its garden-craft. It is a country of constant change and conflicting civilizations. As the author writes "Sailors from Syria and Crete, soldiers from Carthage and imperial Rome, invaders from the North, conquerors from the South, each in turn swept over the land. Capitals and centres of culture replaced one another in bewildering succession: Iberian Elché, Roman Mérida, Toledo of the Visigoths, Arab Cordova, Moorish Granada, each had their day until the final Christian victory and the rise of Madrid."

It was natural for Mrs. Villiers-Stuart to follow her pursuit of garden-lore from Kashmir where she revelled in describing the gardens of the great Mughals to the Moorish gardens of Spain. These and the Indian gardens had much in common, as they were formed in the two extremities of the Moslem rule. The author herself has a great love for gardens and plenty of flowers and writes charmingly in her descriptions of the triumphs of Arabian art. Spain possesses not only examples of every age, but some gardens, in exactly their original condition, that were laid out as far back as the 13th century. These anticipated the Oriental pleasances of the Moorish conquerors, and there are, also, a multitude of beautiful gardens of the 17th and 18th centuries with their waterways and cascades, loggias and pergolas, stately cypresses and clipped orange trees. It was the necessity of irrigation that made these gardens so beautiful whether in Persia or Spain. Large districts originally unproductive were made fertile and beautiful by the Arab system of reservoirs which they called aljibes, and a network of small canals, whereby the barren lands were made "to bloom and blossom as the rose." There is something joyous and soothing in the gentle splash of the fountains that adorned each Arab garden and refreshed and vivified it. It was sad that when the Christians after the 14th century conquered Spain they paid no attention to these irrigation works and the canals were allowed to block up, and the country suffered greatly. The Catholic Kings admired the architecture of the Moors, but they despised and feared their literature and

learning. We read in this book that Cardinal Ximenes collected all the Moorish treatises on irrigation and agriculture and burned them in a public square at Granada with all the other Arabic books that he could find.

But still some of the Moorish gardens survived. Their influence remained. "In Andalucia it has remained almost unbroken to this day. Further north at Aranjuz it has proved stronger than Italian Renaissance feeling. Even at Bourbon La Granja built by the niece of Louis XIV, in imitation of Versailles, the older influences of the country reassert themselves."

We travel with the author up and down the Peninsula and she points out to us the beauties of the buildings she admires and describes so well. We go with her to the "Mecca of the West," Cordova, once a centre of Moslem culture, and many a curious story is told of Arab Princes and poetic legends still linger around the remains of old palaces. The Alcazar with its fountains and terraces excites our curiosity, and we learn the meaning of the "Glorieta," the tiny paradise or "private glory," which characterises most Spanish pleasances. The word signifies Heaven, and sometimes there are eight pavilions, corresponding to the eight pearl pavilions of the true believer's vision—the Pearl Pavilions where eight lovely Houris await their Master in the Moslem Paradise.

The Arab glories of Cordova have for the most part passed away, but at Granada among the fountain courts of the Alhambra the Moorish part is practically unchanged. This Mrs. Villiers-Stuart describes very fully and beautifully. In this short review it is impossible to tell the glories of the ancient dwelling with its various Courts, the Pool, or the Court of the Myrtle Hedges, the Court of the Lions, and that of the Four Cypresses. In reading the author's description one's only regret is that it has never been the privilege of the present writer to visit these triumphs of ancient architecture.

Not only did our guide wander in the gardens of the palaces of princes, but also into cloister shade, and tells us of the gardens of monks and nuns, and how much Spanish pleasances owe to the

garden craft. As in all her work, the author seems to have studied very carefully the various Orders of monks, and perhaps during her wanderings to and fro from India with her soldier-husband she may have seen with some pride the Villiers' Arms on the gate of Grand Master of the Hospitallers' palace at Valetta.

The author has not always found it easy to gain an entrance into her beloved gardens, which often requires much patience and perseverance. Her adventure in trying to enter a closed convent was quite thrilling and the negotiations required before admittance could be given must have required the patience of a saint; but persistence and friends at court gained her entrance even to this most intimate of nunneries, where the reader may not hope to follow her. Even more adventurous was a certain run to La Zulia which, as the lady states, "took me jolting over the hilly by-road to the village of Viznar. But the Palicio de Cuzco proved well worth the effort. . . . . I was just in time to see the fountains on the south front shoot up in a last display, making rainbows in the evening sunshine before they suddenly died away. Then one by one the great keys were turned in their locks, and, regretfully, this palace of Old Spain was left to dream again undisturbed over its memories."

