

Notices of Archaeological Publications.

ISCA SILURUM, OR AN ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF THE MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES AT CAERLEON. By JOHN EDWARD LEE, F.S.A., F.G.S., Hon. Sec. of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association. London: Longman & Co., 1862. With fifty-two plates.

It is with satisfaction that we again invite attention to the researches of our fellow-labourers in the ancient district of the *Silures*. Nearly twelve years have elapsed since we announced the permanent establishment of a suitable Museum at Caerleon, in great measure, we believe, suggested through the liberality and good taste of the late Sir Digby Mackworth, but achieved mainly through the zeal and well-directed efforts of Mr. Lee. The explorations which he has so successfully prosecuted at *Isca Silurum* have been noticed in previous volumes of this Journal (see vol. ii. p. 417; vol. vii. p. 97; vol. viii. p. 157); and many of our readers are doubtless familiar with his account of Roman Antiquities found at Caerleon, published in 1848. That work comprised an illustrative description of many objects highly valuable to the archæologist; the contributions to Roman epigraphy alone amounting to nearly twenty inedited inscriptions. The volume before us is a remarkable proof how much may be effected in a few years by so vigilant an explorer as Mr. Lee. Upwards of thirty inscriptions are here delineated, exclusive of sculptured fragments, uninscribed altars, &c. The miscellaneous objects of metal, glass, ivory, &c., include relics of rare and unusually curious character, forming a series unrivalled perhaps by any provincial museum, with the exception only of that formed at York. It were needless to insist upon the utility of a carefully compiled and illustrated description of such collections; the antiquary will thankfully appreciate the good service rendered by Mr. Lee, not only in rescuing all these *dissecta membra* from dispersion, but in now rendering them available to the student of antiquity in so agreeable a form, with accurate representations drawn by the author's own hand. Amongst these may be noticed examples of Samian ware decorated with subjects of the chase, mythological and other curious details; also other *figulina* of remarkable character, *antefixa*, several lamps, and part of a mould for their fabrication, an object of very rare occurrence. A valuable catalogue of coins found at and near Caerleon has been supplied by the Rev. C. W. King; they range from Claudius to Arcadius, a period of nearly four centuries of Roman dominion in Britain. The beautiful ornaments of enameled bronze in the museum are known to many of our readers through Mr. Lee's kindness in bringing them to our exhibition of enamels in June last. (See p. 279, *ante*.) The most remarkable relics, however, of ancient art presented in this interesting volume, are doubtless the ivory sculptures, supposed to have been portions of a *cista mystica*, or sacrificial coffer. No Roman work of similar character has, we believe, occurred elsewhere in this country. There are numerous other rare objects brought to light in this remote site of Roman occupation; we hope that the publication of the attractive volume thus briefly noticed will encourage some of our readers to visit a locality the archæology of which Mr. Lee's indefatigable exertions have tended so essentially to illustrate.