

## NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE BEFORE THE CONQUEST. By A. W. CLAPHAM. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1930. Pp. xx + 168. 30s. net.

This book makes its appearance at an opportune moment. Recent years have seen a great advance in our knowledge of what is commonly described as Anglo-Saxon architecture and art. On the one hand we now have the results of excavation, especially of the earliest ecclesiastical sites, those of St. Augustine's Canterbury and Reculver being of the highest importance; while at the same time there has been intensive study of the few buildings, or parts of buildings, belonging to the age, which are still standing. On the other hand the literature of the subject has been notably enriched. We have the new edition of Professor Baldwin Brown's volume on the architecture, with its complete and systematic statement of the facts. In the field of decorative art there has been lively discussion, centring round the Bewcastle and Ruthwell crosses, to which the late Bishop Browne, Mr. W. G. Collingwood, and others have contributed treatises of substantial value; while Dr. Brøndsted's book on *Early English Ornament*, fortunately appearing in an English dress, has enabled us to realise how a great expert in North European art has brought his authority to bear in settling vexed questions of date and style. Now we seem to have reached a pause when, for the present, little more can be expected from excavations, and when discussion and statement have had their say. It was, then, desirable that some one of recognised authority should sum up the situation in a way that might satisfy both the archaeologist and the intelligent reader. It will be acknowledged on all hands that Mr. Clapham is one of the very few people in England who were competent to undertake the task, and those who study this book will realise how well he has performed it. To say that he manages his material with a light hand might seem to do less than justice to his scientific accuracy and completeness of statement. But the fact remains that the book is eminently readable: its pages are never overloaded, and yet there are few if any monuments or relics of the period about which Mr. Clapham has not something definite or illuminating to say. We admire, too, the healthy commonsense which so often makes his conclusions seem inevitable.

The title of the book, *English Romanesque Architecture*, indicates that wider outlook, bringing it into relation with Continental evidence, which has too often been lacking with English writers on the subject. However, early Christian architecture in Europe, to which Mr. Clapham devotes a short introductory chapter, does not help much towards understanding the first English churches; and it is really

with a survey of the Kentish group, the direct results of St. Augustine's mission at the end of the sixth century, that our knowledge starts, for, as Mr. Clapham says, 'in no other part of western Europe do there now survive so many examples of a like age in so small a geographical compass.' Outstanding among these are the Canterbury churches belonging to what was known later as St. Augustine's Abbey, and that of Reculver. The result is the discovery of a definite type of church with a number of well-marked characteristics, the most striking of which are the *porticus* or side-chambers, the germ of the later transepts and side-chapels, and the triplet of arches between the nave and the apse, which is the form assumed by the chancel in this group. This type, which, Mr. Clapham is inclined to think, came from Italy, but an Italy strongly influenced by the East, is continued in the Northamptonshire church of Brixworth 'perhaps the most imposing architectural memorial of the seventh century still surviving north of the Alps.' While the southern type is mainly known by excavations (the exceptions are Bradwell in Essex and the part of St. Martin's, Canterbury, which belongs to the first age), the Northumbrian group of churches is remarkable as being represented by actual structures still in use, of which Benedict Biscop's church at Monkwearmouth is the best known. But the characteristics are less striking, and the work is more barbaric than that in the south; so that our information about Benedict, supplemented by such comparative evidence as is available, justifies Mr. Clapham in seeking the origin of the type in Gaul. The early seventh century Hypogeum at Poitiers gives some idea of this rather barbaric Merovingian architecture; and Mr. Clapham draws an interesting comparison between some figures incised on stone, which it contains, and those on the remains of St. Cuthbert's wooden coffin at Durham.<sup>1</sup> Next come Wilfrid's churches at Hexham and Ripon, which were on a larger scale and more elaborate in design; but only the crypts survive, evidently inspired by or even copied from the *confessio* or relic chamber beneath the high altar of some of the churches at Rome. The excavation of Ine's church at Glastonbury is almost too recent and incomplete to have yielded up its full contribution to our knowledge of the period.

The decorative sculpture of the early age has been, in Mr. Clapham's words, 'the arena of a prolonged controversy which is even now not finally decided.' It is round the great Anglian crosses, especially those of Bewcastle and Ruthwell, that the conflict has raged; and here, again, Mr. Clapham emphasises the European importance of these English monuments, a series which is 'unparalleled and largely unrepresented elsewhere in Europe in the same age.' Of recent years there has been an obvious tendency to abandon the attempt to date these works as late as e.g. the twelfth century, and the issue is now between the alternatives of the latter part of the seventh century and the middle of the eighth. Those who have

<sup>1</sup> The comparison, no doubt, holds good generally; but it would not be difficult to show that the treatment of details differs in almost every particular.

studied Dr. Brøndsted's arguments for the earlier date and the Eastern origin of the vine-scroll will not be surprised to find that Mr. Clapham thinks his conclusions form 'a logical sequence which is so satisfactory both stylistically and historically that it may fairly claim to hold the field and transfer the onus of proof to the holders of any competitive theory.' The figure sculpture of the Northern crosses is surpassed by the astonishing fragments of the nearly contemporary Reculver cross, where the drapery is 'rendered with a restrained freedom which is almost Greek.' All said and done the origin of the art of the great crosses, appearing in a remote and barbarous country at a time when the Mediterranean lands have nothing to compare with it, remains something of a mystery; and Mr. Clapham falls back upon the suggestion that 'the terra incognita of Asia Minor' may have been the source of the figure-sculpture, and that foreign craftsmen, coming perhaps in the train of Theodore of Tarsus, may have found a sort of refuge in England at a time when Italy was in the melting pot and Islam was absorbing or threatening so much of the Mediterranean seaboard. Though it belongs to a later period, we may mention here another remarkable piece of sculpture, which Mr. Clapham confesses is an enigma: the Madonna relief in York Minster, which has become familiar by illustrations and by a cast in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Here, again, the nearest analogies point to an eastern or Byzantine origin, but how the influence reached England is not obvious.

For the architecture of the later period there is little to show except in the form of small churches, for the great cathedrals and minsters were rebuilt after the Norman conquest. But Mr. Clapham thinks that it is a mistake to depreciate unduly the later Saxon work, which was probably a direct offshoot of the art and architecture which flourished in the empire founded by Charles the Great, and are described as Carolingian. Left to themselves the English might have developed a style not inferior to that of the great Romanesque churches of the Rhine districts. What a great Carolingian church was like may be gathered from what we know about that of Saint-Riquier (Centula) in Picardy; and Mr. Clapham explains how its principal features were reflected in English cathedrals and abbeys such as Canterbury (as it was in the tenth century), Winchester, Ramsay, Abingdon, which we know only by descriptions, or in excavated sites (e.g. Glastonbury and North Elmham), or in existing churches like Deerhurst, Wing, Breamore, and others. But a review of these smaller churches, which provide the bulk of the surviving evidence for pre-Conquest architecture, suggests in some points departure from the Carolingian model and adherence to a local or national type. Thus, while aisles were generally absent, the side-chambers or porticus were developed into transepts, and by the intervention of a 'crossing' into the English type of cruciform plan.

An important section is devoted to distinctive Anglo-Saxon constructional details, and here the reader will find all that is known to-day about familiar Saxon features such as long-and-short work, pilaster-strips, triangular door and window heads, and baluster shafts.

Mr. Clapham does not commit himself to any theory about the origin of the last. Attempts to connect them with late Roman forms are not very convincing, but it need hardly be said that Strzygowski has made the most of them as witnesses for that Northern timber-architecture to which he would give so large a place. A survey of the ornament of the later Saxon period, when it was subject to strong Scandinavian influence, concludes this section.

We have thus briefly summarised the chief contents of this volume which, we are confident, will long remain the standard handbook for the subject. A word must be added in praise of the lavish illustrations, which both for selection and clearness could not well be surpassed. We are especially grateful, too, for the abundance of plans, and the excellent index. It is good news to read that Mr. Clapham proposes to continue the history of English architecture in another volume.

G. MCN. RUSHFORTH.

THE CARTHUSIAN ORDER IN ENGLAND. By E. MARGARET THOMPSON. S.P.C.K., 1930: price 21s.

This is a work of remarkable erudition, which while most welcome to scholars makes its appeal to the general reader. As long ago as 1895 the author wrote 'The History of the Somerset Carthusians,' and it is evident that she has been very diligently collecting further material ever since, both for the revision of this first effort and for the incorporation of its results in a much wider undertaking. An attractive narrative of the beginnings of the order in 1084, when St. Bruno and his few companions built their wooden huts three thousand feet up in the mountainous 'desert' of La Chartreuse in the diocese of Grenoble, is followed by a sketch of the subsequent history, which provides an admirable introduction to the particular topic to which the book is devoted. Here we can read of the general life of the monks as contrasted with that of other orders, of the development of their customs, and of the prudent constitution of their centralised government. A preliminary account of the foundation of their first English settlement at Witham, in Somerset, is presently expended into a full investigation of the history of this house; and this in turn is followed by a similar treatment of the eight other English charterhouses—Hinton, Beauvale, London, Hull, Coventry, Axholme, Mountgrace and Sheen—and the one Scottish house at Perth.

With such a mass of historical material, much of it brought together for the first time, few reviewers would be competent to deal. It must suffice here to say something of the Somerset houses, and more especially of Witham, to the early story of which the present writer was attracted some twelve years ago by the unexpected acquisition for the Wells Chapter Library of the original charter granted by King Kenry II in the year (as it would seem) 1182. The date of this charter has been questioned by Miss Thompson (p. 60)



on the ground that the Pipe Rolls show that 'the building at Witham was going on from 1180 to 1181 to about 1184, the church at any rate not being finished until 1186, or even later; whereas in his charter 'the king says, "Know ye that I have built the house, etc., in my demesne of Witteham," using the perfect infinitive "construxisse."' But, if we are to press words so closely, we must note that he only says 'construxisse domum,' adding that it is to be 'mea et heredum meorum dominica domus et elemosina.' Nothing is said about the church, and a stone house for a small band of monks, together with wooden huts for the lay brothers, might in a very short time be so far advanced as to justify the wording of the charter. I may add that after I had arrived at the date, January 6th, 1182, on grounds given in full in a paper on The Foundation Charter of Witham Priory in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* (vol. lxiv, 1918), I found that Father Thurston, S.J., had reached the same conclusion by a different path. I cannot therefore accept, as Miss Thompson inclines to do, the date proposed by Mr. Eyton in his *Itinerary of K. Henry II*, namely September, 1286, just before the consecration of St. Hugh to the bishopric of Lincoln.

Our curiosity is aroused on p. 70 by the mention of 'a precious extract from a lost chronicle of the early years of the charterhouse of Witham, preserved in a manuscript volume of sermons of Adam the Carthusian.' This volume, we are told, is now in the possession of the Master of the Charterhouse, we further learn that at the end is an extract 'on the life and conversation of Master Adam the Carthusian'; and we naturally ask what is the relation of this extract to one in the Cotton MS. Vespas. D ix, to which Miss Thompson herself drew attention thirty-five years ago. But we have to wait until p. 336, when we discover in a footnote that (in part at least) the words in both documents are the same. We venture to hope that in a future edition at this point and elsewhere a cross-reference may be given; and also that the Index may be supplemented by a heading 'Manuscripts,' which would greatly assist the enquiring student.

