

## Notices of Archaeological Publications.

EARLY LONDON THEATRES (In the fields). By T. FAIRMAN ORDISH, F.S.A.  
With Illustrations and Maps. The Camden Library. 8vo. 1894. (Stock.)

The subject of this volume, the origin and building of the earliest London playhouses, is of interest in itself, and also as helping to mark the changes which have taken place in the "fields." The first house named "The Theatre," seems to have been built about 1576, followed closely by "The Curtain," both being round in form, and built of wood. They were necessarily or compulsorily outside the City bounds, the spot chosen being very wisely the "fields" to the north, then the play-ground and shooting-ground of the citizens. Before this, plays were performed in the inn yards and other open places, where scaffolds or stages were erected for the purpose. For a long time, however, "tumblers and such like," were considered "a very superfluous sort of men," and war raged against them. Complaints were frequent, too, of disorders arising, and especially that the people were drawn from honest exercises, to see or listen to unchaste plays. Other houses were built on the Surrey side of the river, still beyond the control of the city. Here was the celebrated "Globe Theatre," and the gardens for bull and bear baiting, all well placed on the great southern road in the midst of hostellies and bustle. Their history and fate are here closely worked out.

A curious effort of the players as being "vagabonds" to get some sort of status, is seen in their plan of adopting an occupation, possibly however sometimes true enough. Thus Ben Jonson is described as a bricklayer, and James Burbage as a joiner. In the mention of Ben Jonson we get a good notice of "benefit of clergy," for Ben having to be tried for murder, asked for "the book," to read his "neck verse." Having thus proved himself a scholar he was saved. Later, in his play of "Bartholomew Fair," he makes one say,— "I am no clerk, I scorn to be sav'd by my book, i'faith I'll hang first." Some allusions seem to point to Shakespeare, but as usual, they are very slight, although his plays were being acted at the time. Thus Robert Greene apparently in a fit of jealousy, writes of "an upstart crow, who supposes he is as well able to bumbast out a blank verse as the best, in his own conceit the only Shake-scene in a country." A German traveller in England in 1598, has left an account of these theatres, the excellent music, variety of dances, and excessive applause. He also saw the bull and bear baiting, adding the most interesting record that at these spectacles, and everywhere else the English are constantly smoking tobacco. One other remark shows how long custom may continue, for he writes—"apples, pears, and nuts, according to season are carried about to be sold, as well as ale and wine." But after all, the interest in the theatre is not in the building nor in the "lewd matters handled," in association and apparently inseparable

from it, but in the literature which it gives us, and leaves us. Thus in these times we have mention of Marlowe, Greene, Ben Jonson, Nash, Peele and Shakespeare; and also of Richard Tarlton, who is described as having "a wondrous plentiful pleasant extemporall witt." The author has been often indebted to the work of others, which he honourably acknowledges, but clearly he has spared no labour in his endeavour to make his information as full and complete as possible. The illustrations are good and extremely interesting as showing the plans of these early structures.

**THE FRIEND OF SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.** Being selections from the works in verse and prose of Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke. Made by ALEXANDER GROSART. Elliot Stock. 1894. Elizabethan Library.

The examples here given by Mr. Grosart both in prose and verse are well worthy of the selection. Lord Brooke, a man of intellect and knowledge, does not through his writings readily appeal to the general reader, the, to us, rigid, apparently unsympathetic style of his time being somewhat involved and requiring attention to realize. To quote the first heading they are art sayings and maxims in picked and packed words. The great affection for Queen Elizabeth is always to be noted in the writers of her time. Here she is "that matchless sovereign of mine who preserved her religion without wavering and kept both her martial and civil government entire." As gathered from the works of a man of fine character and understanding, neither works nor man being too familiar to modern readers, these selections and choice quotations will be most welcome and in this epitomised form may well be expected to bring the author to the notice he deserves.

**DEANERY OF BICESTER.** Part VIII. History of Ardley, Bucknell, Caversfield, and Stoke Lyne. By J. C. BLOMFIELD, M.A., Rural Dean. Elliot Stock. 4to. 1894.