This passage and many others in this delightful volume show that Mrs. Villiers-Stuart, who has been known to the present writer since her childhood's days, has cultivated a very charming style which adds greatly to the pleasure of the reader and also of the reviewer. This is a book which no enthusiast for old gardens, garden-craft and garden architecture can afford to miss. With its interesting letterpress and mass of beautiful illustrations it forms an ideal gift-book, and a permanent record of the beauties of these fine old gardens.—P. H. DITCHFIELD.

ANCIENT CHURCH CHESTS AND CHAIRS IN THE HOME COUNTIES ROUND GREATER LONDON. By FRED ROE, R.I., R.B.C.

This is a volume of absorbing interest to all lovers of old English craftsmanship, and is described as being the tour of an antiquary with pencil and camera through the churches of

Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent and Surrey. The author's name is well known as that of an artist and an archæologist. His paintings every year grace the walls of the Royal Academy, and he is the leading authority on old oak in this country, of which subject he has made a life-long hobby. Nothing pleases him more than to make a pilgrimage with sketch-book and camera into districts where his instinct tells him that oak is likely to be found, and, moreover, his artistic genius enables him to produce on paper exact presentments of the things he loves for the benefit of his readers, and also of architects and designers, of the clergy and others who have to do with church restoration and furnishing.

The learned Editor of the *Connoisseur*, Mr. C. Reginald Grundy, is a friend of Mr. Roe, and he has written a foreword to this volume, and tells us that he has accompanied the author in some of his excursions and has " constantly marvelled at the way in which he is able to detect old forms of building construction concealed under modern stucco facings, and pieces of old woodwork embedded among modern paint and timbers and examples of old furniture in the most unlikely places. Indeed his information on this one subject is encyclopædic, for there seems scarcely a notable example of oak carving or furniture in the country with which he has not at least a passing acquaintance, while he has also an extensive knowledge of Continental work."

The present writer can confirm the opinion of Mr. Grundy, as it was his privilege to co-operate with Mr. Roe in the production of a book entitled " Vanishing England," and to follow him through many counties in the discovery of many objects which were threatened but had not quite vanished. One would naturally expect that in the region of Greater London it would not be easy to find choice specimens of old oak, ancient chests and chairs, old pews, benches, stools and dole-cupboards. The increase of the population means enlarged or rebuilt churches, and during such alterations valuable and rare objects are apt to disappear. The " Goths and Vandals " pulled down an old church in 1860, and the 13th century old doors vanished. It was left to me to

recover them from a garden some miles away. However, Mr. Roe has found the country round London rich in specimens of archæological interest. Amongst these he has discovered the beautiful village of Ruislip, in spite of the growth of surrounding modern buildings and of the ruthless hand of Sir Gilbert Scott who " restored " the church. Its treasures include a wondrous coffer, so heavy that no church robber would be likely to carry it away. It is bound with iron and the author fully describes it. There is also another rather smaller coffer, and an interesting dole cupboard, the gift of Jeremiah Bright in 1697, which still provides bread for the poor in accordance with the Will of the worthy citizen of London. There are other treasures which escaped not the eye of the author, and we journey with him to Hayes Church which has suffered much from the restorer's hand.

In Hertfordshire our attention is called to Aldenham, whence it is presumed my friend Lord Aldenham derives his title, and regard with amazement and pleasure the beautiful drawings of the iron-bound dug-out coffer in the church. It is carved from the vast trunk of an oak tree, has been carefully tended, and appears in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*. North-church and King's Langley possess chests, the former of the Flanders type, and Mr. Roe points out the great value of itinerant draughtsmen of the early 19th century who made drawings of the church's treasures which have now disappeared. Some of these are reproduced.

We journey with Mr. Roe to inspect other churches in Hertfordshire, St. Albans where there are two remarkable chairs and a late 17th century Poor-box and bread-cupboard which Lord Grimthorpe's violent " restoration " have happily not removed; Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Much Hadham, all of which can boast of treasures; and then we find ourselves in Essex in a district that is connected by family ties with the author who in his very humorous and charming map that adorns the cover records " Here my grandfather held fortes." The very beautiful church of Thaxted possesses an oak coffer and a linen-panelled

credence and the "Yardley Chest" inscribed "1489, 1789," though the present chest that replaced an ancient one is fairly modern.

The author tells sad stories of vandalism and the evils of "restoration." Actually one wretched rector sawed off the limbs of a wooden effigy of a knight and used them for logs for his fire. Spurious antiquities find in Mr. Roe an exposure of shame. So called "Armada" chests do not always disclose evidence of authenticity in his writings. He increases the interest of his book by references to family history, local legends, and stories of the countryside. The "Abbotsford" period always arouses caustic remarks. We have not been able to discover many slips. In one place we find the use of "antiquarians" for "antiquaries." "Parvise" for the room over the porch is usually questioned by modern ecclesiologists, though it is a convenient word for the "porch-chamber," and modern writers prefer "misericords" for "misereres."

