

XV.—REVIEW.

IN THE TROUBLESOME TIMES. THE CAMBO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BOOK OF 1922. Edited by ROSALIE E. BOSANQUET. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5". 199 pp. Frontispiece and index. Newcastle upon Tyne; Northumberland Press Limited, 1929.

The good work which women's institutes are doing for the cultural betterment of English rural districts is well known to every student of contemporary life. Their activities have seldom found more pleasing and useful expression than in the compendium of local lore which has been compiled by the Cambo Women's Institute¹ and tactfully edited by Miss Bosanquet, the sister of one of our vice-presidents. The editing may be almost too tactfully uncritical from the scientific point of view (and the educated younger generation will regret that no folklore unsuitable for drawing-room reading has been admitted), but after all something can be left to the reader's intelligence, and Miss Bosanquet's wise restraint in commentary preserves the women's institute atmosphere in a very charming way.

In reading the tales and looking at the list of contributors in this book one is struck by the lack of really ancient legends and the comparatively recent arrival of the present inhabitants of Cambo. Where are the Hartingtons and Wallingtons and Fenwicks and other old clans of Cambo? And the stories told in their smoky halls? All swept away in the long wars, cruel devastations, and deadly plagues of the fourteenth and fifteenth

¹ Awarded the Grace Hadow second prize "for the best book compiled by a Women's Institute on old customs, beliefs, stories, and ancient monuments, etc."



centuries; the men dead or driven into other regions, the stories forgotten, or, if they lingered in the memories of an illiterate peasantry, despised by the settlers who brought their own various manners and customs when they re-peopled and re-civilized the district in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. And how soon mistakes of detail creep into oral tradition! Already the legend of Winter's stob, little more than a century old, has its own small accrescence of error. But these things all add to the interest of a book which is truly "racy of the soil," and we most heartily congratulate Miss Bosanquet and the Cambo Women's Institute on their achievement.²

H.L.H.

² As the first edition is now out of print Miss Bosanquet has asked us to give publicity, which we gladly do, to the following *corrigenda* :—

- p. 9, 45, etc. For Percival read Perceval. The correct name of his house is Mill Greens.
- p. 21. The 29th of May was the birthday of Charles II and the day of his re-entry into London, not the day of his concealment in an oak tree.
- p. 53. "Joe the Twilter" was murdered in 1826, so our contributor cannot himself have known him.
- p. 87. "Black Jack" was probably Jacky Johnson of Byker Bar whose death is recorded in *Newcastle Courant* of April 7, 1827. A similar story of the "three young men" is told of Wrightson in Atkinson's *Forty Years of a Moorland Parish*.
- p. 88. Thirty coins found at Throp Hill last century are preserved at Mitford Hall; they are of Edward I and Edward II.
- p. 101. Mr. Keith was told the tale of the lifting of the Dapple Grey mare "some fifty-four years" before 1922.
- p. 135. "Bonny Tyneside" was published in Mr. George Chatt's "Miscellaneous Poems," *Hexham, The Hexham Courant*, 1866. He had served as a soldier in Andalusia but there is no evidence that he had been to Australia.
- p. 147. The then owner of Ray pele tower pulled it down in 1888.