We are always pleased to meet with local work of this sort especially when as here it is carefully and conscientiously done. The four parishes mentioned are treated separately and have also a separate pagination. Every point of interest starting from the origin of the name, seems to be noted, and the parish or church books have been laid under contribution for matter often overlooked but always of marked interest. The number of acres now under cultivation and the various crops are also given and this may presently be useful for comparison if changes occur. In the history of Stoke Lyne a curious means of ruin is recorded, where one Christopher Pettie, being much addicted to bell ringing, showed his tendency to extravagance by using a set of silken ropes, and being accompanied also by a set of idle fellows he managed to ring away a good estate. We wish the author every encouragement and success with his work.

**A SYSTEM OF MEASURES OF LENGTH, AREA, BULK, WEIGHT, VALUE, FORCE, ETC.** By WORDSWORTH DONISTHORPE. Spottiswoode and Co. 4to. 1895.

Mr. Donisthorpe has here produced an exceedingly clever book, very full of most interesting questions, which he endeavours to answer or explain. The labour involved in producing the work must

have been heavy. The various systems now in use are examined and exposed, the intention or hope that a decimal uniformity may ensue. The English, French, Greek, and Roman systems are all considered, showing to what extent we are indebted to the last. The defects in the French plan are pointed out especially in its nomenclature, a point which every one must have felt, such unwieldy names being an ever constant source of confusion. The inconsistencies in measures of area and of length are fully examined. The furlong or farrow long, was as much as an ox plough could do "at a burst" and this being found to be forty times the length of the plough pole, forty poles thus made a furlong. The original system of length being based on the yard, there is some speculation as to the origin of this measure, one being that it was taken from the length of Henry I's arm. Noting the confusion the question is asked, why should a mile of ground be 265 yards shorter than a mile of water; and why should we still be taught that three barley corns make an inch, when such is not the fact. In measuring a yard the custom of including the thumb, through subtlety, was met by an Act of Queen Ann which actually made the yard 37 inches. The measure of bulk was based on a cylinder one yard high and one yard in diameter, hence called a pipe. Passing on through this dismal wilderness of measures, the different weights and differing systems are next noted and attacked, the whole when thus gathered being most extraordinary, a chaotic jumble, an intolerable tangle of scales. Then comes the question of the coinage with a suggested system for the future. To this the author has evidently given much attention. Our poor, not too familiar, sovereign, and our other coins are to pass away to give place to new ones with such strange names as a lion, a cross, a groat, a doit; the weight, breadth, and thickness of these being given. Bimetallism is also noticed but not with approval as now demanded, yet it is well and fairly asked, what law is there to prevent a cotton man from making his contracts based on payment in silver, or even copper. As a fact any trader can use silver as his money medium without waiting for legislation. In this matter, legislation, in haste, would certainly bring hasty repentance. An appendix giving the names of English measures as gathered from old Parliamentary Reports is not the least interesting part of this book. It gives many names not generally known and also the differences in different places in the use of the same measure, thus there are nineteen different usages for the peck, there are also curious differences in the barrel according to the district, or the article sold. The volume ends with a draft act ready for use. To notice fully this interesting volume is impossible in our space, we can only say the subjects are treated with ability, and as a book to be read and as a book of reference we can well recommend it.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE LIBRARY. Being a classified collection of the chief contents of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1731 to 1868. Edited by GEORGE LAURENCE GOMME, F.S.A. ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHY, Part V. (Hampshire--Huntingdonshire). Edited by F. A. MILNE, M.A. Elliot Stock. 8vo. 1894.

This volume fully carries out its title heading and shows the same care and attention as the previous ones. Every issue of this series

must be acceptable everywhere. The counties dealt with are Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, and Huntingdonshire. Of these Hampshire, as would be expected, has the largest space; and just as but little is heard of it to-day, it is curious to see how little is noted from Huntingdon. The information collected is of the usual miscellaneous character, all of it interesting and much very curious. Mr. Gomme, in his preface, makes a good suggestion, viz., that each county archæological society should make a list of the family portraits within its limits, giving a birth and death date, and the artist's name. Such a list is here given from Hinchinbroke, occupying nearly four pages. There are two excellent indexes, one of personal names, the other of subjects, including the place names.

**FACTS ABOUT POMPEII.** Its Masons' Marks, Town Walls, Houses and Portraits. With a complete List of all the Masons' Marks cut in the Stones. By H. P. FITZGERALD MARRIOTT. 4to. London. Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Ltd.

