REVIEWS

RADIOCARBON DATING. By W. F. LIBBY. University of Chicago Press, 1952. Pp. 124.

This book contains the long awaited account of the technique of estimating the age of archaeological specimens by means of Carbon 14, for which the term Radiocarbon is increasingly coming into use. In addition, it contains tables of radiocarbon dates obtained up to the autumn of 1951 in Dr. Libby's laboratory in Chicago, and a chapter by Frederick Johnson on the significance of these dates for archaeologists and geologists. The part describing the principles of radiocarbon formation, the apparatus and the technique of measurement requires some familiarity with atomic physics to be understood. The archaeologist will, however, glean from it some of the reasons why much stress is laid on the cleanness of the samples, the need for relatively large quantities of material (p. 46), and why not all organic substances are equally suitable (p. 42). It will also be useful to peruse the paragraphs describing the conversion of the sample into carbon in order to appreciate the amount of delicate work required.

The list of radiocarbon dates had been published previously elsewhere. Some archaeological inconsistencies of the purely descriptive kind are repeated in the book, such as a Danish Mesolithic hut assigned to Boreal IV under Sample 433 and to Boreal III under Sample 434.

The concluding chapter by Frederick Johnson is to be highly recommended to archaeologists. He points out that an advantage of the method is its applicability to materials of a nature which no one even suspected were datable, and considers the method sufficiently reliable for results to be accepted unless they obviously disagree with other dating evidence. As regards radiocarbon dates from periods for which no checks can be obtained, their validity has, nevertheless, to be considered with reserve. This is illustrated, for instance, by samples from the Belt Cave in Iran, which produced an inconsistent series, the higher levels yielding the older dates. Johnson devotes a fair proportion of his chapter to a discussion of American dates for the Folsom Period, Tepexpan Man, the Hopewell-Adena problems, early Peru and the Mankato phase.

Libby's book will become the classic on radiocarbon dating, and will encourage other institutions to construct laboratories. No doubt the particular technique used by him and his collaborators, Anderson and Arnold, will not remain the only one. Several attempts have already been made to substitute gas samples for solid carbon in the counter and it is to be expected that in the course of time the radiocarbon method can be refined and its applicability extended from the present 20,000 years to about 30,000 years.

F. E. ZEUNER.

PREHISTORIC EUROPE : THE ECONOMIC BASIS. By J. G. D. CLARK. Pp. xix, 349 ; 16 pls. and 180 text-figs. Methuen. Price £3.

For many years Professor Grahame Clark has been publishing a notable series of papers dealing with various aspects of what might be called prehistoric economics, which many of us knew to be the preparatory detail for a general work on these and allied problems in European prehistory. The splendid volume now before us is the outcome of a prodigious amount of original detailed research in the material of prehistoric Europe and in its surviving counterparts in recent or contemporary peasant or hunter-fisher cultures, and brings together, with illuminating comment, a mass of scattered facts which had seemed in themselves to have little relevance.

The book is planned, not as a chronological prehistory of Europe, but as an examination of the whole body of evidence from the Palaeolithic to the classical civilizations for what in later historical studies would be regarded as the theoretical economic bases of existence. After an introductory chapter on the ecological background to ancient Europe, the material is considered first in relation to the hunter-fisher groups, either inland or on the coasts. Then follows a discussion of farming, including the problems of forest clearance

and of domesticated animals and plants, leading to the question of houses and settlements. Two chapters on technology, and one each on trade and on travel and transport complete the survey, which is documented by an invaluable bibliography. An admirably full series of line illustrations and maps, mostly re-drawn by Professor Clark with his well-known clarity of style, provide the visual counterpart to the text, and a rather less satisfactory set of half-tones, unfortunately bunched together by the publisher between preface and introduction, mainly show details of technology in the working of wood, bark, bone, basketry and textiles.

The material basis for prehistory is of course peculiarly suitable for treatment in terms of the economics of simple communities, and indeed most of our writings on prehistoric man tend inevitably to become in large part commentaries on various aspects of his technology, or of his means of livelihood. Such an approach is no more objective than any other treatment of historical sources, in that we evaluate the material in terms of certain presuppositions, and select the evidence accordingly. Contemporary preoccupations with technology, and with a materialist interpretation of the past, have no doubt greatly helped archaeology in its recent development, since archaeological evidence is so largely concerned with precisely these aspects of life. Lacking written records, we could hardly for instance write a book on the spiritual basis of European prehistory, but that is not to say that such a basis did not exist, side by side, and inextricably bound up with, the hunting and food-gathering, the bronze-smelting and weaving, which are described in Professor Clark's book in some detail, since they leave direct evidence in archaeological material.