This is quite the best work on old oak furniture which Mr. Roe has written, and it will delight many readers and will be eagerly sought after by collectors, connoisseurs and archæologists, and by those who are fortunate enough to possess these relics of ancient art and are desirous of knowing their date and descriptions by one who really knows about them.—P.H.D.

ANCIENT ABINGDON, BERKSHIRE. THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS, ABINGDON, AND OTHER PAPERS. By ARTHUR E. PRESTON, F.S.A., Barrister-at-Law. (Oxford: University Press, London: Humphrey Milford. 21s. *net*. 1929.)

Abingdon is a famous and fortunate borough. When railways were invented it escaped the fate of Swindon, and retained many of its old buildings, its lore and customs. It possesses a history that extends back to pre-Conquest days, and a learned and skilled historian who spares no pains in carefully collecting its records and in producing them in a noble volume worthy of the town. For many years Mr. Preston has been delving in a fruitful soil

compiling masses of material on the annals of Abingdon, nor are his researches ended. In this volume he had disclosed only a portion of his discoveries, as he informs us in his preface that he contemplates a further work on the complete history of the borough, to which all Abingdonians and Berkshire lovers will look forward with the keenest interest.

The present volume treats of the history of the church and parish of St. Nicholas, the early Grammar School (to the end of the 16th century), and an old Abingdon manor known as Fitz-harris from the name of its last mediæval holder in the 13th century, one Hugh Fitz-Henry or Fitz-Harry. This last leads to a record of some of the old families connected with Abingdon, the Tesdales, Bostocks and others who have left their mark on the history of the town.

The Church of St. Nicholas is "peculiar" in many ways, though not in a technical or ecclesiastical sense, and has passed through many vicissitudes, poverty being the cause of many troubles. It still stands, a noble church, nigh the entrance gatehouse of the Abbey, now the Guildhall, of transitional Norman date, having been erected some years before the close of the 12th century. Mr. Preston has discovered a reference to an early incumbent in an Abbey document about the date 1184, and this is earlier than that given by some other authorities, including Leland. Originally built by the monks, it was intended to found a church for the lay officials and servants of the Abbey, for travellers and pilgrims, for the numerous workmen that were employed on the monastic buildings, the military knights and tenants, for traders and casual visitors. But St. Nicholas' was not a monastic church, and was not for some time an ordinary parish church. There was no glebe or tithe. With much careful research the author has compiled an almost complete list of incumbents, a task of no little difficulty, considering the peculiarly complicated nature of the benefice. All that can be discovered about the holders of the living has been attached to each name, and constitutes a valuable series of biographical notes.

Church's Complicated History.—Until its fall in 1538, the Abbey always presented to the benefice, and for some undiscovered reason the incumbents were always designated as rectors. Usually a rector is one who owns the great tithes of the parish ; but St. Nicholas', as we have said, owned no tithes. Until the 15th century these rectors appointed vicars, who discharged the duties of their office while they concerned themselves with other affairs. There seems to have been for a long period the duty of acting as *magister scholarum* of Abingdon's famous Grammar School. Later on the vicars vanish and the rectors perform their proper business. Again in the 16th century the rectory becomes a sinecure, and the vicarage is annexed to that of St. Helen's. For 300 years the Crown held the patronage, and then in 1846 the rectory was united with the vicarage of St. Helen's. Was ever history so complicated ? The author is certainly to be congratulated in finding his way through such a bewildering maze and ascertaining, we think for the first time, the actual facts about the story of this mysterious church.

What may be called the golden age of St. Nicholas' was in the 14th century, when it became a distinct parish under the Bishop's Ordination drawn up in 1372. The church had a warm supporter in the Abbey. The abbot and convent recognised that it was their spiritual child. It had been built by them, and they favoured it at the expense of the rival church, St. Helen's. In all the disputes between the Abbey and the town (which were evident in all places where existed a powerful abbey and a corporation clamouring for freedom, *e.g.*, Reading, Canterbury, etc.), the parson and parishioners of St. Helen's took the part of the people against the Abbey and even supported acts of violence against the monastery, whereas St. Nicholas' and the Abbey were always very good friends, and the latter's policy was to magnify the interests of St. Nicholas' and to promote its importance. Hence the bishop, doubtless on the advice of the abbot, constituted St. Nicholas' as a parish with definite boundaries, including the monastic precincts Ock Mill and various granges connected with the manors of Fitzharris, Northcourt and Barton. Moreover, the church had interests in Bayworth and Sunningwell.