This book comes as a welcome addition to the scanty list of works by Englishmen on the remains of the ever interesting Campanian city. For the most part the contents of that list are guide books, more or less well written. It is matter for reproach that England has done so little, while other countries have done so much, towards the illustration of the life of antiquity as shown in the ruins of Pompeii. It seems almost as if the study of the remains of the buried city is not regarded as a serious one in this country. To turn over the leaves of a guide book as a preparation for a visit of a few hours, or at most of a couple of days to Pompeii, is all that the usual visitor from our country is inclined to do; and as for most of our architects and antiquaries, the flood of mediævalism which has submerged us for so long appears to have drowned effectually all desire, if ever such desire existed, to study any remains whatever of classical antiquity.

We cannot help thinking that this book, in which there is good work, is somewhat defective in arrangement. Anything that hints of the guide book would have been better eliminated; and it would surely have been preferable to treat of the various subjects it contains, in separate chapters, or as separate essays, by which means the author would have been better able to bring many interesting facts before his readers than by his present method. Mr. Marriott commences with an account of the mason's marks to be found for the most part on the stones of the earlier structures of the city, and then passes on to speak of the portraits which, painted upon the walls, occur as centres of the panelled decoration of various houses in the town. Here, at once, is a branch of study which repays careful investigation and illustration. The type of face in the portraits, from whatever race derived (though scarcely of Egyptian origin as Mr. Marriott supposes) is much the same as that to be found in the present inhabitants of the district surrounding Pompeii; and that same type is to be seen even in some of the mythological subjects, (although the author excepts these) showing that the Pompeian painters copied from the life they saw around them.

Perhaps the most attractive part of the book is that concerned with

the mural decorations, generally, the notes being based on Professor Mau's classification of these paintings into four styles of different dates. The so-called Egyptian variety of the third style is the most peculiar of these. The character of the detail in this variety should rather be called Græco-Egyptian than Egyptian, and if, as it is believed, Pompeii had early commercial intercourse with Alexandria, the style was possibly imported from thence. The little panel subjects, of somewhat later date, which are to be found in the wall decoration of various houses, representing scenes in the valley of the Nile, bore the same relation to Egyptian art that the "chinoiserie" of the time of Louis XV of France bore to the art of the Celestial Empire. This Græco-Egyptian fashion of wall decoration probably came into vogue with the establishment of the worship of Isis in Pompeii.

It is a commonly received idea that most of the houses in Pompeii are all built on one invariable plan. Nothing can be more erroneous. The idea arises from the fact that visitors to the ruins see only a small number of the larger mansions which are mostly of the same size and type. To the student nothing can exceed in interest the study of the plans of the smaller houses, more especially those in which the atrium, with some chambers attached to it, constitute the entire dwelling.

In speaking of the *balneæ* of the larger mansions, and it is only some of the larger mansions which possess these adjuncts, Mr. Marriott appears to have fallen into an error in his account of the baths in the *Casa del Centenario*. Here (p. 53), the *calidarium* (hot water bath room), is mentioned as a *laconicum*, which is properly a *sudatorium*, not containing a hot water bath. The traces of the bath are, however, visible enough in the chamber in question, together with the means, in an adjoining kitchen, for heating the water to fill it. In the *calidaria* of the larger mansions the bath itself is usually destroyed, although traces remain to indicate its position.

We find, also, that although the black and white tessellated floors of the houses are referred to, the large class, composed of *opus signinum* is left unmentioned, or it may be possibly referred to as of cement. These floors of *opus signinum*, a composition of lime, volcanic grit and broken tile, are more common than those constructed of *tesserae*, and have a marked character of their own. In many pavements this composition is used as a ground in which are set lines of white marble *tesserae*, forming occasionally delicate geometrical diapers. In others, fragments of coloured marbles and alabasters, the waste pieces from marble mason's workshops, or fragments from broken up floors, are encrusted irregularly, with charming effect.

The division of the book named "Notes on a few Houses," would have been greatly improved by the insertion of plans, however small or slight, in order to render the descriptions more intelligible. This want is more particularly felt with reference to the houses called by Mr. Marriott "cliff houses," i.e., the houses built against the abrupt sides of the bed of lava on which Pompeii stands. Views are given of these houses, but a through section would have been preferable and more explanatory. The same may be said, though in a lesser degree, with respect to the illustrations to the notes on the towers which occur on the city wall. The illustrations to the portion of the book referring

to the portraits and to the mural paintings are all that can be desired.