It is in this respect that one senses a slight inadequacy in this book. Its hero is the prehistoric ancestor of that nineteenth-century myth, the Economic Man. As such, he builds houses, but not tombs or temples; he is technologically competent, but never an artist. But how, in any communities except those of the modern 'civilized' world, can these aspects be separated? And if they are separated, and the aspect regarded as of economic importance in modern terms is selected and emphasised, how often may this be misleading when the economic generalisation is extended to cover numberless communities spread over an area the size of Europe and a time-span of some 600,000 years? Anthropologists at least have realised that 'every human society everywhere has made . . . . a selection of its cultural institutions. Each, from the point of view of another, ignores fundamentals and exploits irrelevancies . . . . . In one society technology is unbelievably slighted even in those aspects of life which seem necessary to ensure survival; in another, equally simple, technological achievements are complex and fitted with admirable nicety to the situation'.[1] It is salutary for archaeologists to remember this when attempting to assess the content of an ancient culture.

Even if the matter is taken on its technological level, the omission by Professor Clark of such activities as tomb-building deprives us of essential evidence for the architectural ability of a number of prehistoric communities in Europe. To measure the building capacity of early second millennium man in western Europe in terms of two or three huts and Skara Brae, while ignoring Los Millares, Maes Howe and Stonehenge, is to falsify the picture: surely, too, military architecture in the Iron Age is as important as domestic? Again, if houses are admitted as of economic importance, why not clothes? Weaving is discussed, but the cloth is left uncut, unsewn, though the leather clothes of the Hallstatt miners are in fact described and illustrated. The question of the relationship between tailored leather or skin clothing, and that of the untailored toga or burnous type, could have evoked a discussion of just that interplay between the northern hunter-fishers and the more southerly farmers which in other contexts Professor Clark has so brilliantly demonstrated.

It is inevitable that any book on any aspect of European prehistory should be uneven in respect of the standards of archaeological technique in different regions, and the predominance of the Baltic in the work under review is a tribute to the high standards obtaining in the northern countries. But perhaps the author has been a little unfair to the less well

[1] Ruth Benedict, *Patterns of Culture* (1934), 23.

served countries of the south and west. The evidence is really not quite so thin as he would suggest : it is often not easy to find, but there is a remarkable amount to be gathered together. The astonishing skeuomorphs of timber-built houses in the Sardinian Bronze Age cemetery of rock-cut tombs at St. Andrea Priu, for instance, deserve mention and illustration (Taramelli in *Mon. Ant.*, xxv (1918), 836), and the dug-out wooden coffin in Tomb xix at Anghelu Ruju in the same island is an interesting counterpart to more northerly examples. The detailed tables of animal bones from Fort Harrouard would make an instructive comparison with those from Switzerland and other regions ; there is more evidence for early cereals and food-plants in Iberia than is quoted ; the house-urns of Italy and the north are surely worth mention as evidence for details of circular huts otherwise unobtainable.

But it would be wholly unfair to the distinguished author to let this review end on a note of criticism. Professor Clark's contribution to our comprehension of prehistory in this book is enormous, and especially welcome is the constant use made of recent ' folk-life ' parallels. Both in the field and in his writings he has brought to prehistory an individual and stimulating approach without which our studies would be immeasurably the poorer, and we now have before us the harvest of a long and fruitful season of research in a field he has made peculiarly his own.

STUART PIGGOTT.

PREHISTORIC IRELAND. By JOSEPH RAFTERY. $8\frac{3}{8}$ x $5\frac{3}{8}$. Pp. xvi–228. 16 Plates and 267 text-figures. London : Batsford, 1951. Price 16s.

It needs a bold man to embark upon an account of Prehistoric Ireland, and Dr. Raftery in his preface seeks to disarm his reviewer by claiming that the book is intended for the intelligent layman rather than the specialist prehistorian.[1] It could and should, however, easily have served both. That there should by the 1950's be so few general accounts of Irish prehistory may indicate the complexity of the subject, but it may also be a little symptomatic of Irish archaeology, an impression which neither the works of Macalister nor this book of Dr. Raftery's do anything to dispel. British prehistory would be wallowing in the same quagmire were it not for half a century of patient, systematic and reasoned thought by numerous scholars, both amateur and professional, and this clarifying phase in Irish archaeology has yet to come.

The book is very diffuse : comparatively little of it is devoted to Irish prehistory, and the rest, the British (here somewhat underestimated) and the European backgrounds, can be got better from the works of others. The irrelevancies—discussion of eoliths, for instance, on page 58—have deflected the author from the real business of systematising the facts of Irish archaeology, so that the intelligent layman will suspect, what the prehistorian knows, that the framework of the story is rickety. *Scotland before the Scots* should have been the exemplar at this stage.

