

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Companion into Surrey. By L. Collison Morley. 268 + xii pp. Methuen, 1938. 7s. 6d. 16 Plates.

The King's England. Surrey, London's Southern Neighbour. Edited by Arthur Mee, with an Introduction by Dr. George C. Williamson. 350 + x pp. Hodder & Stoughton, 1938. 10s. 6d. 181 illustrations.

Though both these books cover much the same ground and appeal in the main to the same public, they approach the subject in a different way and each has some points not to be found elsewhere. Mr. Mee makes no claim to be a historian: he is a well-known and accomplished journalist, and those who are not deterred by sub-titles such as "The Street of a Thousand Years" (Guildford High Street) or "The Quiet Village of Famous Folk" (Limpsfield) will find his pages packed with interesting information of a miscellaneous character. Its alphabetical arrangement makes the book unsuitable for continuous reading, but as a book to be dipped into at random or consulted for reference, it is an admirable popular encyclopædia of the county. The historical information, though it does not go very deep, is generally reliable: he is careful to refer to the sealing of Magna Carta, whereas Mr. Morley still uses the misleading word signing. Mr. Mee is more up to date than most guide-book writers, his illustrations include modern as well as ancient buildings, and his interest in the present and the immediate past, in celebrities (or persons of undeserved obscurity) of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, adds greatly to the value of his work.

Mr. Morley goes rather deeper into history and his topographical arrangement gives a clearer picture of the actual localities he describes.

His aim is to describe various areas of the less urbanized parts of the country with special reference to their historical and literary background. He presents the historical associations of the places he describes in a comprehensive and readable manner. His history is in its main outlines reliable, though it makes no claims to original

research. He has made good use of some of the recent works which he quotes, such as Prof. Hearnshaw's *Place of Surrey in the History of England*, and our Honorary Secretary's article in *S.A.C.*, XLIV, on the "Pilgrims' Way": but it contains some regrettable errors in detail. The bibliography does not pretend to be comprehensive but has some notable gaps. There is no mention of this Society's *Schedule of Surrey Antiquities*, nor of the Place Name Society's Surrey volume: which is the more unfortunate as most of the derivations he gives for Surrey places such as Elstead, Carshalton, and Beddington, are quite erroneous. Among the inaccuracies of detail may be noted John Cornwallis for Thomas Cornwallis (p. 106), Cobham Street for Street Cobham (p. 161), Maggie Welsh for Jane Welsh (p. 173) and Humphrey for Henry as the name of Richard III's Duke of Buckingham (p. 216); and there are several irritating spelling blunders (Lewis Carrol, Selbourne, Northcliff, among others). The index is very inadequate: Mr. Mee, whose alphabetical arrangement makes an index less necessary, has a much better one. For the omission of any kind of map the author is perhaps less to blame than the publishers, who are certainly to be held responsible for the issue of at least one copy in which one sheet is printed twice over.

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