One further remark may be worth making.

Fiorelli in his "*Descrizione di Pompei*," speaking of the early excavations on the site of the buried city, says, that the sole aim of the explorers of those times was the recovery of as large a quantity of objects of antiquity as possible. Nothing else was thought worthy of attention. If the note at page 48 of Mr. Marriott's book be correct, something of this same unscientific spirit still haunts the management of the excavations at Pompeii, through it is to be hoped in a very much modified form. Unfortunately, however, this spirit still largely prevails in England, and whenever a Roman building is explored in this country, it is not the remains of the edifice itself which receive attention, but chiefly the objects it may contain (often trivial enough) which are thought worthy of consideration. The consequence is that the proper examination of the building found is neglected. The treasures of some collector are enriched by objects of more or less value, or perhaps, the finds are stowed away in the dusty cases of a local museum. The building itself in the meanwhile, neglected, imperfectly planned, its uses unsought for, becomes a wreck from exposure to the weather, or is buried again after partial destruction, leaving untaught the lesson which might have been learned by a careful study of its remains. This is but too often the method, or want of method, of dealing with Roman remains in this country.



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**THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE LIBRARY**: being a classified collection of the chief contents of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1731 to 1868. Edited by GEORGE LAWRENCE GOMME, F.S.A. *English Topography. Part VI. Kent and Lancashire.* Edited by F. A. MILNE, M.A. (Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1895.)

Another volume of this excellent series, now including Kent and Lancashire. As may be expected, the home county occupies the greater space as being more prominent historically, and also so much nearer the headquarters of the *Maga.* As in former volumes we have a general record of old families gathered from monuments now too often destroyed under the pretence of restoration. Under the parish of Cudham it is recorded in 1656 that John, Henry, Rhoda, and Dorothy, were all baptized on February 20th, being sons and daughters of one birth. There is a note to this, that the boy who was sent to the vicar asked him to come and baptize a parcel of children.

There are also notices of repairs to Dover Castle, and most interesting accounts of early domestic buildings, some well known to-day, others well worth hunting up. Notes on the various ossuaries found in the county are food for thought as to whether they were formed by design or accident or may be in some cases the vestiges of early battles. For the first time in these volumes a list of field names appears, a subject to which archæologists have lately paid attention, yet withal a very difficult one to follow up successfully. In the description of the churches there are many notices of mural paintings, a special feature particularly remarkable in Kent.

The Lancashire portion is of course on the same lines, and there are here many valuable notices and records of manor houses, churches, and local traditions.

**THE HISTORY OF SUFFOLK.** By JOHN JAMES RAVEN, D.D., F.S.A., vicar of Freshingfield with Withersdale, and of Metfield. Canon of Norwich. *Popular County Histories.* (Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1895.)

Suffolk lying just out of the line of northern travel is not so much visited as it should be. It is supposed to be an uninteresting county, yet it is a golden shire of plenteous corn, and has many dairies which produce the best of butter, and also, it must be said, the worst of cheese. The inhabitants, too, are supposed to be both uninteresting and unimaginative.

Flat is the shire of the southern folk,  
And its streams are sluggish, very,  
And they say you seldom hear a joke  
In the town of St. Edmund's Bury;  
But that's a story too absurd  
To satisfy psychologists,  
And I guess that numerous jokes were heard  
In the days of the archæologists.