A microcosm of Irish archaeology might have been expected from the illustrations, and it is certainly useful to have many of these collected together, especially the bronze daggers and rapiers with handles of various materials preserved. Some illustrations are excellent, such as the Ashe Studios' air-views of Dun Aengus and Creevykeel, the interiors of passage-graves and some of their art, or some of those of excavated burials. In others, however, objects are arranged together on a page with no sense of proportion whatever in scales (which are moreover not always stated). Some are just impossible, as where a poor photograph, over-reduction, poor blockmaking, and over-inking have been combined to give unintelligible blobs or black shapeless silhouettes. Some bad penwork and over-large scales have given unsightly plans and maps, and in Plate V there was little point in printing the distribution spots in red if they were also printed in black ; the result is useless without re-plotting. The map of sun-discs (Plate III) is useful—but why not

[1] This book has been most usefully reviewed by Dr. Glyn Daniel in *Irish Historical Studies*, viii (1952), 164-8.

one also of sunflower pins? The megalith plans are in the form of card-tricks, and the value of this kind of typological juggling has been recently dealt with elsewhere (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xvii, 1951, 235–8). Dr. Raftery has certainly been most ill-served by the printers and producers of this book.

There are in Dr. Raftery's narrative a number of controversial and doubtful matters, but this is only to be expected in the treatment of a growing and changing subject like Irish archaeology. Thus 2000 B.C. is perhaps rather a long dating for the introduction of the Early Bronze Age in the west by present accepted standards, and over matters in which so little evidence may be called it is desirable that prehistorians should conform to a generally accepted convention unless sound reasons for deviation are explained. This is particularly unfair on the beginner and the layman. His treatment of the Late Bronze Age must be considered in the light of recent discussion (*J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, lxxxi, 1951, 53–64).

Although the story is brought up to the introduction of Christianity in the fifth century A.D., Dr. Raftery does not take full advantage of the important interactions between Ireland and the Romanised province of Britain in clarifying the Irish Iron Age in the first to fifth centuries A.D. Nor does he utilise such work as Sir Cyril Fox's study of the Llyn Cerrig deposit in Anglesey in considering the earlier phase of the Irish Iron Age.

In dealing with the Celticising of Ireland Dr. Raftery wisely stresses the independence of linguistic, ethnic and archaeological evidence, and maintains that no important invasion can be archaeologically demonstrated in Ireland's prehistory after the Stone Age. But it can hardly be argued that the Celtic language reached Ireland in the Stone Age; this would be to disregard all European evidence. Assumption of a mass invasion is not necessary. When one considers the spread of English as the vehicle of normal speech throughout most of Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall and Wales in the light of the archaeology and history of the past eight centuries or so, there is little reason to seek an explanation of the Irish gaelic language in archaeology at all. The metalwork of an aristocracy appears in the northern half of Ireland during the Early Iron Age, decorated in a manner associated with Celts in Europe and Britain, and these people, presumably colonising chiefs with their retinues, could have brought the Celtic language to Ireland, through which it subsequently spread as did English centuries later. Archaeologically the position may be compared to that of the chariot-burial aristocracy of Yorkshire (colonising chiefs and their retinues from northern France), which was superimposed upon a culturally Late Bronze Age native population, as was most probably the case in Ireland.

Dr. Raftery emphasises the importance of prehistoric habitation sites in Ireland, and the dearth of information about them. It is a welcome sign that the trend in recent years in the choice of excavation sites is rapidly redressing the past emphasis on burial structures. The future hopes of Irish archaeology must lie mostly in excavation, for no satisfactory chronology can be built up without ample supplies of stratigraphically related material, and the positions of the occasional imports are of great significance for correlations over wider areas of western Europe.

One thing is clear enough from the story unfolded, that Ireland has always shown its own personality, exerting a strong environmental influence on the people who lived there, and it is remarkable how often Ireland has its own distinctive variants of general British or European types of implement, ornament or monument. Its position on the western fringe of Europe yet astride the western seaways gives Ireland a special importance, and carefully reasoned accounts of its archaeology are sorely needed.

E. M. JOPE.

BEGINNING IN ARCHAEOLOGY. By KATHLEEN M. KENYON. Pp. 203 : 11 plates, 14 figures. Phoenix House, 1952. Price 12s. 6d.

The first problem of an author is to identify the audience for which a book is to be written. Miss Kenyon's audience undoubtedly exists; it is the large body of amateurs interested in archaeology, and those young people who are attracted towards the small

but growing number of posts for full-time professional archaeologists. For those interested in the subject either as a career or a hobby there is need for a primer which takes nothing for granted. Miss Kenyon therefore begins with three chapters on the meaning of archaeology and the fields into which it divides itself. She goes on with three chapters on the technique of excavation and its attendant problems in the field, and concludes with another on field survey work and air photography.