Our attention has been called to the brief Vespasian fragment, because there has just come to hand a transcript of it by Dom A. Wilmart, followed by an elaborate study of Master Adam himself and a minute investigation of the linguistic parallels in certain works which have been tentatively ascribed to him.<sup>1</sup> May we hope that the same scholar, if not Miss Thompson herself, will obtain permission to edit the fuller document, possibly for the *Somerset Record Society*? Although Miss Thompson gives us a great amount of information about it, we should much wish to have the text itself.

Passing allusions—more could not be expected—are made to what is called to-day Charterhouse-on-Mendip, the pasturage given to the Witham monks in their original charter. It is well here to call attention to an article on the subject by Mr. J. W. Gough in *Proc.*

<sup>1</sup> In a reprint (1880) from *Melanges Mandonnet* ii, 145-161.

of *Som. Arch. Soc.*, vol. lxxiv (1928); and also, with regard to the lead-mining of the monks, to his valuable book on *The Mines of Mendip* (Oxford Press, 1930).

On p. 146 we are told that at Witham 'to-day there is not a vestige of the upper house of the priory.' For this statement a paper of mine is quoted, written in 1918; and I must own to having made the statement, with the qualifying addition 'above ground,' and the expression of a belief that in certain fields at some distance from the village excavation might be not unfruitful. The summer of 1921 was exceptionally dry, and my friend Prebendary Palmer, who was then the vicar, observed burnt lines in the grass of a rough field in that neighbourhood. An account of the investigation which followed was given by him in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* (xvii, 90 ff.); and from this it will be seen that some foundations were unearthed and some glazed tiles were still *in situ*; but, though our conjecture seemed to be verified, the results were not such as to encourage further effort at the time, and we contented ourselves with a careful plan of the markings made by the drought on the turf.

With regard to the lower house, or 'Frary,' as it used to be called, where St. Hugh's chapel for the lay brothers still stands as the parish church, something may here be added. As long ago as 1889, in the first volume of the periodical just cited, the present Dean of Gloucester, Dr. Gee, pointed out that at Hinton Charterhouse there was likewise a 'Frary' about a quarter of a mile from the ruins of the Priory. In the later English houses this double arrangement seems never to have been adopted, and it occurs only in the older houses on the continent. In his commentary on the 'Customs of Guigo' (c. 1128) Dom de Masson tells us that the lower house of La Grande Chartreuse was called *Correria*, and that in early foundations of the Order the same name was given in imitation of the mother house. At a later period there were no 'lower houses,' so that Guigo's regulations necessarily were modified. The name *Correria* does not appear to occur in the early documents in the particular sense of 'lower house'; but this may be merely accidental. In the foundation charter there is mention made of a rock 'super Correriam'; so that the name would seem to have been there before the monks came: and a certain confusion is introduced by a reference to the gift of two *Correriae* in grants of Bp. Hugh of Grenoble. Subsequently the *Correria* became a monastery for thirteen monks: then this was changed, and it was used for other purposes. Dom Le Masson's book was printed there in 1687, and after his time it seems to have been a hospital for deaf-mutes. There is a hospital still, Baedeker informs us, at Curriere, a mile and a half from La Grande Chartreuse. The statement of Le Couteulx that the procurator of the lower house was called *Correrius*, which (generally in the fuller form *Correarius*) was the title of a Bishop's legal official, and was also used for one of the canons of Mâcon who managed the chapter's rents and supplies (see Ducange, and *supplem.*), might indeed suggest that the *Correria* was not a place-name, but only a word for a depot:

but the evidence cited above goes rather against this. Perhaps further investigation of the word may throw fresh light on it.

Our excuse for spending so long a time on it here lies in the possibility that St. Hugh, who had himself been procurator in the mother foundation, brought the word *Correria* with him to Witham. We find among the records of the Dissolution, quoted by Miss Thompson in her earlier book (p. 194), that in 1544 among other spoils Ralf Hopton was granted 'a whole grange called the Frary grange,' and 'Corier's croft of 10 acres,' which latter Prebendary Palmer identifies with a collection of houses near the railway arch, now known as 'Kerry's Croft.'

In the volumes of *Archaeologia* for 1925 and 1929 appeared two important essays on 'Letters of Fraternity' by Prebendary Clark-Maxwell. Since the publication of Miss Thompson's book he has written to ask me to supply him with a copy of what is there described (p. 134) as 'a letter of thanks (to Bishop Jocelin) from the Grande Chartreuse with a promise of participation in the "spiritual goods" of the Order' (Wells Cath. MSS, *Liber Albus* iii, f. 356 b.). His hope was that it might give him an example of a Carthusian 'letter of fraternity' earlier by a century and a half than any he had found before. In this hope he is justified. The writer is Prior J., that is Jancelin, who ruled from 1180 to 1233; and the recipient is J., bishop of Bath, that is Jocelin, who had this single title from 1206 to 1213 (when he changed it to Bath and Glastonbury) and again after 1218 until his death in 1242, leaving it to his successor to adopt the double title of Bath and Wells. The letter may be placed somewhere in the period 1218-1233. In gratitude for his benefits to Witham and their whole Order, they humbly pray 'bonorum omnium ordinis nostri participacionem et societatem vobis a Domino concedi'; and they promise on his obit to do on his behalf as for a brother of the Order.

As Miss Thompson does not treat further of the matter, it may be of interest to gather together from the obits recorded at the Grande Chartreuse other names connected with the cathedral church of Wells (see Le Couteulx, *Ann.* ii, 459 ff.). First comes Bishop Thomas Beckington (1443-65), who has a perpetual anniversary in all the houses of the Order. Then Dean Gunthorp, 'a great benefactor of Witham' (1472-98); Master Andrew Holes (1450-65), archdeacon of Wells, who built the great hall now used as the library of the Theological College, one of a group of English scholars who, like Gunthorp, spent much time in Italy; Robert Widow, subdean, described as a benefactor of Hinton Charterhouse (d. 1505); and finally John Cotel, that is John Cotterel, archdeacon of Wells (1554 to c. 1566), to whose name the significant note is attached: 'Ejus obitus non reperitur, eo quod forsan obierit tempore schismatis': appointed under Q. Mary, he had held on for some time to his office under her successor.

But we must bring to an end this imperfect notice of a most stimulating book. We all make slips at times, which survive our most careful revision—perhaps it is for our good that this should

be so; and on p. 67 Peter of Blois's words would be better rendered: 'It brought no good to the prior to treat you too familiarly and gently.' We end as we began with a hearty welcome to this notable contribution to our English monastic history.

J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON.

ST. CATHARINE'S HILL, WINCHESTER: being vol. xi of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. By C. F. C. HAWKES, B.A.; J. N. L. MYRES, M.A., F.S.A., and C. G. STEVENS, M.A. Wykeham Press, Winchester, 1930. pp. 310 + xvi; 36 figs.; 16 plates; price 12s. 6d.

It is extraordinary that in a scientific age so little scientific attention has, until quite recently, been paid to the study of our prehistoric antiquities. Since the War, however, we have been waking up to the realisation of the enormous amount of this material that we have in this country, and of the possibilities of its scientific exploitation as a means of reconstructing our prehistory along sound lines. With this growing interest much money, time and skill are being expended year by year in conducting excavations with this in view, and in publishing reports which shall be permanent records of all relevant facts that have been ascertained, and of all the evidence that has necessarily been destroyed in the course of the excavation. The work under review will always be considered one of the most outstanding of such reports, on account not only of the fulness of its descriptions, but also of the valuable comparative material it contains and the equally valuable sections dealing with the history of the times as a whole. The authors are eminently qualified for the task they set themselves, which was to compile a complete history of St. Catharine's Hill, Winchester, from the earliest times to the present day, using all sources of information—excavation, documents and even tradition. The book, therefore, is far more than an excavation report, and it is also far more than a mere local history of a single hill.

St. Catharine's Hill, situated one mile south of Winchester, above the River Itchen, is crowned by an important hill-fort belonging to the Early Iron Age. Excavation carried out by the authors for the Hampshire Field Club from 1925 to 1928 has determined that the occupation lasted from Hallstatt times to the middle of La Tène II (c. 150 B.C.), when the site was burnt and deserted. The ramparts, however, were not constructed till the end of La Tène I. The excavation of the entrance is quite the most important part of the work done, and the interpretation of the highly complicated evidence which was obtained is a very satisfactory piece of work upon which the authors are to be congratulated, though it is always possible that in some details there may be room for alternative views suggested by future excavations of similar gateways. But this work will certainly stimulate other students to examine the entrances of forts, from which a great deal may be learnt of the history of any given site.

In the case of St. Catharine's Hill four successive stages were observed in the arrangements of the gate, indicating alternations between peaceful years and occasional war-scars, and in this connexion a useful section reviews the evidence regarding the prevalence of peace or war, and concludes that peace was normal and war exceptional.

Then follow notes on the use of timber in Early Iron Age fortifications and on the development of Early Iron Age hill-forts and their entrances. The pottery and other objects found, notably a bronze figure of a bird, are described exhaustively with comparisons, and a most admirable article follows on the earliest Iron Age culture of Britain, in which the disputed problems of the invasions at the end of the Bronze Age are considered from every angle, with a distribution map of the contemporary pottery, and notes on allied matters. Finally, this part of the book closes with a detailed consideration of the relation of this hill-fort to the Roman—possibly pre-Roman—city of Winchester. This also opens up a subject of great importance which urgently needs to be studied in parallel cases such as that of Dorchester and Maiden Castle.

The rest of the book deals with the medieval and more modern history of the hill, consisting very largely of an account of the excavation of the foundations of St. Catharine's Chapel, and a full record of the pottery and other remains found. The classification and dating of medieval pottery is another subject that is crying out to be studied, and this report will go towards providing the necessary data.

Two small errors may be noted: (1) on p. 47 hole 16 is compared with a pit in the S.W. entrance of the Trundle, near Goodwood. Subsequent excavation at the latter site has shown that this is not comparable. (2) On p. 123 the two chalk cups from the Trundle, stated to be Hallstatt-La Tène I, are actually neolithic. Also on p. 240, line 11, '1840' should presumably read '1480.'

The book is fully illustrated with excellent drawings and clear photos, but most of these (except the plans and sections) suffer from over-reduction, as is too often the case in excavation reports. Of course, the cost of reproduction must in the long run be the deciding factor, but an illustration over-reduced might as well be omitted altogether, as its purpose is defeated and the space it occupies is wasted. Illustrations in a report of this kind are quite as valuable and necessary as the text, and by a little management can be made to tell the reader a great deal of information that need not encumber the text. This applies especially to drawings of plans, sections and objects. Earth-works and excavations are notoriously difficult subjects for photography, and if photographs of such subjects are to be intelligible to a reader who never saw the original everything depends on their not being reduced too much. In the present case each photograph should have been *enlarged* to full page size, even if this meant halving their number; this would have allowed space for explanatory lettering and arrows on some of them. The most glaring instance of over-reduction is in the case of the frontispiece, where an air-



photograph, specially taken by the Air Force, is reduced to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and consequently shows practically nothing, whereas it should have been made into a double-page folder. Unfortunately the decision in such matters seldom rests with the authors but with some other official who may not fully appreciate the significance of the illustrations. But if editors are to give more space to illustrations, authors should see to it that such illustrations are made as informative as possible, and that the text is not burdened with a repetition of such information as, for instance, the dimensions of objects.