This volume well disperses all doubt, and shows us annals and a general interest deserving and here receiving the best attention. The plan adopted is chronological, thus exhibiting the history from early days and the changes in the social condition of the inhabitants. Beginning with the physiographic and pre-historic, mention is necessarily made of the Hoxne flint implements brought to the notice of the Antiquaries in 1797 and so often since commented on. They are locally called fighting stones, and have been used for mending the roads. In the Roman Chapter the author notes as a surprise for the reader, that shorthand writers were used on the staff of the Count of the Saxon Shore, whose station was at Burgh or *Gariannonum*. Each word, he says, was written with one mark instead of fully, these marks being called *notæ* and the writers *notarii*. A good notice is given of the round towers of Suffolk, and it is suggested that their origin was from an order of Athelstan in 937 which required a bell tower to be erected on the estate of every Thane. From the frequent contiguity of church and lord's homestead this tower and bell became useful for both. A list of forty-five of these round towers is given. The story passes on in order of time full of interest until we come to more domestic incidents, such as the importance of carriers and the difficulty of postal communication. A curious book is noticed of 1637: *The Carriers' Cosmography*, by John Taylor, which gives directions for conveying a letter into Suffolk. Then, too, it took two days to journey from Bishopsgate Street to Yarmouth, the night being spent at Bury. We do the same journey now in three hours and a-half. Local worthies are not forgotten, and, lastly, there is a chapter on the ethnology, craniology, trichology, odontology, and siagonology, this last being kindly explained as the science of jaw bones; with these subjects are included surnames, dialect, and folk lore, making a fair puzzle to unravel. The dialect and accent of Suffolk have already attracted attention, as from the accent is supposed to arise the American twang. There was a close connection in the early days of settlement. From the dialect a word just now comes welcome—the word “slump”—lately so very familiar as supposed Stock Exchange slang. “Slump” is a Suffolk word derived from the Danish—slumpe, to tumble—and means, locally, failure or misfortune. To drop unexpectedly into a bog or rotten place is to slump in. These few remarks just give an idea of the matter touched upon in this volume. Canon Raven, who is the son of a Suffolk clergyman, and so at home in the county, has produced a very pleasant history. The work could not have been in better hands.

THE HISTORY OF NORTHUMBERLAND. By CADWALLADER J. BATES.  
Popular County Histories. (Elliot Stock, 1895.)

Another volume of the Popular County Histories, now, to the southerner, of a far off and but little known land. Beginning as usual with pre-historic times, we learn that little can be said, as there seems to be no trace of palæolithic man, and only fragmentary traces of his successors. Necessarily, the four Dykes and the Roman Wall command and receive a long notice. Local tradition associates the Picts with this work, a point which has been too much overlooked.



The author having his own opinions impresses on his readers the danger of hastily drawing conclusions. Before leaving the Wall, that great *cruæ* for antiquaries the tenth Iter is noticed as being possibly very simply explained. Thus by "correcting" the distance from Calacum to Alo, making the figures XLIX instead of XIX, all difficulty disappears. It is a matter for very serious regret to read that, unless the country is "conquered by some civilised nation," there will soon be no traces of the Wall left, as it is being rapidly quarried to mend the roads by either the urban or rural authorities.

Two chapters now follow treating of the district as a kingdom, until A.D. 954, followed by its reduction after the Heptarchy to an Earldom. A little later the earldom was restricted and divided into three, a division which weakened the whole and placed it at the mercy of the Scots. Border raids commenced, and fighting went on until the strong man came as William the Norman, and harried and ravaged and made the country a desert. For nine years all cultivation ceased. Raiding revived and continued, the country being thus kept in a semi-wild state. Next comes the war of 1290, when Edward established his rule in Scotland, and the King of Scots did him homage as his suzerain. Against this presently arose William Wallace and his men, and Northumberland heavily felt his presence until he was defeated at Falkirk. Still there was no rest, for now arose Robert Bruce in 1306, and only after much desultory fighting, much raiding and rapine, was a truce concluded. In 1346 David Bruce ravaged the land until a truce was made in 1357 which lasted for twenty years. In 1388 the whole district was again raided; and was yet again laid waste in the time of Warbeck. At the time of the accession of Queen Elizabeth the state of the county must have been sad indeed: cattle, horses, corn, everything stolen. This wearisome story closed in 1602 with the Union under our James 1st. From a ravaged and pillaged border land, Northumberland became a quiet industrious English county.

There are chapters on the Percies and the Radcliffes, and on Newcastle the county town. Folk lore has not a separate notice, but an account of two northern weddings may be quoted. No fewer than five thousand people, most of them from the country, attended the wedding of a miner at Newcastle in 1754. At another, the marriage of a farmer, five hundred men and women partook of one hundred and twenty quarters of lamb, forty-four quarters of veal, twenty quarters of mutton, and twelve hams, besides poultry and other viands. The punch required four ankers of brandy, and the beer ninety bushels of malt. Besides these, there were twelve dozens of cider and many gallons of wine. Twenty-five fiddlers kept up the merriment.

It is evident throughout the volume that the author has been compelled to epitomise and heavily compress his original matter, a position which must have greatly increased his labour. There is a good index, a point always to be commended.

