

REVIEWS

THE NEOLITHIC CULTURES OF THE BRITISH ISLES : A STUDY OF THE STONE-USING AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF BRITAIN IN THE SECOND MILLENNIUM, B.C.
By PROFESSOR STUART PIGGOTT. 10 x 7. Pp. xix + 420. Published by the Cambridge University Press, 1954. Price 70s. net.

In this book the author has not only presented the fruits of twenty years' minute research in a readable and manageable form with exhaustive documentation and illustration, but has interpreted them with an unique mastery of the comparative material, scattered about in French collections and provincial periodicals. It is not only a landmark in British prehistory, but also a monument of British scholarship; for in no other province of comparable size and diversity has a major period of human culture been surveyed and analysed with such thoroughness and precision and revived with such sympathetic insight and scientific imagination. The archaeological data are exhaustively assembled and classified, all major types are illustrated by excellent drawings and photographs and their distributions illustrated by maps.

The picture proves far more complicated than the author could have suspected when he published his classic paper on neolithic pottery in this *Journal* in 1931. Then Ireland was still a terra incognita and the neolithic material from Great Britain seemed divisible between two main 'cultures', adequately defined by the contrast between A and B pottery. If something of this dualism still survives in the contrast between Primary and Secondary Neolithic cultures, the basis of division has been changed into something more fundamental. The former result from 'the introduction of a completely novel mode of living based on agriculture and stock-breeding, with its accompanying material equipment from the European mainland', the latter represent 'the subsequent absorption into this of the residual elements of the old hunter-fisher traditions'. Throughout the work the subject is 'ideas' and 'modes of life', not dead material things.

The Primary Neolithic is now divided into two or three 'cultures', all sharing Western ceramic traditions, together with the Irish Boyne culture in which only the sepulchral architecture is equally 'Western'. The most 'primary' of these, the Windmill Hill culture, itself embodies only one of three locally distinct ceramic traditions, introduced perhaps by different colonizing bands, and in turn gives birth to four derivatives distinguished by Whitehawk, Abingdon, East Anglian and Grimston wares—while in a further expansion to the north and west the latter split up into divergent local traditions, sometimes associated with distinct types of chambered tomb to constitute 'groups' within the great western family. One of the latter, Clyde-Carlingford, is raised to the status of a 'culture', and the same designation is applied to the Severn-Cotswold group on p. 369 though not on pp. 129-152. In no case does Piggott yield to the temptation, that has misled so many Germans, to make a culture out of a pottery style alone, though in view of the extreme poverty of the insular Stone Age in distinctive type-fossils, he might plead a better excuse. On the contrary, by supplementing observed associations with distribution maps the author is able not only to clothe with flesh and blood the very fragmentary skeleton, but also to bring out an unexpected variety of diagnostic types to characterize archaeologically the Windmill Hill culture and its provincial offspring. But is the Clyde-Carlingford culture's status equally well established? All the distinctive forms and techniques (but not motives) of its characteristic pottery—Beacharra A and B (and C too if only in an allegedly 'Secondary' context) can be matched in southern England and the sole diagnostic peculiarity to hold this culture together is the tomb type, as with the Severn-Cotswold group. Yet tomb plans alone are not in fact allowed to define anything more than a 'group'. For even the Boyne culture has here become more than a collection of tombs, ornate and imposing but empty.

The concept of Secondary Neolithic cultures is among the most fruitful innovations in this book. Of course for the last fifty years it has been admitted that, though domestic stock and cereals must have been introduced into temperate Europe by actual immigrant farmers, the large neolithic population of the region could not be composed entirely of