The chapters on excavation, recording and dealing with finds, are by far the most successful; the reader feels when they are reached that Miss Kenyon was here most assured in writing. There are good diagrams to aid the description of a sound technique. The plates are well chosen, though not very well printed; it may be doubted whether the novice will always be able to see the features for which they are included. The success of these chapters throws excavation into the foreground, and the fact that the first three chapters on the meaning and scope of archaeology seem rather less clear in purpose may well leave the novice with the conclusion that archaeology consists of excavation. For amateurs in particular, this emphasis on excavation seems a very unfortunate one, in spite of the sound warnings on the last page about the dangers of excavation. It is implied that other field work is an unimportant aspect that can be left to part-time archaeologists. The chapters on the scope of archaeology are in effect a summary of our knowledge of the prehistory of Western Europe and the Near East; it would have been helpful to describe, in principle and by example, the place of typological studies in some of these fields, and to elaborate the rather bald references to stylistic studies, and to the use of epigraphic material in Near Eastern Archaeology. The place of anthropology and comparative methods, which help to make Professor Grahame Clark's *Prehistoric Europe* such a notable contribution to knowledge, is given only a passing mention in a reference to Australian and African studies. The beginner would have got more help from this introduction if Miss Kenyon had been able to clear her mind more completely of the professional archaeologist's assumptions.

The remainder of the book—a chapter on archaeology as a career, and several appendices—is extremely useful, in that for the first time information is brought together about University courses in archaeology, full-time posts and archaeological societies: that is, the training available for amateurs and would-be professionals. It seems unfortunate that there is no place for such an independent publication as *Antiquity*. Local societies are not listed, on the grounds that their secretaries come and go, but a list of names and the towns in which they meet would not have been unhelpful to the person who finds this book on the shelves of a public library; local societies are often, intentionally or not, somewhat exclusive and their existence is known to few. Training schools for amateurs, of which there were four in 1952, run by university extra-mural departments and by groups of the Council for British Archaeology, are worth more than a passing reference. The book has a very valuable purpose; if the needs of the beginner had been more clearly thought out, that purpose would have been more completely achieved.

M. W. BARLEY.

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN AND HIS THEME. By H. P. R. FINBERG. Occasional Paper No. 1 of the Department of English Local History in the University College of Leicester. Price 3s.

This introductory lecture by the Reader in English Local History at Leicester is at once a profession of faith in those studies for which a separate Department was formed in the University College in 1947, and a plea to historians to consider them worthy of their highest powers.

Implicit in Mr. Finberg's remarks about the provision for local history in other universities, or the lack of it, is the question, what is the relationship between his own department and the Department of History under Professor Simmons? Students reading history for a first degree must clearly spend most of their time on its wider aspects, but

one or two courses in local history could certainly be valuable in illustrating how great national movements affected the lives of small communities. In " Devonshire Studies " Mr. Finberg and his predecessor as Reader, Dr. W. G. Hoskins, produced the kind of volume which, by giving substance to some familiar generalisations of social and economic history, and by showing how scanty or unusual source-material can be used, might well arouse the enthusiasm as well as deepen the understanding of students.

But the remark that local history " demands mature scholarship and a wide background of general culture " (p. 11), coupled with the author's declared intention of fostering the highest standards of performance, suggests that the Department's main task will be research. If it succeeds in bringing together, as it should, local historians each with a slightly different aim and viewpoint, studying diverse localities with different source-material at their command, that will be ample justification for its existence. Topographical history in its widest sense, a study of all the physical remains of the past, whether barrows, town-plans, field-systems, or industrial cottages is not often found; a knowledge, in addition, of the whole range of documentary evidence is rare. But if historians who possess some part of this extensive equipment can be brought into contact, and profit by each other's experience, local history will not only flourish in its own right but will contribute much to the understanding of national history.

J. T. SMITH.

GUIDE TO ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN SCOTLAND. Ministry of Works. By V. G. CHILDE and W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON. Pp. 127 : 24 plates. H.M.S.O., 1952. Price 6s.

The Ministry of Works is to be congratulated on producing such a handy well-illustrated guide to all the ancient monuments that are in its charge in Scotland from Lerwick to Kirkmadrine. A large map naming them all is included in the strongly bound, pocket-size volume.

Professor Childe deals very fully with the Physical Background and the Prehistoric Periods, summarises the Roman occupation, though strictly no Roman remains are in guardianship, and under the heading Dark Ages describes Dunadd. One might cavil about small points, such as that the finest neolithic bowl from Scotland is *not* in the National Museum, or that it is surely high time to let the idea that broch-dwellers and late bronze age Shetlanders shivered damply in hypaethral (to use Abercromby's word) courtyards, follow southern pit-dwellings into limbo. But the detailed summaries of the early monuments, of the finds from them, and of their wider relationships and background, are excellent.