The income of the benefice was, however, small, and it had to support both a rector and vicar, and the division of the stipend was not without unpleasantness between the two incumbents. Mr. Preston has discovered that each had a residence on the north of the church. In 1410 the two offices were united, and later on the vicarage was united with St. Helen's. The author has made an intimate acquaintance with the later rectors, who varied in type from the industrious parish priest to learned lawyers and professors who held distinguished posts at Oxford University or at Canterbury.

It is difficult to imagine the changes caused in Abingdon by the dissolution of its Abbey that had been so long the lord of the town. St. Nicholas', however, continued its existence, impoverished as before, the rectors being still without clerical duties, while the vicars of St. Helen's, though responsible, did little. The usual ecclesiastical changes took place at the Reformation, and St. Nicholas' lost most of its treasure of plate, vestments and ornaments. A very prominent layman of the parish and of the town was John Blacknall, who left money for the increased support of the readership in the church, which was of immense service to the town owing to some lax clerics. Want of space forbids a lengthy reference to the troubles of the Civil War period in Abingdon. It is remarkable for the very gallant defence of St. Nicholas', which was threatened with destruction, and the enforced abandonment of all Church of England services. . . . Fortunately, the Royalist champion, Dr. Peter Heylin, came to reside at Lacy's Court, where all through the Puritan domination he held services according to the use of the Church of England, and fought vigorously for St. Nicholas', ably supporting the old clergyman, Mr. Huish, who " went on with his prayers as usual, and this little church withstood all the batteries and fierce assaults of its enemies, who were never able to demolish it or unite it with Saint Ellens."

A very interesting chapter is that on Nonconformity in Abingdon. Hitherto very little has been known concerning its history, and scarcely anything published. The author has

become possessed of a great store of unpublished papers, and from them he amassed the chronicles of these sects, which will be entirely new to most of his readers.

Abingdon's Ancient School.—Perhaps the most fascinating chapters deal with the story of the famous Abingdon Grammar School, which was never more successful than it is to-day. Its old buildings still stand just across the road from St. Nicholas', though the school itself has flitted away to "fresh fields and pastures new." Mr. Leach, whose book is well known in Methuen's "Antiquary's Books," was the discoverer of the fact that very many of the old grammar schools were far older than was generally supposed and were not monastic, and Abingdon can claim a very high antiquity. Certainly it is pre-Conquest and may rank with the very oldest schools in England. Mr. Preston compares its date with that of Reading School, and claims for it greater antiquity. By the way, he quotes from Miss Rose Graham's learned book, "English Ecclesiastical Studies," and yet deems Reading Abbey to have belonged to the Cluniac Order. Although the first abbot was a monk of the Cluniac monastery of Lewes, the learned lady states definitely that Reading Abbey never belonged to that order. The whole story of the school is admirably told, and we have a clear picture of its great benefactor, John Roysse, the rich London merchant, who followed the example of many others who, having made their fortunes in trade, returned to their native town to enrich it by their charitable bequests. Associated with his name is that of Tesdale, who was especially concerned in advancing the interests of the school and in founding scholarships for Abingdon boys at Oxford. The story is too long to be told here, but Mr. Preston brings out for the first time the part played by the Corporation of Abingdon in founding Pembroke College, Oxford, for the reception of Abingdon scholars.

Priceless Documents.—There is much else that a reviewer of this valuable and interesting work would desire to call attention to, but want of space forbids a longer notice. Attention may be called to the fate of some of the priceless contents of the library

of the Abbey. A certain George Owen, of Oxford, M.D., physician to Henry VIII. and accoucheur at the birth of Edward VI., also a brewer by trade, acquired the lordship of the Hundred of Hormer for a trifling cost, and purloined some priceless Saxon charters and other old manuscripts from the Abbey. The secret methods whereby Master Owen possessed himself of these documents is known to the author and by him alone. He has not yet disclosed his secret. Eight charters somehow passed to the Cotton Collection now in the British Museum. Stevenson, in the *Abingdon Chronicle*, states that transcripts of other MSS. and documents are in the possession of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. They were made by Robert Talbot (c. 1548). At the end of the " Carta De Civelea," it is stated that it was made from a charter " which was had off Mr. Owen." At the end of another charter the copyist states, " I had the copye hereoff off Mr. Doctor Owen, Phisicyan." The authorities of Corpus Christi College may be glad to know what treasures lie in their possession, probably reposing in dusty oblivion on the shelves of their library.

Again we beg to offer our congratulations to Mr. Preston for his valuable work and to the town of Abingdon on possessing such an accomplished and able historian and such a wealth of antiquarian lore and almost unsurpassed historical treasure.

P. H. DITCHFIELD.