This grievance is aired here at length because the abuse is all too common and should be checked. And it will be checked when it is realised that it is false economy.

*St. Catharine's Hill, Winchester*, will undoubtedly be regarded as a classic, and it is indispensable as a work of reference not only to prehistorians but also to medievalists. It is most certainly not a book of merely local interest.

E. CECIL CURWEN.

A HISTORY OF THE VIKINGS. By T. D. KENDRICK, M.A., Assistant Keeper in the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities at the British Museum. Methuen & Co. Ltd., London. 18s. net.

Mr. T. D. Kendrick's energy, industry, and scholarship have given us the first complete narrative of the Viking adventure; the origin and history of the Scandinavian peoples and their achievements between the eighth and the eleventh centuries when the continent of Europe was the stage. Of their wars and settlements in the west, the average student knows a good deal; of their far western colonisations, enough to whet his appetite; of their eastern conquests, little or nothing. We are therefore grateful for so complete and well-balanced a record as this book presents. Incidentally it is disturbing but exciting to learn that:—

... 'veteran certainties of the text-books are dissolving into the miasma of legend while new interpretations of the historical material are assuming the semblance of established, and often astonishing, facts. It has been discovered for example, that the customary condensed version of the first sagas in *Heimskringla* provides not only an insufficient but a misleading account of the kingdom of Norway.'

The Introduction provides, as it should do, the key to the treasure chest. Within the period treated, of nearly three hundred years:—

... 'the three viking peoples did many brilliant and astonishing things. The Norwegians created and owned towns in Ireland and possessed themselves of most of the Scottish islands; they colonised the Faroes, Iceland, and Greenland; they discovered America. . . . The Danes extended their authority over Frisia and won all England for their keeping; like the Norwegians, they also had towns in Ireland and like them they too became a single Christian kingdom. In France a rich and pleasant colony was won from the Western Empire by Danish and Norwegian vikings. In the east the Swedes took large tracts of the East Baltic lands, they became lords of the Dnieper basin and founded the Russian state, they dared even to assail Constantinople and made commercial treaties with the emperors of the Greeks.'

The Vikings were in turns buccaneers, colonists, and merchant adventurers :—

... 'In certain areas it is possible to distinguish phases in their history during which one or other of their roles prevailed . . . but on a larger canvas such phases are seen to have only local and episodic value, and viking history as a whole does not lend itself to a schematic presentation on this basis. For from the beginning to the end most of the vikings remained opportunists, and as a result the first glimpse of their history should reveal a disorderly and kaleidoscopic picture.'

Mr. Kendrick quickly establishes the readers' confidence in his impartiality. His interest in the Viking achievement does not blind him to the evil which they knowingly wrought. He stigmatises such outrages as the razing of Quentovic in Brittany in 841 as the work of savages, angered against a civilisation they were too few to overpower and too ignorant to understand. Moreover, he does not overrate even their successes, regarding many of them as the result of inadequate defence rather than effective attack, while the extension of their power over the islands of the north was the result only of fine seamanship, and not of any praiseworthy qualities of organisation. He makes an interesting point when he remarks that :—

... 'it counted against them in the west that they seldom had the opportunity of fighting foreigners on the sea where they were absolutely and incontestably supreme. The Russian-Swedes certainly failed, as indeed they were bound to fail, against Greek warships and "Greek fire"; but in north-western Europe none of the kingdoms or empires against whom the Vikings fought could oppose them with an efficient fleet. . . . Since the fleets of the Northmen might fare anywhere unmolested, there was no necessity for them to proceed only in huge armaments; therefore the viking strength was perpetually in danger of being frittered away by the desertion of discontented adventurers who could safely traverse the seas by themselves. . . . Only under the few iron rulers of men, the great vikings, did Northmen rise superior to their chaotic environment and prove themselves redoubtable conquerors and diligent colonists.'

Finally :—

... 'the real instability of the achievement of the Northmen as colonists is best shown by the dismal continuation of the story in the twelfth century and afterwards; for the Middle Ages witness the collapse and poverty of the Scandinavian powers, the dwindling and extinction of the Ostmen in Ireland, the loss of the Scottish islands, the complete collapse of Danish rule in England, the unspeakable miseries of deserted Iceland, the shameful end of the Greenland Norsemen, and the vanishing into Slavonic civilisation of the few remaining Swedish folk of the Kievan state in Russia.'

It will be seen that Mr. Kendrick possesses the essential quality of a historian, that of seizing upon essentials, and illuminating by generalisation the dry bones of the chronicle. It is disappointing, however, that we should still be far from an explanation of this great outpouring of the northern peoples; over-population, lack of land, political grievances, bad harvests, are invoked, but we are without the data needed to establish their relative importance in connexion with immigrations so considerable and long-sustained.

The English reader desiring to judge of the quality of the book in detail will naturally turn to the account of the Vikings in England. It is most carefully and accurately done, and gives as clear a picture as possible of the succession of events within the limits of the mode

of treatment adopted. But the fact of the matter is, that you cannot make so involved a sequence of events as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle provides fully intelligible without elaborate visual aids. The reviewer, many years ago, endeavouring to understand the significance of the apparently purposeless marchings and counter-marchings on English land which make up a great proportion of the story, constructed a series of maps on which the Viking movements in each attack were plotted. The result justified the labour, and he ventures to commend the principle to Mr. Kendrick when a second edition of his book is called for. Six outline maps, full-page size, would tell the whole story. The most exciting and interesting is found to be that which records the campaigns of 892-896 which ended at Quatbridge on the Severn. (Though more maps are here asked for, it should in fairness be said that the book contains 28 of them.)

Readers of this *Journal* will probably be more interested in the archaeology than in the history, local or general, of the period. The craftsmanship of the Vikings in boat-building, in bronze and iron working, in wood carving, is weighed and discussed, but the range of illustration is somewhat limited. The twelve plates, however, include unusual objects seldom figured, and are remarkably clear. Especially noteworthy are a ninth century memorial stone from Gotland with a representation of a ship with sail set, which one reader of the book, at least, agrees with the author to be one of the noblest monuments of the north; the photograph of the tenth-century memorial stones at Jellinge, Jutland, hitherto represented in accessible text books only by inferior line drawings; a series of coins struck by the Viking rulers in England, including Eric Bloodaxe, which teaches, more vividly than words, the reality of foreign rule at this period. Photographs of the Norse settlement sites in Greenland, and of a hood and dresses from the burial ground at Herjolfsness—"pathetic and wonderful discoveries illustrating the tragic end of these colonists in the fifteenth century"—are particularly welcome. Among the line drawings in the text are a lovely weather vane from Hedden, Norway, which shows most delicate incised ornament, the last phase of the characteristic zoomorphic art of the Vikings.

Mr. Kendrick's wide reading in the archaeological literature of the north provides valuable correctives to certain impressions gained from the saga literature. Have not most of us pictured Njal as living in much the same conditions as a lord of the manor in medieval England? But hear Mr. Kendrick:—

'Poor "Burnt Njal" of Iceland, whose homestead at Bergthorshvoll has been excavated and whose pathetic and charred belongings can now be seen in the museum at Reykjavik, seems to have lived a life that cannot have been very much of an improvement upon that of neolithic man. He had iron tools, certainly, but his house contained a large assortment of perforated stone hammers of various sizes and a mass of grooved stone line-sinkers and stone door-weights; pottery he had none.'

But to be fair to Njal, he did have in his house a huge rectangular clay-lined trough which serves him as a bath.

Kendrick figures and describes the axe, the chief weapon of the Vikings, but curiously, he does not emphasise its extraordinary

quality as a weapon of war, its delicacy and lightness, the rib which gives the required rigidity and which makes it unique among the long sequence of weapons and tools which come within the generic term. He describes the helmets; and will illustrators please note that they never had the funny wings or horns of the picture-book Vikings!

Welcome to students of running earthworks in England will be the description and plan of the Danevirke. The difficulty experienced by Danish archaeologists in determining which of the two lines of defence is the earlier, reconciles us to our own ignorance in respect of Offa's and Wat's dykes on the Welsh border. The 'Kovirke' looks later than the 'Vestervold,' and the reviewer would be inclined to agree on this point with Kendrick as against Wadstein. If they both belong, as they well may, to the same defensive phase, excavation is not likely to solve the problem.

There is a good bibliography, and an index by no means adequate for the archaeologist having regard to the use which is certain to be made of the book as a work of reference. The Birka coins (for example) figured on p. 96, and referred to on p. 97, are not mentioned at all; neither 'earthwork,' 'brooch,' nor 'ornament' have any reference. But in fairness to Mr. Kendrick it must be again emphasised that his archaeology in this book is handmaid to history. As history it is a great achievement. The writing is workmanlike, pedestrian perhaps at times when the facts—unilluminated by the drama of recorded individual experience—are hard to reconcile with a readable narrative, but at other times, when action heightens to crisis, worthy of the magnificent theme.

Let all disputation on one point from henceforward cease: we are to say Viking not Viking, 'if only for the convenience of being instantly understood when referring to the early Northmen in the presence of the living scions of their stock.'

CYRIL FOX.

ROMAN ESKDALE. By R. G. COLLINGWOOD. Whitehaven: The Whitehaven News Ltd., 1930. Price 1s.

This little guide-book is here commended as a model of its kind. It is comprehensive, lavishly illustrated, and—rarest of all virtues—it is finely written. All these qualities were to be expected by those who are familiar with the author's work; but this booklet is designed also for those who are less happy in their knowledge, and to whom this picturesque and imaginative interpretation of local history and archaeology by a scholar of high standing may come as something new. In short, the work is one which students and vagabonds alike, of all ages and degrees, may read with pleasure and profit. Its cost is a modest shilling. May its kind multiply.

The restricted scope of the booklet does not prevent the author from setting his Romans in a proper perspective by indicating the general distribution of the population of Eskdale both in pre-Roman and in post-Roman times. The Roman occupation is distinguished by its purely military and evanescent character. 'At no time in history

has there ever been any permanent reason for a road over Wrynose and Hardknot. The permanent economic needs of the country do not require it, and never did.' Why, then, did the Romans throw a road across these wild rocks and build their forts at Ravenglass and Hardknot? Because, says Mr. Collingwood, Agricola in the year 81 is recorded to have placed troops 'in that part of Britain which faces Ireland' with a view to invading and conquering that harassed land; and Ravenglass, duly linked up by road and fort with the base at Chester, was an excellent and obvious starting-point for those distant Mountains of Mourne, which loom up faintly over the sea on a summer day when rain is in the air. 'The Eskdale road is a purely strategic road, leading to Ravenglass; and the reason why a road is needed is that Ravenglass had been chosen as a naval base for the projected campaign against Ireland. Apart from this project, there was nothing to bring Agricola into the Lake District at all.' But we know that he came there, for at Ambleside Mr. Collingwood has himself found Agricola's fort along this same road where it touches the northern end of Windermere. And Mr. Collingwood's ingenious theory squares the facts and has at present no rival. If there is a weakness in the theory, it is perhaps that the Ravenglass fort was apparently maintained for three centuries after the Irish project was abandoned, and must therefore have been found suitable for some more local and permanent use which *may* rather have been the cause of its foundation.