It would seem, however, that for the ' Celtic Period and the Middle Ages ' Dr. Douglas Simpson was set a different task, for his comparative allocation of space is totally inadequate. His unrivalled knowledge of the development of Scottish castles, over fifty of them in the Ministry's list, is compressed into one and one-third pages, while the rather insignificant Castlelaw Fort, Glencorse, was given two. This cannot be solely due to there being separate guides published for many castles, while most prehistoric sites can best be treated in a comprehensive book such as this; for Jarlshof and Skara Brae, to which there are guides, have here respectively 4 and 1½ pages, and the latter is included in a general Orkney guide as well. Nor do the thumbnail sketches of each monument in the 54 pages of ' Notes ' right the balance, though fuller for medieval than prehistoric. The medieval buildings have far more visitors, yet their general development or their background of life and history are not really better realised by the public at large. Certainly much more information is needed for visitors to Scotland on, for instance, the architectural peculiarities of Aberdeenshire castles. Rothesay Castle and the great beauty of Edzell garden deserve a place in the main text of the guide, while if Professor Childe is allowed to mention non-Ministry hut-circles in Ayrshire, the fact that Culross ' Palace ' is in a fascinating town largely owned by the National Trust should not be

omitted. Towns are indeed left out even of the bibliography, though a gate is illustrated. Abbeys and churches get just over 2 pages of the main text.

The brief mention of the Ministry's wonderful series of sculptured stones confusingly used the word Romanesque in a way not included in the guide's glossary, omits the Anglo-Norse wheel-headed crosses, as does even the Note on Whithorn, and unjustly suggests that the 15th–16th century West Highland grave-slabs and crosses are debased though of ' much beauty '. The great *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland* is not in the bibliography, which includes three works on Roman Scotland.

In short, despite, or because of, much merit, one hopes to see soon a second edition in which the Middle Ages and later, are represented proportionately to their monuments. As a model of matter and manner there is the guide to *Ancient Monuments not in State Charge* also issued this year by H.M. Stationery Office, for the Government of Northern Ireland.

R. B. K. STEVENSON.

AN INVENTORY OF THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN DORSET, VOL. I, WEST. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Price 63s.

The volume, which marks the resumption of publication by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments after an interval of thirteen years, is worthy of the auspicious occasion. The area chosen represents a very typical slice of southern England, but does not equate with any natural or historical division. It includes that part of the county lying west of a line running from Sherborne to the sea at Fleet (behind Chesil Beach), following the serpentuous course of the parish boundaries. The only towns worth mentioning are Sherborne, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

The downland contributes a good number of primitive earthworks, but the Roman period is poorly represented (since Dorchester has been excluded), but this deficiency is made up by the inclusion in this category of the Cerne Giant. The fact that the district could draw upon several types of good building stone was fully appreciated even in medieval times, but wealth was lacking, so that full advantage could not be taken of them. Sherborne Abbey is, and always was, the only outstanding religious building and, since the other abbeys have almost entirely disappeared, is supported only by a rather large number of good second class parish churches. Sherborne Castle is the only medieval secular building worth mentioning, though it is now rather difficult to appreciate its sometime grandness. The close of the reign of Elizabeth was marked by the beginning of a series of manor houses of which the most impressive was Sir Walter Raleigh's new castle at Sherborne. The latter part of the seventeenth century saw the arrival of a more classical style, but the district cannot show any first class house, though there are many attractive secondary ones and classicised additions to earlier buildings. The extension of the range of the Commission so as to include the first half of the nineteenth century has not revealed any notable example of Regency architecture, though it has included Nash's rather successful Jacobean addition at Parnham.

In monumental sculpture the district is not rich. The two fifteenth-century alabaster effigies of knights at Melbury Sampford belong to rather an unfamiliar pattern and appear to have been imitated nearly a hundred years later for the Horsey monument at Sherborne Abbey, which also contains some standard type Elizabethan monuments. No seventeenth-century monument is of much note except the Digby one by John Nost at Sherborne. The eighteenth century is weakly represented, though the work of some well-known sculptors is noted. The selection of a highly realistic figure at Over Compton church, carved by an unknown sculptor in 1825, is quite reasonable.

It has been possible to devote an unusually large proportion of the illustrations to the category of fittings. In some important classes the district is very weak, particularly stained glass, parish chests and monumental brasses. On the other hand it contains

some church plate of considerable importance. The photographs of this are very welcome, as the standard work on Dorset appeared in 1889 and was illustrated only with line blocks. The most notable pieces are mostly the gift of Mrs. Strangways Horner, who combined a rather scandalous private life with the enrichment and restoration of the churches on her estates. As a result Dorset is the richest county in church plate by Paul de Lamerie, and the only one to show examples of silver boxes to hold the knife for cutting up the communion bread.

The amount of armour preserved in the churches is about the average, but it includes a superb fifteenth-century tilting helm at Melbury Sampford. Wall-paintings are few, but the late fifteenth-century triptych, now attributed to Cologne, in the almhouses at Sherborne, is of great importance.

In conclusion, the Commission is to be congratulated on the manner in which it has carried out its task which involves the dating and classification of objects but does not allow of justifications. It is satisfactory also to note the high quality of the illustrations which include some telling aerial views. C. C. OMAN.