their descendants. But the implications of this admission have nowhere been so systematically worked out. It is used to explain the idiosyncrasies of insular behaviour which were as pronounced in neolithic times as to-day, as expressed in four 'stone industries' and in five 'regional or cultural groups'—the Peterborough, Bann, Rinyo-Clacton, Ronaldsway and Dorchester cultures. All 'contain elements whose origins lie outside the Western neolithic group of cultures and are on the whole likely to be of indigenous Mesolithic ancestry or form part of the continuum of Circumpolar Stone Age cultures'. I underline the alternative because, perhaps owing to the poor preservation of Mesolithic remains in these islands, it is impossible to document in detail a local pedigree for the distinctively Secondary Neolithic types. In his recent book on the Stone Age of Scotland Lacaille has expressly attributed some of them to the intrusive Beaker culture. Piggott himself regards 'the appearance of Peterborough pottery in all its forms as an indication of settlement in south-east England by people arriving by sea from Scandinavia and sharing with the late Mesolithic inhabitants they encountered on arrival a common ancestry and many common traditions in bone and stone working'. (The old B pottery group has been subdivided into Ebbsfleet and Mortlake wares, the stratigraphical relations of which have not yet been finally determined and also distinguished from Rinyo-Clacton—formerly 'Grooved'—Ronaldsway and other wares that help to define distinct 'cultures'.) The real contrast is that between the Mediterranean traditions of the first farmers and the Boreal traditions evolved during the long post-glacial interval on the wooded plain of Northern Europe. The latter traditions are suspected not only in the assemblages here classified as Secondary, but also in some Primary and predominantly Western cultures; not only are distinctive secondary types well represented in peripheral Primary cultures or tomb groups; even in the most Primary culture of all, Windmill Hill itself, Piggott suggests that the distinctive causewayed camps and the equally distinctive skin-dressing combs found in them embody 'established Mesolithic ideas'.

Finally, the Secondary cultures are 'Neolithic' only in an economic and technological sense; in time they, like the later manifestations of the Primary cultures, fall within what is here termed the Middle and Late Neolithic phases as do the Beaker cultures, generally attributed to Early Bronze Age I and not included among 'the stone-using agricultural communities of Britain'. Indeed a survival into Early Bronze Age II can be deduced from the association of 'Secondary Neolithic' mace-heads with grooved daggers and from agreements in design between Rinyo-Clacton and Wessex pottery. If the rise of the Wessex culture be placed about 1500 B.C., some neolithic communities must have retained their cultural identity to that date.

That in itself would not suffice to justify the book's sub-title. If the deposition of a hoard is dated by the latest type found in it, that tells us nothing of the chronological range of the remaining types. When the latter are not, like coins, independently dated, estimates of the initial dates from the terminal ones depend upon further assumptions. Piggott, following Scott, prefers to assign a short range to such undated types—because the same type of bead is associated with Wessex types and with an A Beaker, A Beakers and the Wessex culture overlap. But if the range be too drastically curtailed, all cultures are liable to slide down to a single chronological horizon, when, as in Britain, no stratigraphy is available to support them.

V. GORDON CHILDE.

THE STONE AGE IN SCOTLAND. By A. D. LACAILLE. Pp. xxii-345; 140 figs, pl. IX, 6 tables. Published for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum by Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford, 1954. Price 55s.

Mr. Lacaille tells us in the Preface that his book has been designed to fill the gap left by the absence of any work 'devoted solely to the earliest colonization of Scotland after the retreat of the Pleistocene ice-sheets and the melting of the glaciers'. The author has produced a painstaking compilation which should serve as a useful point of departure for the future. Nearly half the book is occupied with preliminaries, namely: a chapter

on the northernmost palaeolithic in Britain ; two, occupying together a fifth of the volume, on the deglaciation of Scotland and its chronology ; and a fourth on the mesolithic cultures of Europe and England. The kernel of the book, amounting to about a third of its length, is devoted to the mesolithic industries of Scotland, comprising chapters on the Larnian culture, on the mesolithic settlement of the North Sea Basin of Scotland, and on the Obanian of Argyll. Finally, there are two chapters on what might be termed Epimesolithic flint and stone industries contemporary with neolithic and even Bronze Age settlement.