Ravenglass would repay a season's excavation. To-day it is remarkable for the remains of the military bath-house known as "Walls Castle"—the only Roman building in Britain which survives in part to roof-level. With its doorway, niche and five windows, this fragment is of out-standing architectural interest, in spite of the severe simplicity of its construction. A plan of the whole site would be a useful addition to a future issue of the guide.

Hardknot, the small fort in the pass between Ravenglass and Ambleside, nearly 1,000 feet above the sea, must during its brief occupation (dated by Mr. Collingwood to c. A.D. 100-130) have been one of the most desolate out-posts of the Roman Empire. 'To the rude natives,' wrote Chancellor Ferguson, 'it must have looked an enchanted fortress in the air, the work of superhuman powers rather than of mere men. But I expect the rude natives had to carry up the stone.' The results of the excavations carried out with considerable skill by Dymond in 1892 have in recent years been re-interpreted by Mr. Collingwood, who here summarises his conclusions. It seems that the fort survived the building of Hadrian's Wall, but was evacuated before the advance into Scotland under Pius. It must not be expected that we should find a historical context for the movement of every small garrison in Roman Britain, and it is difficult to discover such a context in the present instance. But it seems that after about A.D. 130 the scanty traffic through Eskdale was little troubled by the local hill-men, and that thenceforth the mountain pass lapsed once more into a solitude which is even yet substantially immune from intrusion.

R. E. M. W.



THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS, ABINGDON; THE EARLY GRAMMAR SCHOOL; FITZHARRIS—AN ABINGDON MANOR. By ARTHUR E. PRESTON. xiv + 508 pp. Illustrated. Oxford University Press. 1929. 21s.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, ABINGDON. By ARTHUR E. PRESTON. 68 pp. Illustrated. Oxford University Press. 1929.

THE ANCIENT USAGES OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER. By J. S. FURLEY. 68 pp. Illustrated. Oxford University Press. 1927.

A CALENDAR OF CHARTERS AND RECORDS BELONGING TO THE CORPORATION OF LANCASTER. By JOHN BROWNHILL. Arranged by John R. Nuttall. 44 pp. Illustrated. Corporation of Lancaster. 1929.

MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CORPORATION OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON AND OTHER RECORDS, 1553-1620. Transcribed by the late Richard Savage. With introduction and notes by Edgar I. Fripp. Vol. iv, 1586-1592. lii + 166 pp. (facsimile of signatures) Dugdale Society (vol. x). 1929.

Although the history of our medieval towns—their municipal organisation and their varying institutions—is being tackled by an increasing number of enthusiastic workers, we are still far from having access to all the extant documents, and every fresh volume of original material is received with the greatest satisfaction. In the volume on Abingdon, Mr. Preston tells us that these chapters in its history took shape while he was making researches into the medieval history of the town, and that since they had a certain completeness and unity he decided to print them. Nothing could be more worth while, for a bird in the hand, in the shape of one published volume, is worth many in the bush. The book is divided into three sections, dealing with different but not unrelated subjects. The first is the church and parish of St. Nicholas, which presents us with problems of unusual interest. The church was apparently built at the end of the twelfth century to the north of the abbey gate, and although here quite definitely it was intended for the lay population about the monastery, it shares with the churches in a similar position at Lewes Much Wenlock and Ramsay an inevitable suppositious connexion with the guest house or hospital at the entrance to the precinct. At Abingdon a hospital of St. John adjoined the abbey gate on the south, the present guildhall occupying the site of its chapel, and this can be traced back to the early twelfth century. In the case of Lewes, the 'Chapel' of St. John within the priory gate was probably removed and the guesthouse, without the gate, converted into a parish church in the fourteenth century. St. Nicholas, Abingdon, did not receive parochial status until the award of the Bishop of Salisbury in 1372. The administration of the church, too, was exceptional, for although it was never appropriated, its earliest incumbents were rectors, and they began almost immediately to appoint vicars to attend to their spiritual duties. This prompts the interesting suggestion that the rectors were in fact the masters of Abingdon School, the buildings of which were situated to the north of St. Nicholas Church. Mr. Preston prints Mr. A. W. Clapham's plan of the church, and follows it in detail through its eventful history, with annotated lists of rectors

and vicars. Not the least interesting feature of the account is the description of how in this church the Anglican form of worship was maintained during the Civil War and the Commonwealth in all its integrity, in face of opposition and parliamentary decrees, and 'even whilst the town was in the hands of the parliamentary troops.'

The second part of the book concerns the early history of the Grammar School and is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of medieval education. The school and its hostels were situated beneath the shadow of the abbey precinct walls, but they formed an institution financially independent of the abbey, for which the schoolmaster alone was responsible. Only once was the office held by a monk, and then it was in the declining years of the monastery. John Tesdale *alias* Clyffe was no doubt licensed for this secular work and he continued it after the Dissolution. As in so many other instances, the school was given fresh life in the sixteenth century, and John Roysse in 1563 provided the money for its re-establishment on part of the premises of St. John's Hospital south of the abbey gate. The later history is contained in a very fully annotated list of headmasters.

The third part, which concerns Fitzharris, an old Abingdon manor, introduces us to a fascinating story, which begins with the knight's service imposed on the abbey by William the Conqueror, and ends with the foundation of Pembroke College, Oxford. The land was first allocated by the Abbot to a knight named Owen, from whose probable descendent, Hugh Fitz-Henry, it was purchased back by the abbey in 1248. Fitz-harrys, or Fitzharris as it now came to be called, was let to tenants, and about 1506 it was held by Thomas Tesdale, brother of that master of Abingdon School, who was also a monk of the Abbey. This Tesdale's grandson left a fortune to provide for Abingdon scholars at Oxford, and from this, largely by the efforts of the mayor and burgesses of Abingdon, was Pembroke College founded.

No one can read these studies without being impressed by the public spirit exhibited by the townsmen, and interest in this constant display of civic virtue is increased by the excellent little handbook on Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, which Mr. Preston, who filled the position of master in 1929, has produced. There are few people who have not a pleasant memory of the beautiful almshouses near St. Helen's Church, on the river-bank, and in this handy little volume is a just estimate of their historical worth, and a good guide to the buildings and their treasures. From very early days the church of St. Helen possessed a Guild or Chantry of Our Lady, and side by side with it was the Fraternity of the Holy Cross, which on undertaking the task of building bridges at Abingdon and Culham, received a Charter of Incorporation (1436). Both associations were dissolved in 1547, the latter being revived, for the purpose of carrying out its charitable and public duties, by royal charter in 1553, under the title of Christ's Hospital. This was only effected by strenuous efforts

on the part of the men of Abingdon, and especially Sir John Mason and Roger Amyce. The Long Alley almshouses date from the days of the Holy Cross, and possess furniture, portraits and other treasures, all carefully described. Mr. Preston has set everything on record with scrupulous care, and in his two books he has told his story with clarity and precision, sustaining our interest at the same time from the first to the last page.

The Anglo-French text of 'the Ancient Usages of the City of Winchester' was first published in the *Archaeological Journal* (Vol. ix, pp. 69-89) by Sir E. Smirke, and in 1914 Dr. K. W. Engeroff published an edition of the Anglo-Norman copy and of the two English translations (fourteenth and fifteenth centuries) preserved in the city archives. Mr. J. S. Furley has now furnished the original text, interleaved with a translation, and with a very useful critical and explanatory introduction. The text is preceded by a photograph of the whole document, and is followed by notes and a glossary furnished by Prof. E. W. Patchett. It will be remembered that the document is in the possession of Winchester College where it was found in 1852 by the Rev. J. Gunner, one of the masters. Miss Bateson, in her *Borough Customs*, considers it to date from 1275, but it seems generally agreed that both it, and the two English versions are copies of an earlier original, which Mr. Furley considers might very probably have been written at the beginning of the thirteenth century.

The Corporation of Lancaster has issued a useful calendar of their Charters and Records, with a précis of the documents of interest. The earliest charters are those granted by King John before and after his accession (1193 and 1199), in the latter of which 'the liberties of Northampton' are substituted for those of Bristol, which are conferred in the former. In consequence of this, Lancaster procured from Northampton a copy of the latter town's charter of 1200, and in 1391 they obtained a copy of Northampton's earlier charter of 1189, both of which are among the borough's archives. There are besides these some ten royal charters to the time of Henry VIII and seven subsequently. The Borough Customs date from 1572, the Corporation Records from 1664. The Calendar also refers to the Corporation plate, a full account of which, by Mr. J. Cann Hughes, is to be found in the *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. LV.

The tenth volume of the Dugdale Society contains a further instalment of Mr. Richard Savage's transcript of the minutes and accounts of the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon, covering the years 1586-1592, supplemented by extracts from other records, and preceded by an introduction by Mr. E. I. Fripp, which connects the records with the main stream of Shakespearean history. Among the special features of this volume is a caustic commentary on the incumbents of the neighbouring churches in 'A Survei of the State of the ministerie in Warwickshier' (from the *Morrice MSS* in Dr. Williams's Library), a vivid description of the Avon in flood in

1588, from the Welford-on-Avon Register, and a detailed list of the manorial tenants of the Earl of Warwick, which gives almost a house to house directory of the town in 1590. An interesting presentment of the limits of the Borough in 1591, and reports of the Commissioners for recusancy in Warwickshire are also of value.

W. H. G.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE OBEDIENTIARY AND MANOR ROLLS OF NORWICH CATHEDRAL PRIORY. By H. W. SAUNDERS, M.A., D.Litt., F.R.Hist.S., with a Foreword by the Very Rev. D. H. S. Cranage, Litt.D., F.S.A., Dean of Norwich. pp. xiii + 213. Jarrold & Sons Ltd., Norwich. 1930. 10s. 6d.

The publication of this volume is an event of some importance to all medievalists, for the Norwich Rolls are not only the second largest collection of their kind in England, but they have been very little used by previous writers. The account of them in the Victoria County History is notoriously untrustworthy, as Dr. Saunders very properly points out, and it is high time that it was replaced by something more worthy of the subject. The present volume is, moreover, intended to be a general introduction to five more, which should contain detailed studies of the monastic organism based on a thorough examination of all the available material. Such a work would indeed constitute, as the Dean of Norwich says, 'the most exhaustive history of a Benedictine house which has yet appeared.' We do not gather that a complete publication of the records is contemplated. Indeed, as Dr. Saunders tells us (p. 8), they would fill not five but more than fifty volumes of the size of the present book. The plan is a more difficult and a more responsible one than a mere editing of texts: it is to sift the wheat from the chaff, the relevant from the irrelevant, and to produce in sublimated form an account of the economic working of all the departments of a great monastery in the last two and a half centuries of its existence. The importance of such an attempt on the basis of so complete a set of documents as these, where every internal department except those of the Gardener and the Infirmary has more than one hundred rolls to its credit, needs no emphasis, and the friends of Norwich Cathedral who have made possible the publication of this volume are to be congratulated upon their very practical encouragement of so useful an undertaking. But the importance of the work makes a close scrutiny of the methods employed in its production the more necessary, and we are reluctantly forced to admit that unless subsequent volumes show a marked improvement in accuracy of statement and in the presentation of their subject matter, the attempt will not meet with the success which its conception deserves.