LINCOLNSHIRE AND THE FENS. By M. W. BARLEY. 8½ x 5½. Pp. 191. 79 Photographs by the author and others. (The Face of Britain Series.) Batsford, 1952. Price 15s.

Lincolnshire, like many other counties, has little unity other than that imposed by administrative convenience. Geologically, the folded formations that are streaked across England from the East Riding south-westward to Lyme Bay contribute nothing to its boundaries. To the west the Trent does little to give it shape, and the fens to the south do still less. Only the sea is a firm frontier. The author of this new addition to a popular series (or his publishers) has included in his purview the whole of the fens in an effort to give the book more coherence ; but their southern part with the accompanying skirt and upland has been perfunctorily treated, and does not appear at all on the rather poor map at the end of the book.

After two introductory chapters devoted to the geography of the region and the peoples who have successively settled in it, Mr. Barley goes on to treat the ecclesiastical and more important secular buildings, following up with the villages, the fens and the Isle of Axholme, and a sketch of the economic and social history of the area. He ends with some remarks on the present state of things in town and country.

It is right that books about the face of England should not go more than skin deep. With a bare 150 pages of actual text in which to manoeuvre the author could hardly have expected to be profound or comprehensive over such a wide range. His failure at times to accept this limitation results in a certain breathlessness which makes for hard reading. Apart from this Mr. Barley emerges well from the test. He has an instinct for the right topics allied to the indispensable qualities of zest and style, and is likely to succeed in infecting more than one reader with his enthusiasms. I found myself sharing in his proclivity for nineteenth-century directories and in his regrets for lost varieties of apple ; and was pleased to learn that geese intended for the London market in more leisured days were provided with shoes to get there. Such diversions are required of writers in this genre, and the author is not behindhand in providing them.

There are a few mistakes (including the blunder about Ely on p. 68, which has already been adequately chastised by a contemporary) and a number of half-truths of the kind that result almost inevitably from excessive compression. The passage in Chapter V dealing with nineteenth-century brick is confused and the accompanying gibe at Victorian England out of date. It is hardly true to say (p. 149) that ' no one has paid sufficient attention ' to headstones. What about recent work by Ada Longfield in Ireland, or by Frederick Burgess and others in this country ?

The photographs are well up to the standard of the series. The usefulness of the book would have been enhanced by a carefully chosen book list. PETER EDEN.

DOMESDAY GEOGRAPHY OF EASTERN ENGLAND. By H. C. DARBY. Pp. 400. Maps 109. Cambridge University Press, 1952. Price £2 15s.

Domesday Book was compiled from returns made, for fiscal or judicial purposes, in the year 1086. The date of compilation is not known, but is generally assumed to be within a decade or two of the inquest itself. The inquest seems to have been entrusted to groups of commissioners, each of which was responsible for a single region comprising three or four counties. The method in each case was much the same. The commissioners dealt with a county at a time ; and a series of public enquiries was held at which juries were summoned from every hundred to give sworn answers to a stock questionnaire. Doubtless the form in which the answers were given varied from county to county in accordance with local custom ; and the commissioners also differed from region to region in the interpretation they placed on their instructions, and the way in which they presented their findings to higher authority.

The original returns were made on a geographical basis. Their subsequent rearrangement in the two volumes of the Book was carried out by fiefs, and involved a measure of condensation, particularly in the first volume, which is generally considered to be the later of the two in date. In the projected six volumes of the Domesday Geography of England, of which the Domesday Geography of Eastern England is the first, Professor Darby and his collaborators aim at reconstituting the original returns as far as possible and presenting them on their original geographical basis in the form of maps and tables. The initial volume deals with six counties : Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. It includes an introductory chapter summarising the history of Domesday scholarship, with special reference to the development of the cartographic approach, and a concluding chapter in which the Domesday geography of the area is reviewed as a whole. Each chapter except the last ends with a critical bibliographical note.

There are over a hundred maps, about sixteen to a county. Three or four of these in each case relate to the general physical and political geography : hundreds or wapentakes, relief, surface geology and soil types. The remainder deal with actual Domesday information regarding the state of things in 1086 ; for example, densities of plough-teams and population, and the distribution of woodland, meadow, fisheries, salt-pans, mills, etc.

' In giving us something ' Professor Darby concludes ' the Domesday Book has withheld much.' It is admitted that a lot was left out of the original returns, and it may be inferred that more was garbled in the complex processes of redaction ; witness, for example, the frequent occurrence of incomplete fractions of shared items such as churches and mills, or the manifest errors and omissions of copyists. But over and above there are graver insecurities of interpretation, the effect of which is to make even the most apparently straightforward statements matters of doubt. If the salt-pans of Lincolnshire are valued under vills other than those in which they are situated (fig. 16), of how many more items may not the same be true ? If acres are conventional acres and swine or cattle little more at times than fiscal abstractions, which of Domesday's other ostensible realities are we safe in accepting ? Questions of this sort obtrude themselves at every turn, and to many of them there can be no certain answer. It would be presumption to attempt at this stage to assess the value of Professor Darby's results. The great merit of his book, apart from the inherent interest of its topic, is the nice blend of imagination and caution which he has brought to his fascinating but difficult task. PETER EDEN.