In connection with the geological prolegomena a protest must be entered against Lacaille's assumption (pp. 51 and 72) that the Late-glacial subsidence, for which there is good evidence from the isostatically depressed parts of Northern Britain, also affected the southern parts of the island and caused a temporary separation from the continent : in reality, outside the immediate area of the ice-sheets the Late-glacial period was everywhere one of low sea-levels. Further, as Lacaille himself points out in his Preface (p. xviii), advances in the understanding of the mesolithic age in Britain, and indeed in north-western Europe, depend largely on ' the advance of palaeobotany and the wonderful technique of the pollen-analysis of peats ', methods of quaternary research which have as yet been very incompletely applied to Scotland. Much, therefore, of his dating of the cultural material is necessarily schematic, more especially as many of the flint industries which he discusses are surface finds.

Lacaille concludes that Scotland was not settled by man until well on in the Post-glacial period, when ' at the very end of the Boreal climatic phase ' the Early Larnian culture spread into the south-west from Northern Ireland. By early Atlantic times, he thinks, influences from the Baltic penetrated the Firth of Forth and later in the same period microlithic industries spread across the Tweed from north-east England. Lacaille believes the Obanian culture, distinctive of the Atlantic coastal regions of Scotland, to have developed from Late Larnian sources at the end of Atlantic times and to have persisted well into the Sub-boreal period, contemporaneously with neolithic farming cultures in other parts of the country. Indeed he produces evidence, none of it perhaps decisive in detail, but cumulatively impressive, to show that (in many sandy areas round the coasts) sundry groups of microlith-makers continued to practice their old hunter-fisher economy well into the Bronze Age.

Much of the material in Lacaille's book is already available in print—nearly half the illustrations have been reproduced direct, many from accessible books, but an appreciable amount of evidence has been recovered by the author, either in the field or from museums, and there are a number of original illustrations, including a useful series of ten maps showing the locations of sites mentioned in the text. If this book can hardly be acclaimed for any profound originality or insight, it enshrines much painstaking work, and the author has placed in his debt all who in future years seek to apply modern methods of research to the elucidation of the earliest chapters in the prehistory of Scotland. We may be grateful both to the author and to the authorities of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum for adding a handsome volume to the literature of British prehistory.

J. G. D. CLARK.

EXCAVATIONS AT UR ; A RECORD OF TWELVE YEARS WORK. By SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY. London : Benn, 1954. Price 25s.

Each year during the 1920s we read of the finds at Ur ; the Royal Cemetery, the earliest civilisations of Mesopotamia and the ' Flood '. The record of the earlier years of work was first published in *Ur of the Chaldees* in 1929. Since then the massive volumes of the official report continue to appear, for so long a period of excavation has furnished for Mesopotamia a most complete and important sequence of archaeological material.

Within the compass of one volume, Sir Leonard Woolley tells the fascinating story of his years of work, the planning and difficulties of the actual excavation, as well as the story of the site, which is in itself a miniature history of Southern Mesopotamia.

Ur was first excavated just one hundred years ago by the British Consul in Basrah for the British Museum; and on that occasion the inscription which revealed the name of the site was found. But it was not until 1918 that the Museum again sent a party under Dr. Campbell Thompson to make soundings. In 1922, Pennsylvania University Museum approached the British Museum with a view to undertaking a joint expedition. This was subsequently formed under the direction of Sir Leonard Woolley, who worked continuously until 1934.

The story of Ur begins with the settlement in the marshes where the fine painted pottery of Al Ubaid of the Late Stone Age (now known to be Chalcolithic) was found. Over this was a deposit of eight feet of Flood silt, which divided the early settlement from the burials in the Royal Cemetery of the early Dynastic period in the third millennium. The magnificent finds from the 'death pits', the lyre, the ram in the thicket and the jewelry of Queen Shubad are well known. Sir Leonard tells how the cemetery was found in the first season, but because the workmen were untrained and they themselves inexperienced, he waited for five years before uncovering the tombs. He gives us a human account of the difficulties of lifting the fragile objects, and of the occasional tragedies which inevitably occur. But he also recounts the highlights, such as the occasion on which a small inscribed limestone tablet was found; Dr. Gadd read it out and it proved to be the dedicatory inscription of A-Anni-padda, son of Mes-anni-padda king of Ur. The latter was known as the first king of the 1st Dynasty of Ur from the Sumerian king lists, until then a somewhat mythical dynasty which from that moment became an historical record.