'In many ways,' says the Dean of Norwich in his foreword, 'the volume is peculiar.' It is worse than that, it is exasperating. For there are so many subjects of intense interest that the faults of the book are peculiarly irritating. In general arrangement it is admirable. After a rather popular introduction to 'the Monastic Equation' we

are given a description and classification of the different types of Rolls. This enables the reader to see that the strength of the collection lies in the Obedientiary Rolls of which there are more than 1,400 distinct accounts, and not in the Manor Rolls. Among the latter, for example, there is no single complete Manorial Extent, and only one set of Inventories. It is unfortunate however that more precise figures for the different classes are not given. Sheep Accounts (p. 15) are said to be 'plentiful,' but no figures are given for Bailiff's Accounts, Court Rolls, or Tithe Accounts, and without them it is impossible to estimate the value of some of the conclusions given in the chapter on the manors themselves.

In the chapter on the Income of the Priory interesting use is made of the documents to demonstrate the artificiality not merely of the Taxation of Pope Nicholas but of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as well, and the contrast between such assessments for taxation and the totals of actual income as revealed by the *Proficuum Maneriorum* and the *Status Obedientiariorum* is one of the best parts of the book. But the most valuable sections deal with the Obedientiaries themselves and the internal administration of the monastery. Like many Benedictine Houses, Norwich had no central financial department, the expenses of the different officials who acted independently of each other being met by the permanent allocation of the revenues of certain manors to the support of each. The Obedientiary Rolls are the accounts of these departments, and their summary annual presentation in the *Status Obedientiariorum* formed the nearest approach possible to a yearly balance sheet of receipts and expenditure as a whole. One small point in this section may be queried. In the building accounts of the Communar (p. 141) '120 feet of crest for the cloisters' are thought by Dr. Saunders to be stone for mouldings. More probably they are ornamental ridge tiles for the roof, for the word is used in other medieval accounts in connexion with roofing materials.<sup>1</sup>

In chapter vii we are given excellent illustrations of the 'fantastic accountancy' which passed muster for book keeping among the untrained officials of medieval institutions, and which provided at least one good reason for the early abandonment of attempts to assess taxation on anything like an accurate statement of actual revenue. The occurrence of Arabic numerals on the margin of a roll of 1319 is an early but not unparalleled example of their use in a non-technical way, if indeed the figures are contemporary with the rest of the roll, a doubt which the illustration (p. 154) does nothing to resolve.

Several interesting subjects are grouped together in the last chapter. The number of the monks, originally sixty, may have been little affected by the Black Death, and maintained a level average between forty-five and fifty-five from 1389 to 1460. Two rapid falls, 1460-66 and 1504-14, are each followed by slight but temporary recoveries and on the eve of the Dissolution there were still

<sup>1</sup> e.g. *Munimenta Civitatis Oxonie*. (Oxford Historical Society) p. 262  
Item pro sclat et crestes pro domo

mulierum et gaole porte borealis  
Oxon, xiv. d.



some thirty monks. Monastic debt is another subject on which the Norwich evidence is interesting. Down to the end the Priory, in spite of its wild accountancy, was in no financial difficulties, though the tables (pp. 166, 167) intended to illustrate this have been printed too small for the details to be visible. The discussion on the effect of the Black Death is interesting, but the evidence as given seems hardly to warrant the rather dogmatic conclusion that the Monastery was totally immune.

These are but a few of the subjects on which the book throws light. Unfortunately there are serious criticisms to be made. The style throughout is abrupt, awkward, and disjointed, and not infrequently serves rather to obscure than to express the author's meaning. The opening paragraph of the section on the Gardener (p. 130) may serve as an illustration of the ambiguities and contradictions for which the bad style is partly responsible.

'The 1340 Roll has been printed by Miss Amhurst but it is not a good specimen. As, however, there is no change in form or content from the year 1340 to 1400 we will consider in detail the latter. We are in doubt however on one point. The Status Obedientiariorum showing the totals of 1345, 1346, and 1347, gives its income [presumably the Gardener's] in these three years as £2 5s. od., which stands in marked contrast to both the 1340 roll and those of the fifteenth century, showing a falling off to about £3.'

One is tempted to ask the following questions :—

1. Where is the 1340 roll printed? No reference is given and Miss Amhurst is not to be found in the Index. Absence of precise references is a bad feature of the book: there are other instances on p. 16 and the manor accounts quoted on p. 150.

2. On p. 21 we are told that the earliest Gardener's Roll is of 1339 and moreover that there is only one roll at all before 1400. What then is this roll of 1340? On the other hand on p. 171 in the table we find 6 Gardener's Rolls before 1380 are mentioned: which is right?

3. Whatever the truth about the number of fourteenth-century Gardener's Rolls, whether there is only one roll or six, if 'there is no change in form or content from the year 1340 to 1400' in what way is the 1340 roll 'not a good specimen'?

4. What exactly is the point on which 'we are in doubt'? The income of the Gardeners' Office in 1345-1347 is £2 5s. od. The reader is not told the income for 1340 (1339?) or for 1400, so that he can form no idea of the difficulty. And what is it that shows 'a falling off to about £3?' and by what date has it fallen?

From all this confusion, which could be paralleled in many different places, there emerges the impression of a writer over-weighted by a mass of rather ill-digested material, fully conscious of the problems himself but oblivious of the fact that the reader has none of the relevant figures before him.

The last sentence on the Gardener is also typical (p. 131):—

'Probably also . . . he provided flowers on certain high days to deck the Church, for there is record of the sale of water-lilies, some cows and calves, apples, cherries, pears, walnuts, and leeks, onions and garlic always.'

A harvest festival at Norwich must indeed have been an alarming event! or would a more careful writer have expressed himself differently?

But badly made paragraphs, and ambiguous sentences are not the only evidence of carelessness. The book is full of misprints, of which the following list makes no claim to be exhaustive. p. 18, l. 28, tota for total; p. 45, l. 35, ares for acre; p. 71, n., Chapter for Chapter House; p. 72, l. 19, Celler for Cellar; p. 72, n., l. 9, delete 'of'; p. 119, n. 2., egia for regia; p. 122, l. 35, portions for pensions; p. 171, first column of the table, 72 for 7.2; p. 172, the diagram referred to is not 'facing' but 'facing p. 176.' Abingdon is misprinted Abington at least four times (pp. 70, 150, 151, 213) and none of these references are indexed under either spelling. Wynttenham (pp. 150, 213) should be Wittenham. The index indeed is as faulty as any other part of the book. The Rent Roll of the Almoner faces p. 121, not p. 158: the discussion of the Westminster and Canterbury Rolls on p. 19 is not indexed under either head, and so on.

It would be over-charitable to list some of the blunders as mere misprints. The total of Gardener's Rolls is given on p. 20 as 32, on p. 21 as 34: what is the reader to believe? There must be serious confusion on p. 63: either in line 14 one must read fourteenth for fifteenth century or alternatively all the dates in the table of Tithes are wrong, as the last four (1570-1579!) and one or other of the two years called 1368 obviously must be. '2 Rich. II (1387)' (p. 14) may be a slip, but what is to be said of 'the day of St. Michaelmas' (p. 11 n. 2) or '1423 . . . that year of Richard II' (p. 202)? The calculations on p. 47 are unintelligible until it is realised that the long hundred is in use: thus  $C = 120$  and  $M = 1200$ . But this fact is not mentioned until p. 89, and then only casually in a footnote, and with the devastating misprint 'consequently  $M - 600$ ' instead of 1200: which, if it were true, would reduce all the arithmetic to a nightmare.

There can be no excuse for this kind of thing in a book of scientific pretensions. When a writer prints tables such as those on p. 21 and 171 whose figures contradict one another, no one will trust his statistics where there is no means of checking them, and none of his conclusions will carry weight where they differ from those of other workers in the same field. For this reason, if for no other, we hope that before the next volume of this series sees the light the Friends of Norwich Cathedral, and the Cathedral authorities themselves will take steps to ensure more careful editing of their invaluable material.

J. N. L. MYRES.

THE ARTS IN EARLY ENGLAND. By G. BALDWIN BROWN, vol. vi, part 1. Completion of the Study of the Monuments of the Great Period of the Art of Anglian Northumbria. London: John Murray, 1930. 9 in. x 6 in., xii + 91 pp., xxiv plates and 11 figs. 15s. net.

It is with the warmest pleasure that we welcome Professor Baldwin Brown's return, from his excursion into pre-history, to the subject which he has made his own. The too thin volume, before us, is, in reality, a continuation of Vol. V, which dealt with the two greatest Anglian cross-shafts, the Ormside bowl and other isolated objects. The present volume deals with the Stonyhurst Gospel, St. Cuthbert's portable altar, the Franks Casket, the Hackness Cross and the Tassilo Cup.

On each of these the author has written an attractive essay, marked by those qualities of careful personal observation and acute reasoning which characterise his work. His historical account of the Stonyhurst Gospel includes some theories which are alike intriguing and new. There is also a new interpretation of the inscription on St. Cuthbert's altar, and the silver casing is definitely dissociated, in date, from the wooden altar itself. Prof. B. Brown, however, does not include in his interpretation the two isolated letters outside the circular band.

The account of the Hackness Cross includes the results of a critical examination of the runic inscriptions by Prof. Macalister and the author, unfortunately, with largely negative results. The monument is also closely examined from an artistic point of view, though no very precise conclusion as to its date is arrived at. The final subject, included as an appendix, is the Tassilo chalice, introduced to English readers as an Anglo-Saxon work by Prof. Brondsted. With this author's view of its provenance Prof. B. Brown entirely agrees, and adduces a number of new arguments in its favour.

As a whole the volume is full of new and stimulating suggestions, presented with a just appreciation of the historical background; it may thus be read by both the expert and the amateur with almost equal pleasure and profit. The author's own excellent photographs form a valuable pictorial survey of the objects under review.

A. W. C.

ENGLISH MEDIEVAL ENAMELS. By M. CHARNOT. E. Benn, Ltd. xii + 50 pp. and 20 plates. 9½ in. x 7 in. 1930. 7s. 6d. net.

The second of the University College (London) monographs edited by Dr. Borenius, deals effectively with a subject which has not hitherto been treated as a whole. Miss Charnot, in spite of the paucity of her materials and the difficulty of establishing the provenance of portable objects, has produced an outline of the history of enamelling in England which will form a valuable basis for further study and a further enlargement of her series. The introduction of Limoges work in the thirteenth century seems to have definitely ousted the native craftsmen from one branch of the art, but they continued to produce heraldic and minor work. The later pages

of the survey are devoted to translucent enamelling on English goldsmith's work of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The survey is followed by a detailed catalogue of examples with bibliographical references and a series of admirable illustrations of the majority of them. On p. 11 Sir Ralf Barret should read Basset.

THE INTERRELATION OF THE FINE ARTS IN ENGLAND IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES. By M. DICKENS WHINNEY. E. Benn, Ltd. 1930. 30 + xvi pp. 16 plates. 9½ in. × 7 in. 7s. 6d. net.