CRATFIELD: a transcript of the accounts of the parish, from A.D. 1490 to A.D. 1642, with notes. By the late Rev. WILLIAM HOLLAND, B.A., rector of Huntingfield with Cookley. With a brief memoir of the author by his widow. Edited with an introduction by JOHN JAMES RAVEN, D.D., F.S.A. (Jarrold and Sons, 8vo, 1895.)

The exact whereabouts of this parish is probably known but to a few. Nevertheless every page of the record here printed is extremely interesting, especially to those who wish to have facts rather than a too clever rhetoric put before them as history. The time covered, 1490 to 1642, gives us some very early accounts, and the transcript being annotated year by year by the author the reader is greatly aided by his explanations of otherwise obscure points. The very first page gives a very curious will by which the testator bequeaths his property to his nephew William; but if he be obstinate and froward, John is to be set in his place; finally the executors are to see that "none idiot or fool occupy the said goods but refuse him and take the next that my name may continue goodly." How many others since have tried or hoped to do this! The next page shows us the custom of church ales as a very prominent form of entertainment, giving excuse for often holiday and much revelry. There are inventories of 1528 and 1555, and Gild accounts covering ten pages, for 1534. During Mary's reign thirty-six people were burned in Suffolk.

In 1580 comes a first notice of payment for "killing noyful fowles and vermen," these being "moules, hoddesspyt hedes, starlens hedes, cadowes hedes, pye, and hauppe hedes." There is also account of twelve pence paid the "shollemaster for wrighting this byll." Half a horse hide of white leather is used to make two new baldricks for the bells, and in 1582 occurs the first entry of a ringing, when on coronation day the sum of sixteen pence was paid the ringers to be spent in "victtalls." Whiting and casting the church in 1583 shows us when wall paintings were obliterated and texts substituted. This year, too, the royal arms were put up, there being a payment for a "staying" (scaffolding) for the "stayner." Much information may be gathered of the dress and equipment of soldiers and the preparations for the Armada. There are several entries of losses in supplying the crown purveyors. Thus, in 1588, it is entered: Received from the queen's purveyors 4s. 6d. for four capons, five pullets, and six hens, for which 8s. 11d. were paid besides expenses of carriage: another entry records that the cost of carriage was sixpence. The first mention of a doctor is in 1590, when one is paid 6s. 8d. for healing a woman. The first mention of tobacco is in 1603; and in 1611 is noted the first payment to a girl of three yards of "carsie" for her clothing on going to service. The old spelling is retained throughout, thus adding to the interest of the volume. Any one seeking a new name for a baby daughter may perhaps like Elihenna as a substitute for Eleanor. As in all similar cases, this work must have been begun and carried out as a labour of love with but little hope of profit, but it is well and carefully done, and we hope will serve as an example and encourage many others, having like opportunities, to go and do likewise.

THE CITIES AND BISHOPRICS OF PHRYGIA: being an essay of the local history of Phrygia from the earliest times to the Turkish conquest. By W. M. RAMSAY, D.C.L., LL.D. Vol. I. The Kykos Valley and South Western Phrygia. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 8vo, 1895.)

A learned, laborious, and scholarly volume full of history and archæology to which we can hardly do justice in the small space at command. Asia Minor has been greatly neglected as a field of research, but here we have the records of many yearly visits and a mass of knowledge accumulated. From the nature of the narrative it is somewhat difficult to fix the attention of the general reader, yet the story runs clearly on. Maps are given drawn from personal observation, and herein are placed fifteen cities, towns, or villages, one of these only being previously mentioned.

Many of these isolated places have no written history. Information, therefore, can only be gathered from scattered allusions in ancient writers, from the monuments or other remains. Numerous copied inscriptions are given as found in the different districts. Since 700 B.C., when all trace of a national unity disappears from its history, the country has been under foreign domination—Persian, Greek, Roman, in succession—until finally conquered by the Turks in 1210 A.D. Evidences have therefore to be sought for in different places. The author argues, and supports the argument, for the first time, that the old empire of Pteria, of which Phrygia was a part, was ruled by King Khitasar, whose war with Ramases II about 1300 B.C., is one of the most famous events in Egyptian history. He fairly states that this, remembering the difficult circumstances, may not be completely proved, but he fully brings up his inferences and gives the reasons which point to it. Much would depend on the geographical indentifications. The social system, the trade guilds, the tombstones, and the religions are all examined, affording the reader much food for thought. The religion seems to have been the adoration of life in nature, a life subject to death, but afterwards reproducing itself; in fact, with the ever present desire to annihilate death and preserve a continuity. Our old friend the serpent, too, appears here as the origin or father god, who has a daughter, and taking this form not to be recognised, deceives her, and so procreates a son. From all the subjects touched on welcome information can be gained regarding the early times of this almost unvisited country.