Ur-Nammu, the founder of the third dynasty, made Ur a capital city, and to him are attributed the principal buildings of the ziggurat and terrace. The account of advanced architectural structure of this period, and the extensive drainage systems give an excellent picture of the building ability of these people.

The Third Dynasty city ended in destruction, *c.* 2016 B.C., but it was rebuilt by the Isin and Larsa overlords. A section of the city containing private houses was excavated, which gives a fascinating picture of the daily life. The narrow lanes, down which only donkeys could pass, wind in and around the town. The houses, of courtyard type with two storeys and very complete domestic offices are of very irregular plan, but of comfortable size. Shops, restaurants and grain dealers' stores are found in different streets, and small chapels and shrines stand at the street corners.

Destruction and reconstruction follow on and finally Nabonidus, son of Nebuchadnezzar, levelled the site and built a great temenos wall around the ziggurat. He also built a palace and special temple near the harbour for the high priestess; in the former was found the first collection of museum objects from the earlier periods together with their label on a cuneiform tablet.

In a short space one can only touch upon some of the points of interest. For this book is not only the story of a patient and skilful excavation of an exceptionally rich site; but the people, their daily life, their beliefs and their preparations for the next world are brought before us most vividly by Sir Leonard's master hand.

J. DU PLAT TAYLOR.

EXCAVATIONS AT STAR CARR: AN EARLY MESOLITHIC SITE AT SEAMER, NEAR SCARBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE. By J. G. D. CLARK. Cambridge: The University Press, 1954. Price £3 3s. 0d.

Star Carr lies five miles south-south-east of Scarborough, in the parish of Seamer. Traces of Mesolithic hunter-fishers were found here in 1947 by Mr. John Moore who himself excavated comparable sites in the parish of Flixton to the south of Seamer. These traces seemed to Professor Grahame Clark at first to represent a British facies of the culture first described at Maglemose near Mullerup on Zealand, but the excavations conducted there by him during the three years 1949-51 showed that the site represented a stage in the evolution of the Maglemosian—and a stage hitherto very little known. Star Carr, when excavated, provided a contribution to European prehistory as well as to our know-

ledge of the British Mesolithic. It was a settlement about 240 square yards in area, of a small community—perhaps only a few families—camping on a lake-edge on a platform which was no more than the stabilization of the reed-swamp surface bordering the lake through the throwing down of brushwood, stone and wads of clay. There were no consolidating piles, and no surviving traces of houses, but of course reed huts and skin tents could have been there and perished without trace. The settlement was dated by Dr. Godwin and Dr. Walker of the sub-Department of Quaternary Research, Cambridge, to Zone IV of the vegetational sequence, or to the end of the pre-Boreal stage in the Blytt-Sernander sequence. Samples of the birchwood from the platform were dated by radio-carbon analysis in Dr. Libby's laboratory at Chicago to 9488 B.P. plus/minus 350 years.

The Star Carr folk hunted Red Deer, Roe Deer, Elk, Ox and Pig. They cut birch stems and brushwood for making handles and paddles, and stored stripped birchwood bark in rolls. Mosses were collected, perhaps for bedding. Flint was knapped, and antler and bone worked on the site. It was a small, self-supporting community. Twenty-one examples of worked stag frontlets were found probably used mounted on their heads by the Star Carr hunters for magical purposes when hunting, or as head dresses during ritual fertility dances.