This is one of the series of University College (London) monographs edited by Dr. Borenius, and is an attempt to give a general idea of the early medieval art, particularly of the twelfth century, in England and the interrelation of its various branches. It suffers primarily from the impossibility of giving even a general idea of so vast a subject in so small a compass. The authoress devotes the 25 pages allowed her to a series of art-criticisms which, always so largely a matter of opinion, become even more hazardous when applied to numerous objects the date and provenance of which is often uncertain. It would have seemed better if all such objects had been resolutely excluded, especially those which may eventually prove to be of pre-Conquest date, and to confine the subject definitely to the twelfth century. The photographs form an attractive series of outstanding examples of the period.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN. By R. G. Collingwood. pp. xvi + 293, 8½ in. × 5½ in. 8 plates and 63 figs. 16s. net.

A general work on the archaeology of Roman Britain was long overdue, nothing of the sort having appeared since the late Mr. John Ward's book in 1911. The study has made such strides since that date, both in method and results, that an entirely new survey was imperatively necessary. That Mr. Collingwood's book supplies that need, in general, both adequately and brilliantly is to be expected from an antiquary and scholar of his distinction. It would be impertinent for any but two or three possible reviewers to attempt to criticise his conclusions on many or most of the subjects of which he treats, and it will perhaps be more useful to approach the work from the point of view of the uninstructed reader, for whose benefit it is primarily written.

In nearly every department the needs of such a reader are met and he is provided with chapters on roads, camps, forts, frontiers, towns, temples, houses, villages and 'finds'—from inscriptions to brooches and coins—which are complete, authoritative, and up-to-date, and at the same time are presented with that easy clarity of language, which is not the least of the author's many assets.

It may seem ungracious, when so much has been provided, to demand more; there are, however, certain omissions, in the book, of matters which the beginner might reasonably expect to find there and which we hope Mr. Collingwood will supply in his next edition.

The most noticeable of these is a survey of the methods and materials of the Romano-British builder, the finishings and fittings of his houses, temples and baths and the points in which these details may be distinguished from those of a later age. Certain of the major buildings themselves, such as the basilica, the forum and the principia of a fort, might also receive further description, together with an explanation of the use to which the various parts were put, and illustrated by a plan or two of each.

In Mr. Collingwood's very full description of Romano-British houses, we seem to detect a slight tendency towards over-classification, which leads, for instance, to the assumption that the aisles of a basilican house are corridors in another form. It is at least arguable that the basilican house was the forerunner of the Teutonic timber-aisled hall of a later age, in which the aisles were the sleeping apartments. In the corridor-house, on the other hand, the corridors were corridors and nothing else. The purely Italian type of house, as exemplified in the Commandant's houses in the permanent forts, might have provided a further class of domestic buildings.

One other point: why not add at least a warning against the pursuit of centuriation, which might save the beginner from wasting his time.

The book is copiously and admirably illustrated by plates and figures and by plans of all types of structures, illustrating discoveries down to the present year. There is also a useful list of abbreviations used in inscriptions, another of the emperors with the dates of their consulates and other particulars and a selected list of Samian potters' stamps.

THE MINES OF MENDIP. By J. W. GOUGH, M.A. pp. viii + 269. Clarendon Press, Oxford. Price 15s. net.

The mines of Mendip belong to the category that Robert Plot had in mind when he wrote, more than two centuries ago, 'some things must be written of merely for information, as well as others that tend to our advantage,' for during their long and chequered history they do not appear to have contributed a great deal to the sum of our national wealth. For this reason *The Mines of Mendip* is, perhaps, of greater importance as a sidelight upon the economic and social conditions obtaining in a definite area during a long period of time, than as a record of mining ventures and methods.

Mr. Gough has compiled in part from published sources, but principally from manuscripts not readily accessible to the ordinary reader, an account of the origin and development of the mining industry in Mendip. Most of his observations relate to the lead mines, for they were by far the most important in the district, but there are chapters devoted to calamine, an ore of zinc, which in the early days of brass-making was in great demand, to manganese ore which was used by glass-makers and as a glazing ingredient by potters, and to the discovery and exploitation of small amounts of the ores of iron and copper.



The evidence of Roman mining is to a large extent based upon records of the discovery of pigs of lead bearing Roman inscriptions, and for mining in the Middle Ages, upon charters granted to or by ecclesiastics; but after the time of Henry VIII the records become more and more numerous and enlightening, and judicious selection from them has enabled Mr. Gough to give a vivid impression of the methods by which the ore was obtained, the laws and customs regulating the working of the mines and the disposal of the ore, and the social conditions prevalent in the mining communities during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—a period during which the mines increased both in number and in importance. It transpires that the early part of the seventeenth century saw the greatest development in the Mendip mining industry, which in the latter half of that century began a decline that ended in complete extinction. No ore has been raised during the last two decades, and from his summary of the history of the mines, the occurrence of the ore, and the modern marketing conditions, the author does not consider it likely that the mines of the Mendips will again enter the field as large producers of lead or zinc. This being the case, it is fortunate that the history has been compiled while the relevant documents are still available, and while those who can speak from personal experience are still alive.

A work of this description is naturally crowded with detail, but fortunately the author has the gift of expression which has enabled him to present his material in a very readable form. A complaint that there are matters to which the author might have referred in greater detail would be a demonstration of ignorance of the exigencies of publishing, but one would suggest that the inclusion of some simple diagrams to show the distribution and mode of occurrence of the ores would have improved the sections relating to the nature of the mines and the difficulties of working them.

By no means the least important aspect of Mr. Gough's work is the attention he has paid to the legal and political aspects of mining, especially during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, for these are matters relating to which most of the interesting details occur in unpublished documents.

With many miners working small mines in ore so sporadically distributed as that of lead, conflicts both wordy and bloody were not infrequent, and, as in other mining areas, codes of rules of more or less local application and administration were drawn up, while the political aspect of the situation in connection with attempts or suspected attempts to make some of the workings into Mines-Royal.

F. J. NORTH.

LIMESTONES. By F. J. NORTH. T. Murby & Co. 16s. net.

As stated in the sub-title Dr. North's book on Limestones deals with 'their origins, distribution and uses.' The first and second of these subjects are mainly geological, but the history of the uses of limestone has many points of interest for the archaeologist, and the book should therefore be of great value as a work of reference, apart

from the pleasure and profit to be derived from reading it. In this respect the excellent bibliographies at the end of each chapter should be invaluable.

The most important use of limestone from our point of view is as a building stone, though Dr. North gives a table showing that in 1927, out of a total output for Great Britain of about fourteen and a half million tons, only half a million were for building. In many otherwise admirable descriptions of ancient buildings there is no reference to the nature of the stone or the source from which it came; where a limestone has been used, as in the vast majority of important buildings, Dr. North's book will leave no excuse for neglect of this important point. But antiquaries will not find that he has done their work for them; in fact, we think that he might well have been more helpful by mentioning the approximate dates of buildings to which he refers. For instance he tells us that Ketton stone has been used in 'St. Dunstan's Church, London, the cathedrals at Peterborough and Ely, the dressings of St. Pancras Railway Station, and in some of the Cambridge colleges (p. 209.)' Similar lists are given for Mansfield, Totternhoe and other stones. When obtaining these facts the author would have been put to little additional trouble to ascertain the period and would have added greatly to the interest of his book by stating it; the date of a cathedral may cover many centuries, even if we assume that the use referred to is original, not merely for repairs in recent times.

Of the use of limestone in the Saxon period we are merely told that so little use was made of stone that in the seventh century the Abbot of Wearmouth was unable to find men in this country who could build in stone, and imported them from the continent. The quotation given is said to be from Stow's *Survey of London*, but it could easily be traced to a more nearly contemporary source. A point of considerable interest has, however, been missed here. It is a fact that the Saxons, or rather their contemporaries in the North of England, avoided the use of limestone. In Yorkshire all the pre-conquest work in churches is of gritstone, often brought from a great distance, although the excellent magnesian limestone was available on the spot or at a less distance. The Romans had used this stone largely, bringing great quantities from the Tadcaster neighbourhood to York; they used comparatively small blocks, which have resisted decay to a marvellous extent and are far better preserved than most of the similar stone used in the city from the twelfth century onwards. The church of St. Mary, Bishop Hill Junior, in York, has a pre-conquest tower; the upper part is of gritstone, but the lower very largely of small blocks of magnesian limestone obviously taken from the Roman wall close at hand. It seems clear, therefore, that the Saxons were unable to cut the limestone, which became the usual building stone after the Norman Conquest. This curious hiatus in the use of the stone is of considerable assistance to the archaeologist; the magnificent figure of Our Lady and Child from York Minster, recently seen at the exhibition of Medieval Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum, has

been assigned on stylistic grounds to dates as early as the ninth and as late as the fourteenth century. The fact that it is cut from Huddleston stone precludes a date before the early twelfth century.

Dr. North gives a most interesting and detailed account of the chemical and physical reactions involved in 'liming' for agricultural purposes and a few notes on the early history of the practice. He mentions that it was a frequent custom, especially where water-carriage was available, to transport the limestone and then burn it in kilns as near as possible to the districts where the lime was required. Consequently the remains of old lime-kilns may occasionally be found far from an outcrop of limestone; examples are mentioned in Pembrokeshire and South Devon. Without this warning such remains constitute a dangerous trap for the antiquary! Something might have been said here of the routes used by pack-horse trains carrying lime; a number of interesting old bridges connected with them survive; one such track across the Pennine Moors is still known as Limers Gate.

A clear definition is given of the term 'marble' as used in geology and commerce respectively, and the absence of true marble in Britain, except in remote localities and insignificant quantities, pointed out. This is reflected in the nature of British sculpture, which is essentially architectural ornament rather than sculpture for its own sake. The only English mediaeval sculpture that obtained a continental reputation was the alabaster work. This is briefly alluded to in the book, but alabaster is a sulphate of lime and not a limestone in the accepted sense.

We have noted a few signs that the book has been somewhat hastily put together; for instance, the additional notes at the end contain much useful information, but a number of the references to them are wrongly paged. The greater part is, of course, geological. For this we have nothing but praise, alike for its completeness and for the clearness with which it is expressed for the benefit of the non-geological reader. Enough has been said to indicate the wide scope of the book, and we hope that many of our readers will profit by it.

C. N. BROMEHEAD.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PUBLISHED WRITINGS OF SIR WILLIAM ST. JOHN HOPE, LITT.D., D.C.L. With a brief Introductory Memoir by A. Hamilton Thompson. Pp. 50, 1 pl. John Whitehead & Sons Ltd., Alfred Street, Boar Lane, Leeds. 1929.

The thanks of all students of archaeology and of all librarians are due to Professor Hamilton Thompson for an exhaustive bibliography, covering 17 pages, of the writings of Sir William Hope. Apart from his books his principal contributions were made to *Archaeologia*, the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* and *The Archaeological Journal*, and he also wrote numerous papers for local archaeological societies. His most important pioneer work was the excavation of monastic remains and the reconstruction of their plans, and he was a

leading authority on heraldry, seals, and ecclesiastical and corporation plate. A study of his work is indispensable to students of medieval history and archaeology. He touched nothing which he did not illuminate, and he was lucid in expressing his knowledge. Professor Hamilton Thompson has added to the interest of his chronological bibliography by contributing an introductory memoir; he stresses rightly the wide influence which Sir William Hope exercised on the progress of the study of archaeology and the generous help which he gave to younger students; to many of them he remains an abiding source of inspiration.