DRESS IN MEDIAEVAL FRANCE. By JOAN EVANS. Pp. 94 ; figs. 11 ; pls. 81. Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1952. Price 35s.

In some ways this history of the development of French dress between the years 1060 and 1515 forms an attractive addition to the large number of existing works on costume, of which the majority are, to say the least, of indifferent value. Dr. Evans adds little to the researches of Quicherat, Victor Gay and Harmand but, where civil and clerical dress

are concerned, she gives a competent general outline of a subject upon which there is apparently no separate English work. She is particularly to be commended for the attention she pays to the types and colours of the materials favoured at different dates for the making of costume, an important aspect of the history of dress too frequently overlooked. One cannot help feeling, however, that the book would have been of greater value to the reader with little or no knowledge of French, for whom it is presumably chiefly designed, if translations had been given of at least the most important of the numerous quotations from contemporary texts. Similarly the number of plates, excellent though these are, might well have been reduced in favour of more line drawings of details, for it is not always possible to see the exact form of the garments worn by the figures on the carvings, and in the illuminations and paintings which are chiefly drawn upon for illustration. A number of inaccuracies in the text could also have been avoided. Support is given (p. 2) to the popular misconception, beloved of producers of *Twelfth Night*, that the criss-cross leg-bindings worn in the 11th and 12th centuries are ' cross-garters ' ; the latter were, in fact, introduced in the 16th century and each consisted of a length of ribbon which was laid below the knee, the ends then being crossed behind, brought forward and tied *above* the knee. The term ' moufle ' is used (p. 30) to denote some form of foot covering, although contemporary texts show quite clearly that it was a type of glove, usually an extension to the sleeve of a garment. Figs. IV and VI, both taken from Harmand's great work on the costume and armour of Joan of Arc, have been transposed, with the result that the pattern of the pourpoint of Charles de Blois appears as a ' gippon de quatre quartiers ' and *vice versa* ; it is unfortunate too that the pattern for the sleeves of the former could not have been included as there is no indication in the text that these exist.

One can only regret that the intention expressed in the introduction to this book of excluding the complex subject of military costume from consideration was not carried out. Dr. Evans clearly has only the most elementary knowledge of the history of defensive armour, and is apparently completely unacquainted with the vast amount of research work done in this field since the end of the First World War. It is particularly unfortunate that, in a book which will be widely circulated, seeming authority should be given to a large number of errors, some dating from as far back as the early 19th century, which serious armour students have been trying to suppress for the last thirty years. The old fable is repeated (p. 3) of the ' broigne ' of leather ' sewn all over with metal rings or scales, sometimes joined by leather thongs ', said to have been introduced from the East and presently superseded by the mail hauberk. As the late F. M. Kelly pointed out in an article published in *Apollo* for November, 1931 (to say nothing of what Hewitt, Hartshorne, Burges, de Cosson, Waller and Laking had previously written on this subject), there is practically no serious evidence for the use at this period of armour composed of rings, other than true mail. There is on the other hand a great deal of evidence to show that the broigne (or byrnie) was, in fact, made of mail, which was in use in the West from, at the latest, Roman republican times onwards : in other words it was simply what was later called a hauberk. What precisely is meant by a ' grand haubert ', a defence which Dr. Evans claims (p. 11) was introduced at the end of the 12th century, I am unable to discover, either from her text or elsewhere. On p. 4 reference is made to the introduction of the haubergeon in the second half of the 12th century, yet it is stated on p. 28 that the hauberk was shortened to form the haubergeon *in the early 14th century*. Incidentally there appears to be no evidence to show that the haubergeon was ever designated by the term ' jaque ' (p. 4), which seems in the Middle Ages always to have denoted a quilted garment.