THE WORKS OF THE REV. GRIFFITH EDWARDS (GUTYN PADARN), M.A., F.R.H.S., late vicar of Llangadfan, Montgomeryshire. Edited by the Rev. ELIAS OWEN, M.A., F.S.A., vicar of Llanyblodwel, Oswestry. Parochial histories of Llangadfan, Garthbeibio, and Llanerfyl, Montgomeryshire; together with Welsh and English poetry. (Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1895.)

Being fourteen miles from a railway station the places whose short records are herein noted are still much excluded from the busier outer world. Welsh is the every-day language. As may be expected, belief in witchcraft, charms, and spells, and the former time existence of giants, has not by any means disappeared. The churchwardens'

accounts are specially interesting, and these, with other sources of information, have been laid under contribution. It seems that Bishop Short, who gave the author the living, was in the habit of presenting each new incumbent with a book, with the request that he would forthwith commence and make notes for a history of the parish. Many of these books are preserved in the diocese of Asaph, and we cannot doubt that we owe this volume to the bishop's foresight. The first parish taken is Llangadfan, which we are told is 16,929 acres in area, with a population of 1,028. Local events are carefully recorded, and the archæological remains well noticed and with illustrations. Of the cairns and barrows several have of late years disappeared in clearing or cultivating the land. Short biographies of some parochial worthies close the history.

The parish of Garthbeibio is 7,200 acres, with a gross rental of £1,169, and a population of 332. Bleak and barren really, to the eye of many it would be wild and picturesque. The barrows here, too, are now demolished and the stones used for walls or fences. Thus not much remains to comment on. A custom is recorded of the farmers having summer dwellings on the mountains to which they went with their dairy utensils and cattle. With better food of late years the people are also better dressed and better housed.

Llauerfyl, eight miles in length and four in breadth, contains 16,255 acres, with a population of 788. The mountain waste is a sheep walk common to the adjacent farms. The Roman road called Sarn Helen passed through the parish. A good account is given of the ancient earthworks and finds with illustrations, also of a curious inscribed stone in the churchyard. In 1675 the rood loft remained, when it was taken down, having been apparently used as a gallery, and the materials used to make a new gallery below the font in lieu of the said rood.

The district, as may be expected, once had its band of robbers known as the red banditti. These robbed and plundered by day and by night until they were surprised in their lair, and at once hanged. One plan of preventing a night visit to a house was the placing scythes in the chimneys, and some of these remained at the end of the last century. These short histories were first contributed as papers to the transactions of the Powys Land Field Club: the volume now, as a whole, is an excellent example of how much intelligence and observation, without material aid, can do towards making an interesting and valuable local record. The author began to write as a poet, his daily surroundings well favouring this cult. At the end of this volume are some of these poems in Welsh. We can only hope they are very good.

A HISTORY OF DEVONSHIRE: with sketches of its leading worthies. By R. N. WORTH, F.G.S. (Elliot Stock, 1895.)

It is some time since the history of Devon was written, but much new matter has of late been printed in a disjointed or unconnected way. The author very properly acknowledges his indebtedness to these sources. After a general introduction; with a place name heading each chapter the history of the chief towns is told, notes on the smaller places around being added. Readable, portable, and

clearly printed, this volume should be acceptable to the visitor and traveller as giving in small compass all general information, helping all who see to understand. The story of Lundy island is curious, especially from the time of James I, when it was a pirate's lair. Next it was taken by the Turks. In 1632 it was still the home of buccaneers, and the next year was plundered by the crew of a Spanish vessel. The last chapter is on the dialect and folk-lore of the county; the first being claimed as the true English classic. Having Dartmoor within its borders, the folk-lore is extensive, and many are still following heathen ideas in this wise. It is told that a certain pit, which under ordinary circumstances is dry, becomes filled with water before any national event or family calamity. As national events and family calamities happen daily, the pit should always be full. There is a convenient index which brings out all the most important subject headings.