The excavations at Star Carr were directed by Professor Grahame Clark; the main work of excavation was carried out by students and research workers in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge. A leading rôle was also played by the University Sub-Department of Quaternary Research. The book itself, which is produced to the Cambridge University Press's usual standards of technical excellence, is the work of Professor Clark, with chapters by Drs. Walker and Godwin on the lake-stratigraphy, pollen-analysis, and vegetational history, and on the faunal remains by F. C. Fraser and J. E. King of the British Museum (Natural History), and an appendix on a Flixton Site by John Moore. The whole thing is a splendid example of the co-operation of archaeologists, botanists, quaternary geologists and zoologists; what the author calls 'the value of an inter-disciplinary approach from preliminary field-work to final publication'. The Star Carr discoveries are among the richest of their kind as regards actual finds; the results, from a factual and theoretical and methodological point of view are of the widest interest; and the whole work, from excavation to final publication is likely to be acclaimed as a classic example of how the total excavation of a site in the highest traditions of modern excavation can yield fascinating and unexpected facts about the prehistory of man.

GLYN E. DANIEL.

THE STANWICK FORTIFICATIONS, NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE By SIR MORTIMER WHEELER. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, No. XVII. Pp. viii, 63; 18 text-figures, 24 plates. Oxford University Press, for the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, 1954. Price 21s.

The grass-grown prodigy of rampart and ditch at Stanwick, enclosing some 860 acres of North Yorkshire in the fork of the Roman roads to Corbridge and Carlisle, was well suited to Sir Mortimer Wheeler's skill in the archaeology of military sites. It answered well also to the desire of the Ministry of Works, in 1951, to give money for excavation on a major site not due to be destroyed, but promising simply to yield important knowledge. For no major ancient site will to-day yield much important knowledge without more expense than here was possible, if it has been long and densely occupied within. One of the services rendered by Wheeler's Maiden Castle excavations of 1934-7, indeed, was to remind us that time sufficient for dissecting and explaining a military work, however big and complex, may not suffice for more than the sampling—methodically conducted—of a long and dense occupation in its interior. If therefore the Ministry was to get a site where knowledge certainly important would be won in two seasons only, aggregating eleven weeks, the importance had to lie elsewhere than in a load of material culture-history. At Stanwick, the primary importance plainly would be military. It was just the thing.

The place first won prominence in the 1840's, when, apparently in chariot-burials near it, was found much British military metalwork, which passed to the British Museum to await from E. T. Leeds—in his *Celtic Ornament* (Oxford, 1933), strangely here forgotten—a reasoned analysis and dating in the 1st century A.D. That dating now is shared by most of its defences. Their first survey by Henry Maclauchlan, in the 1840's also, left them awaiting an analysis likewise; and this Wheeler soon worked out, in a clear-cut four-phase sequence, by the disengaging of their inessential features. Of these we are given glimpses on Pls. II and XXIX, e.g. NE. of Stanwick Old Hall, but no word of how they showed—compare those in Prae Wood at Verulamium—that they were later than all of his four phases. However, the fourth phase is not here really relevant: the southerly enclosure then added to the works connects with the linear earthwork called the Scots Dike, running from Teesdale to Swaledale, and with it belongs probably to the Dark Ages. The prior three phases belong to an age of more glowing twilight, the eclipse of the prehistoric order in this part of Britain by the guile and force of Rome. Their archaeological indications, won after shrewd survey by excavation of high quality, were precise enough for matching with the historical reports of that eclipse by Tacitus. Only excellence in judgment and technique, met by good luck in finds, could give such a result; excellence there was, and luck in finds—though in places barely good enough—was after all just good enough to meet it. The excavator of Stanwick, like later Roman emperors but more veritably, has been *pius* and *felix* both.