It would be interesting to know upon what evidence Dr. Evans bases her claim (p. 4) that ' The round helmet of the Roman legionaries had been modified in the 9th century by the widening of its base, till it reached a shape not unlike that of the German battle-helmets of the First World War ; then in the middle of the 11th century a conical form was adopted '. I am unable to identify any helmet of the period answering to the former description, while conical helmets were certainly in use in Europe long before the 11th century : they are illustrated on Trajan's column and were commonly used by the Franks as early as the 6th century, as a number of surviving examples testify. The ' closed

helmet ' (i.e. great helm), the introduction of which is here ascribed to a period ' shortly before 1217 ' (p. 12), must have been in use at least twenty years before this, as one is depicted on the second Great Seal of King Richard I of England. It seems absurd also to attribute the going out of fashion of beards to the introduction of the helm when the mail coif, which had been in use since the 11th century, fitted far more closely to the face. Similarly the statement that ' the adoption of the closed helm. . . . . made it impossible to . . . . distinguish friend from foe, and led directly to the cognizances of heraldry ' does not carry much conviction when, for an example of an early coat of arms, we are referred to the plate showing the monument of Geoffrey of Anjou at Le Mans which Dr. Evans herself correctly dates to the period 1151–1160. The change from mail to plate armour did not, as is suggested (p. 45), take place ' in the years around 1385 '. There is a good deal of evidence for the use of plate in the 13th century and it had been widely adopted by the second quarter of the 14th century. Confusion is worse confounded further down the same page when we read that ' the transition between mail and plate ' was still going on at the time of the battle of Agincourt !

The above represent only a small selection of the more obvious errors contained in the portions of this book which deal with armour. It should serve, however, to show how completely untrustworthy these portions are. It is to be hoped that, if there should be a second edition, Dr. Evans will expunge the offending passages and expand the section dealing with civil costume, upon which she is more qualified to write. One may commend wholeheartedly the excellent quality of the eighty-one plates, which in themselves form a delightful ' picture-book ' of French mediaeval art.

C. BLAIR.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS (ENGLAND). A GUIDE TO ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL. 8 x 6½. Pp. 28. Frontispiece, 12 pp. plates, plan and section. London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1952. Price 2/6 net.

This is the first Guide Book issued by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for a specific major building, based on a survey undertaken in the course of the Commission's normal work of listing Historical monuments in various localities.

As is stated in the Preface, it is felt that the re-issue in a handier form, and in a more easily readable style, of accounts of buildings only available in a condensed form within the Commission's large inventories, will be welcome. And it is hoped to publish in a similar style further separate Guides to important buildings that have been surveyed by the Commission in their County or City volumes.

The Hertfordshire volume was the first ever produced by the Commission (as long ago as 1910) ; and the present account, though based on the original inventory, has been thoroughly brought up to date—even in small details such as the reference to the curious ornamental badges on the tomb of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, identified by Sir Thomas Kendrick as representing ' Gardens of Adonis ', as recently as 1946.

The form of the book is to give a somewhat extended Historical Introduction, followed by a generalised Architectural History, and then a detailed Architectural Description, with the various fittings, starting at the east end and working westwards. At the end there is a brief account of what is known of the Monastic buildings.

The pre-eminent place in the history of medieval art, occupied by St. Albans, is mentioned, but one feels that perhaps a little more emphasis might have been given to this, and the paintings (of which there is a remarkable number) described in a little more detail. For example, Professor Tristram drew and identified most of the great figures high up on the choir walls, some of which are illustrated in his 13th-century volume of English Medieval Painting. St. James Major is quite certainly one ; and he does not fit into either of the Commission's attributions of the Four Evangelists and Four Doctors.

This, however, is a quibble, and the book is an admirable production both as to letter-press and illustrations ; and we look forward to further Guides in the series.

E. CLIVE ROUSE.

BERKELEY SQUARE TO BOND STREET. By B. H. JOHNSON. Pp. 240 : 15 pls. and 4 maps. John Murray. Price 30s.

This admirable and extremely well-documented account of the history of the Berkeley Square neighbourhood presents a vast amount of detailed material in a concise and readable manner. Some of it drawn, for instance, from Evelyn or the Luttrell Diaries, is well known, but by far the greater part comes from unpublished manuscript sources in which Mr. Johnson has traced through wills, law-suits and rate-books the changes of tenure and the development proposals (both abortive and executed) of a major part of the West end of London. He has further supplied a great deal of information about the main personalities concerned. Much of this is of considerable interest to the social historian, especially of the seventeenth century, for it reveals the association of men of the Court, such as Henry Jermyn, Lord Dover, or Sir Thomas Bond, with members of the building trade as syndicates for development schemes. Indeed, beyond the major question of the division and replanning of lands at one time held by Lord Clarendon or the Berkeley family, which is the essential theme of the book, it is perhaps for its revelation of the ambitions of craftsmen (some of them relatively well known like Abraham Storey or Benjamin Jackson, but others extremely obscure) that the book will be of especial interest to readers of this *Journal*.

The bias of the book is inevitably topographical rather than historical, and the brief account of Berkeley House and its architect, Hugh May, is factual and follows Evelyn in criticism. The extremely interesting drawing from the British Museum of Berkeley House supports, however, the view expressed by Professor Geoffrey Webb in his Henrietta Hertz Trust lecture, ' Baroque Art ' (*Proc. of the British Academy*, xxxiii, 1947), namely, that May is a crucial figure in the development of English seventeenth-century architecture.

M. D. WHINNEY.