ROSE GRAHAM.

HOLT, DENBIGHSHIRE; TWENTIETH LEGION AT CASTLE LYONS. By W. F. GRIMES. 8½ in. × 5½ in. Pp. x + 235, and 81 illustrations. London: Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 64, Chancery Lane, W.C.2. 1930.

Once again the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion is to be congratulated on the publication of a valuable addition to the literature concerning the Roman occupation of Wales. This Report on the works-depot of the Twentieth Legion at Holt, 12 miles from the legionary fortress at Chester, is the work of Mr. W. F. Grimes, Assistant Keeper in the Department of Archaeology in the National Museum of Wales; it is well written and well illustrated, and many archaeologists will have reason to be grateful to Mr. Grimes for his untiring industry in its compilation.

The Report is divided into five sections. The first deals with Holt in the literature; then follows a detailed description of the site, with a note on its place in the Roman occupation; a fourth section describes types of Romano-British kilns, and gives a topographical list of pottery sites; and the final section is a complete catalogue of finds. The appendixes give particulars of plant and animal remains and of a Bronze Age burial found near the barracks.

Roman remains were first found at Holt early in the seventeenth century, but it was not until 1907 when the late Mr. T. A. Acton commenced excavation that the importance of the site was fully realised. Mr. Acton continued investigations for some seven years but circumstances prevented the preparation of his report, and the material was acquired by the National Museum of Wales in 1924 shortly before his death. Unfortunately most of the relics were unlabelled, and there is an absence of the evidence of association and stratification which would make for a precise definition of the various phases in the history of the site. Nevertheless, Mr. Grimes has been able to show that the works-depot was established to supply the legionary fortress at Chester with building materials at or near the end of the first century A.D., and that in common with other Welsh sites it suffered reduction (though, like Chester, it was not abandoned) in the Antonine period when the military forces were massed chiefly on the northern frontier. The end of the occupation

is uncertain, though one or two third-century pottery forms and the occurrence of tile-stamps of the *Antoniniana* type show that the workshops were still in operation in the early part of the third century.

The buildings excavated are described in two sections; domestic buildings and industrial buildings. The first includes the workmen's barracks, a series of five ranges of rooms of simple plan in an enclosure; the small but well-preserved bath building which had an unusual heating system; and the dwelling-house, a simple structure of the bipartite corridor type. Unfortunately there is no evidence as to the chronology of any of these buildings. The industrial buildings included the workshops and drying sheds, where quantities of sherds were found together with potter's tools and lumps of raw clay ready for working; the kiln plant; and the clay pits. As one would expect, there is a detailed account of the kiln plant, which consisted of an isolated double-flue kiln and of the main plant, a bank of six kilns arranged in line and having a common stoke-hole. Two other kilns seem to have been added at a later date. Advantage was taken of the natural slope of the ground to build the body of the kilns in a pit, thus providing easy access for firing; the level of the oven floor, which was almost that of the land surface, made for convenience in loading and drawing; and further, the kiln was better enabled to withstand stresses set up by the heat during firing.

In the fourth section there are useful notes on the characteristics of three main types of kilns—updraught kilns, horizontal-draught kilns, and tile clamps—and clear and accurate illustrations of the various types. The topographical list of pottery sites, arranged under counties, is accompanied by a distribution map; its chief purpose is to record the structural features of each site, but the inclusion of detailed references and evidence of date makes it the more acceptable. The general catalogue of small finds is full and admirably illustrated, but, as has already been said, there is very little material available for dating individual structures. There are only 77 coins from the site; of these 53 belong to the Vespasian-Hadrian period. In this connexion it is interesting to note that, in Samian ware, Domitian-Hadrian types outnumber the remainder by two to one, and that Drag. 29 is represented by a single fragment, while pre-Flavian forms are absent. In the coarse pottery, late first-early second century forms predominate (thus showing that Holt shared in the general period of intensive occupation at this time), though there are also later vessels which last through the second century and perhaps into the third. It is suggested that the remarkable lead-glazed wares were produced at Holt at the end of the first century and during the first half of the second century. The small objects of metal do not call for any special comment, but it may be worth while to point out the similarity between the T-shaped bronze brooch no. 523 (no. 8, figure 54), and the later Anglian brooches with horse-head terminals.

R. F. JESSUP.



THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIES. General Editor, T. D. KENDRICK, M.A. 1. Kent—RONALD F. JESSUP, pp. 272 + xiv, 55 illustrations and 2 maps; 2. Middlesex—C. E. VULLIAMY, pp. 308 + xx, 59 illustrations and 2 maps. Methuen & Co. Ltd. Crown 8vo. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This series aims, according to its Editor, 'at presenting in handy form, a concise and adequately illustrated description, in chronological order, of the antiquities of a single county, and will cover the whole range of the archaeological material from the earliest times to the Norman Conquest.'

Such a scheme is ambitious and welcome, but, judging from the two volumes already published, it is to be regretted that the Editor did not adhere to the generally recognised divisions of English Archaeology, i.e. Prehistoric, Medieval and Renaissance. The Norman Conquest, while it was, no doubt, of prime political importance, was only an influence at work on a line of development already commenced, and Architecture, and its associated arts of Painting and Sculpture, which together make the bulk of Medieval Archaeology, should be treated as a whole rather than have their course of growth interrupted by wars and invasions.

There is a need and a demand for books, complete and authoritative, dealing with the vast mass of scattered material illustrating Prehistory, and 'Prehistoric Kent' and 'Prehistoric Middlesex' would have clearly satisfied this. As it is, in order to include irrelevant matter, the writer of 'Middlesex' has so compressed his information that reading is difficult, while the author of 'Kent' has omitted much that should have been included. Mr. Vulliamy gives 141 pages to the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages, which, already verbally condensed, is typographically compressed into 39 lines per page, compared with Mr. Jessup's 163 pages of more tenuous matter at 34 lines per page. Mr. Vulliamy *has* the material, Mr. Jessup could easily have obtained it—to make a full-sized volume dealing with the prehistoric aspects alone. To give a single instance: the account of the Palaeolithic site at Dartford (p. 25) is lamentably brief, making no reference to the S. Acheul forms nor attempting any correlating of the various High Terrace Gravels in the area.

And now a personal plaint. The reviewer lives on a hill top, politically in London, geographically in Kent, in the centre of an area not entirely devoid of archaeological interest. Yet neither book mentions it. We are not in 'London' because we are not north of the Thames. We are not in 'Kent' because the London County Council decrees otherwise. Are we destined to be an appendix to the volume on 'Land's End and the Scillies,' or shall we grudgingly be given shelter under 'Surrey'? We are indeed in sore straits. Nobody loves us in an archaeological sense—we are nobody's antiquarian child.

Turning to the books themselves, Roman, Saxon and Viking antiquities occupy a considerable part of the Middlesex volume. The matter is accurate. Indeed, it could hardly be otherwise, seeing that it is based on the Victoria County History, 'Roman London' (Roy. Comm. Hist. Mon., England), and Dr. Wheeler's

essay on the Vikings (London Mus. Cat.). But all of these are easily available—most students possess them and it is therefore somewhat unnecessary to reprint what is after all a mere précis. On the other hand the earlier portion of the book is just what was needed and the first chapter on Topography and Geology is, save for its terseness, a model of its kind. In the succeeding chapters very little of importance that belongs to the prehistoric period in London and Middlesex escapes mention. Facts and information are given fully and correctly and are well documented with references.

Dealing with the 'Kent' volume—one is pleased to note that the eolithic problem is dealt with fully, and though the author states in one place that it will probably be wiser to adopt an attitude of suspended judgment, he is nearer the solution of the matter when he says that the acceptance or rejection of eolith chipping depends on the personal equation of the observer.

With pleasure, too, one notes the recognition of the work of F. C. J. Spurrell in Kent. Too often the newer school of archaeologists spurn the base degrees by which they do ascend, but, during a period when the mere finding of objects was considered archaeology, Spurrell was far ahead of many of his contemporaries.

The Coldrum excavations of 1910 (p. 73 ff.) I have always regarded as unfortunate. They took place at a time when controversy concerning the megalithic remains of Kent was marked by a bitterness and personal rancour, and many that were interested knew nothing of what was going on till the work was practically done. There were strange rumours floating in the air concerning the authenticity of the discoveries and many persons, whose testimony would have possessed a corroborative value, did not see the bones, etc., *in situ*. To-day several of the objects alleged to have been discovered cannot be traced (p. 77). The whole affair emphasises the necessity for excavation work being done as openly as possible and of the desirability of removing nothing till many experts have seen things in the position as found.

Mr. Jessup could have dealt more effectively with the mass of rubbish written about the so-called 'White Horse Stone' (p. 82)—which, if it is not a sarsen moved from the surface of the adjoining field, can only be one upright of a dolmen. Incidentally, it is all but hidden again in the undergrowth that has grown up around it.

The comment on the isolation of these groups of stones is hardly in accordance with facts. There is, for instance, at Lenham, a group of four large sarsens in a farmyard (opposite the old 'Cage') which certainly suggest a broken down dolmen, while there is also a record of sarsen stones 'near S. Martha's Church,' Albury, Surrey, which may or may not be those that can still be seen near the brickyard, on the line of the 'Pilgrim Way' in Albury, in close proximity to a tumulus.

The inclusion of Roman and late archaeological remains has already been deplored. The treatment of these in the Kent volumes emphasises the correctness of that view, for without going into

fair detail, any survey of Kent in these periods is of little value. The omissions are innumerable, as they must be when an attempt is made to deal with Roman Kent in 53 pages and the Anglo-Saxon period in 30, and several statements are open to question. The Claudian invasion was not such an easy matter as the author imagines, and Professor Baldwin Brown was not able to trace the plan of the first church at Canterbury from a study of the forms of the later building. S. Pancras Church does not show the slightest evidence of being a pagan temple before its Christian dedication, and the list of Saxon churches is very incomplete.

Why should the brooch found on the Medway (p. 238), inscribed with the common name of Aelfgifu be considered as the personal adornment of one of Cnut's wives. For the same reason, it may be conjectured, that a certain jewel bearing the name of ÆLFRED belonged to our King Alfred. And why should the mace head from Oldbury (p. 56) have been broken with a ritual intent—what ritual and with what intent? The Dartford Heath depressions (p. 49) are in all probability vestiges of the great camp of 1780, and were probably ammunition pits.

On the whole, however, these are small matters. As prehistoric surveys, both of these books are pioneers, and as such they grope into the archaeological world blindly and hopefully. To many they will be a revelation of the contributions that each county has made to the general fund of prehistorical knowledge, and they cannot but create a fresh interest, or revivify an old one, in all into whose hands they fall. And the student will be thankful for finding at last the cream of the information he requires, all ready to hand. Such faults and omissions as there are can easily be corrected in a second edition, which should be the due reward of each writer.

F. C. ELLISTON ERWOOD.

EARLY MAN IN NORTH-EAST YORKSHIRE. By FRANK ELGEE, Curator of the Dorman Memorial Museum, Middlesbrough. Gloucester: printed for the Author by John Bellows, 1930. Pp. xvi + 259: 29 plates. £1 5s.

No need of archaeology at the present time is more urgent than that of large-scale regional studies of important districts. Among the many qualities this exacting type of work demands of authors, two are especially important: unflagging critical acuteness in re-interpreting material gathered by archaeologists of older generations, and such a general knowledge of British and European archaeology as will enable the features of the district studied to be put in due relation to the whole.

Mr. Elgee not only knows his county and its material well and intimately, but he has shown in his book that he possesses both these qualities, more especially the former, in a very adequate degree. His work must be classed with Dr. Fox's *Cambridge Region* and Mr. Kendrick's *Channel Islands*, and its value is all the greater at this moment when prehistoric studies in the South of England have

tended, by out-stripping those in the North, to throw somewhat out of focus appreciation of our prehistory as a whole.

The printing and get-up of the book are admirable: the arrangements in clearly subdivided chapters is excellent, and the index is serviceable. One can only regret that the inclusion of coloured maps was found impossible, and that some of their black and white substitutes are a little confusing—this is, however, in no case true of the numerous distribution-maps, which are one of the outstanding features of the book. The plates are good, but in some cases annoyingly remote from their descriptive text.

On nearly all the periods reviewed the author has original and stimulating views. His association of the last glaciation in his district with a Le Moustier industry deserves notice, and the low dating which follows upon it for the Mesolithic and early Neolithic cultures certainly requires consideration in East Anglia. The moorland distribution of the pygmy-flint people is well contrasted with that of the stone axe and long barrow people on the limestone hills: the study of the local long barrows, and the correlation of their forms with Crawford's typology, demonstrate their late date and their south-western origin, while the ritual cremation practised in them is adduced as the beginning of a custom which survived through the beaker period to expand into the regular cremation of the middle Bronze Age, which has never been satisfactorily accounted for. The following up of this suggestion in other regions should be an enormously interesting study.

Evidence for the incursion of Nordic stone battle-axe folk from Central Europe along with the beaker people is brought forward, and a contemporary echo of the Michelsberg culture of the Rhineland is interesting to note in view of its apparent connexion with the 'Neolithic camps' of the South of England. Bronze Age coffin-burial is moreover suggestively interpreted as ritual dug-out canoe-burial.

The long duration of the middle Bronze Age cinerary-urn period here makes it of special interest: cremation, explained as above, co-existed with the inhumation of the humbler classes, and was pre-eminently the chieftain's rite. That the stone circles of the district are mostly of middle Bronze Age date is convincingly argued, and this important contention is carried further in a parallel drawn between the small sepulchral stone circles and the disc-barrows of the South.

The increase of population in this period is shown by the expansion of distributions over the moorland ridges: that of Whitby jet receives a special study, and its importance in general European trade and connexion with megaliths is wisely minimised.

The upland distribution of barrows in groups and lines compares well with that of contemporary habitation-sites and lynchets: it is too often carelessly asserted that no middle Bronze Age settlements are known, and here we have a number described, and associated with defensive dykes, which point to the armed invasions of sword and socketed axe bearers in the late Bronze Age. To this period the

promontory-fort of Eston Nab is assigned, which seems to be contemporary with the famous Heathery Burn Cave, and the coastwise and river-valley distribution of late Bronze Age implements is significantly expounded. The author is perhaps too confident that analysis of the Scarborough pottery in *Archaeologia* has proved the existence of finger-tip pottery earlier than the Hallstatt period in the north, outside the area of Deverel-Rimbury urns (the Eston Nab and Heathery Burn pottery is not finger-tip ware), but the fact of a late Bronze Age invasion, and the survival through and after it of the old native population on the moors, are demonstrated as befits their importance.

Iron and the La Tène culture were brought in both north and south of the Vale of Pickering by the Gaulish immigrants of the third century, B.C., and Mr. Elgee rightly identifies them with Ptolemy's Parisii, though he is wrong to apply to them Caesar's statement about maritime immigrants from Belgium—the Gaulish Parisii were not a Belgic tribe. The confederacy of the Brigantes, whom the Romans had to fight so hard, is argued to have been mainly composed of descendants of the late Bronze Age immigrants, mingled now with the aboriginal folk, and their tongue is contended to have been, at one time at least, Gaelic: the undoubted prevalence of Brythonic at the Roman conquest, together with the wide, though diluted, extension over the Brigantian area of La Tène art and craftsmanship, must, however, be due to the Parisii, as is perhaps not adequately here brought out.

The remains of the early Roman conquest and the late Roman coastal defences are duly described: the problem of the local Roman place-names is probably insoluble, but the distribution of modern place-names of Celtic, that is, Brythonic etymology is most interesting: so far from corresponding to that of early La Tène remains, it is mutually exclusive with that of the invading Anglian culture of the post-Roman age, which supervened on the coast, in the dales, and on the wolds where the early La Tène people had formerly flourished.

The inference is that the Brythonic speech of the early La Tène invaders had spread over the whole country, dales, wolds, hills and moors alike, to become its regular native tongue under Roman rule, and that when the Angles came and settled, the old population survived to preserve it on the hills and moors where it still remains in the place-names. This suggestive combination of linguistics, topography, and archaeology is a move on the lines which alone can lead to the solving of the dark problems of our early history.

To balance its topographical introduction, the book ends with a summary of the whole story it has compiled. Mr. Elgee must be congratulated both on the matter and the manner of its presentation. It is further good to know that he is shortly to give us a smaller book in Messrs. Methuen's County Archaeologies Series, which will bring his work before a wider public: but in so doing it should send many of its readers on, in spite of the price, to the volume now before us.

C. F. C. H.



WATERS OF ARUN. By A. HADRIAN ALLCROFT. London: Methuen & Co., Ltd. Illustrated. 8vo. xiv. + 170 pp.

It was a graceful act of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club to publish this, the last work, of the late Hadrian Allcroft, as a tribute to his memory. Dr. E. Cecil Curwen contributes a brief In Memoriam article, and there is also prefixed to the volume a bibliography of Mr. Allcroft's archaeological writings. The book is characteristic of the author, and shows him at his best. Fresh, humorous, stimulating, full of the innocently mischievous sallies that he loved, it is a very informative study of the river Arun below Arundel and the Sussex coast between Selsey and Worthing. Never so happy as when he is dispelling what he holds to be an erroneous general opinion, Allcroft evidently enjoyed writing the book and the reader shares his enjoyment. He gives his aim at the beginning in a playful allusion to the river nymph who has hoaxed the world. 'The world has been telling itself for years that Arun is a failing stream. It is not; it is a growing one. The world avers that Arun was until yesterday a wide and winding estuary that reached Pulborough and beyond: . . . There was no estuary there for a thousand years before Stephen's bridge was built. The world believes that Arun's mouth was always pretty much where now it is, at Littlehampton. It was miles away. All this, and greatly more, the minx knew, but she held her peace. That she has changed her name one may easily forgive; it is the habit with the sex . . .' and so he passes easily on and through the ages, weighing every bit of evidence from Domesday onwards, and with skilful advocacy forming the reader's opinion before he is aware of it. This book is Allcroft himself—the keen student and the whimsical companion: it is of memorials the most fitting.

W. H. G.

CORNWALL: A SURVEY OF ITS COAST, MOORS AND VALLEYS WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMENITIES. By W. HARDING THOMPSON, F.R.I.B.A. (Prepared for the Cornwall Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.) London: University of London Press Ltd. 12½ ins. × 10½ ins. xx. + 130 pp., 42 plates and 3 maps.

The Institute has shown its appreciation of the work of the C.P.R.E. by affiliating itself with the Council, and the two societies have a common aim in the preservation of historical sites, monuments and antiquities throughout the country. It is a great gain to possess an organisation that can inform and marshal local opinion, negotiate with public bodies, and hold a watching brief for the care of those things which the archaeological societies can do little more than investigate and study. In this age of specialisation we leave our own province at our peril, but we are free to co-operate with kindred agencies, and our mutual support may be all the more effective.

The C.P.R.E. has evidently a strong branch in Cornwall and this handsome volume is its work. Instruction must precede the acceptance of policy, and regional surveys such as the one before us are of

the utmost value in putting the relevant facts on record, and bringing to the notice of the public the many factors that make up the charm of the English countryside and also the nature of the threats that may injure it. The former are grouped under communications; seaboard; coast towns and villages; rivers and bridges; moors and downs; inland towns and villages; and antiquities. The last section is written by Mr. Charles Henderson, who gives a summary list which should be of great value. What is most needed, however, is a map of sufficiently large scale to show the site of all antiquities and to indicate the area around them which should be preserved if their character and significance are to be retained. We gather from the preface that such a map has been prepared, but that considerations of expense have prevented its inclusion in the volume.

The illustrations provided are, however, of real use in showing the character of the coast, the towns, villages, bridges, etc., and, not least important, some of the eyesores that should act as a warning to the ignorant and thoughtless. The book has a number of useful appendices which include a list of scheduled monuments, properties of the National Trust, and official information relative to the powers that can be invoked for the protection of the amenities of the county.

THE PROTECTION OF OUR ENGLISH CHURCHES. Fourth Report of the Central Council for the Care of Churches, for 1928-9. Press and Publication Board of Church Assembly. 128 pp. (illustrated).

The fourth Report of the Central Council for the Care of Churches sustains the interest of the former issues, and gives an account of the activities of the Diocesan Advisory Committees for the years 1928 and 1929. It is attractively produced and illustrated with a number of photographs. It is increasingly evident that the influence of the Committees is taking effect, both in the preservation of the fabrics of our ancient churches, and in the exclusion of much that would, if not checked, militate against their beauty. It is a delicate and difficult task and needs tact and commonsense as well as taste and knowledge. Many gaps in the defences have no doubt yet to be filled, but the system is becoming every year more effective. And there is little doubt that experience will teach the truth that there need be no real antagonism between the well-informed antiquary and the sincere modern artist. Their aims are much more likely to be identical than to show divergence. The chief enemies of both are ignorance and the misplaced confidence of those who do not realise how little they have learned.

W. H. G.

L'ARCHITECTURE RELIGIEUSE EN FRANCE À L'ÉPOQUE ROMANE. By R. DE LASTEYRIE. Seconde édition, revue et augmentée d'une Bibliographie critique, par M. Marcel Aubert. Pp. x + 857, illustrated. Paris. A. Picard. 1929.

M. de Lasteyrie's great treatise on the Romanesque period of architecture in France, was issued just twenty years ago. Since

then the interest aroused in the subject has notably increased and the period threatens to absorb the energies of those who see in medieval architecture one of the most amazing consummations of human art, whether judged from the magnitude of its output, or the height of its attainment. It is, therefore, an event of importance that this signal work, which has been out of print for some time, has now been re-issued, and we are laid under a further debt to its editor, M. Aubert, by whose efforts M. de Lasteyrie's subsequent work on the Gothic period was prepared for the press after the author's death.

M. Aubert has very wisely reprinted the book without textual alteration, and has brought it up to date by the addition of an appendix, in which he reviews the course of recent research, and states the discoveries and theories of later writers. This appendix is arranged in twenty chapters, occupying just over 100 pages. The longest deals with the theory of the oriental origin of Christian art, advanced by Josef Strzygowski, and two other of the larger sections concern the classification into local schools, and the character of Romanesque sculpture. The appendix is fully illustrated, and fulfils its purpose admirably.

W. H. G.