The site's nucleus in Phase I, a 17-acre fort on its low central eminence, could be dated at least as early as the middle of the 1st century by the pottery, a little Samian and butt-beaker ware, traded from the south to its inhabitants. When in Phase II the fort was superseded by a ditched rampart some two miles in perimeter, further such pottery gives a date within the fifties, and the whole corresponds well with the history of that decade, when the Brigantes, natives of all this region, were split between their queen Cartimandua, ruling in the Roman interest near the Roman frontier then steadied on the Humber, and their patriot king Venutius, based necessarily farther north; he, probably, was responsible for this fortification, strategically placed for the opposing of southern forces. Finally, its enlargement over another 600 acres, fortified as before by a stone-fronted earth rampart and ditch often cut down into the limestone, could be seen from the state of the main entrance-works, with causeway cut across for impromptu defence before their finishing, to be a work of urgent large-scale endeavour, interrupted by an unloitering assailant. The assailant's victory—for the only further event recordable is the slighting of part of the previous rampart—together with the work's extent, bespeaking a whole people with its beasts under threat of siege, must justify the excavator in claiming here Venutius' chief citadel, falling at last before the Roman general who did most to crush Brigantian resistance, Petillius Cerialis, in command from 71 to 74.

In its varied but well-compacted features, the Report shows all the quality we expected: the strong and sensitive drawings, Mr. Cookson's splendid photographs, the firm dividing of the text into introductory, descriptive and inferential sections, and the clear figuring and thorough cataloguing of the finds. Among these, the sword and scabbard found in the moist clay silt of the ditch beside the chief Phase II entrance are outstanding; Dr. Plenderleith contributes the perfect report on their conservation at the British Museum, and Professor Piggott a just estimation of their archaeological significance. Near by was found a fatally-wounded human skull, reported on by Dr. W. C. Osman Hill, and also, astonishingly, a puff-ball, which figures agreeably among the finds of botanical and biological interest. And it must not be thought that the site's military archaeology has at all ousted the material-cultural from attention. The sampling of occupation-areas in the Phase I fort proved most valuable; and the native Brigantian culture, primarily pastoral and half-nomadic, and using a coarse pottery of interesting prehistoric antecedents, is commented on in a way that will give future research into our little-known northern field of Iron Age culture-history a welcome and well-dated corner-stone. Finally, the appendix by Professor Richmond on Brigantian geography should not be missed. Many hands and eyes and minds have worked together to accomplish both the excavation

and its publishing. They have worked as a team, of which their leader and inspirer can be proud. The volume that he and they have made is beautifully produced by the Oxford Press, and is slim and companionable to the reader. It should have many readers, for of an excavation of this particular type it is a good and well-wrought record, which will long be valued, and long admired.

C. F. C. HAWKES.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SUSSEX. By E. CECIL CURWEN. Second edition, revised, 1954. Pp. xx-330. Pls. 32, figs. 94. Methuen. Price 25s.

The virtues of the 1937 edition of Dr. Curwen's book are so widely appreciated that to enlarge upon them here would be merely to echo what has already been said so often and so well. Indeed, the publication of a new edition, in spite of the fact that the County Archaeologies series as such has been discontinued, speaks for itself.

The book reappears in a pleasing new format, with slightly larger pages, and has been entirely reset. The length of the text is approximately the same, but several new figures have been added and one new plate. All the chapters have been revised as necessary to conform with advances in archaeological knowledge in general and to incorporate the results of excavation in Sussex since 1937. National Grid references have been inserted for all important sites.

Chapters I to VI remain basically unchanged; it was not possible to delete the original account of the Piltdown story in Chapter III, but it was brought up-to-date while the text was in the press. The end of Chapter VII, 'The Coming of Bronze', has been considerably revised and part of the material now appears in Chapter VIII, 'Farmers and Bronze Founders'. This chapter contains much fresh material, with the addition of four new Late Bronze Age settlements and a hut site proved by excavation, plus a probable fifth settlement. Professor Hawkes' current subdivisions of the Late Bronze Age are used for dating the sites and in the discussion of bronzes.

Chapter IX now becomes simply 'The Iron Age' and has also been largely rewritten. Useful additions are the chronological chart (fig. 70), ingeniously indicating the periods of occupation of settlements and dates at which fortifications were built, and the distribution map (fig. 71) of the principal fortifications, settlements and iron workings. The 1937 Chapter X, 'The Development of Pottery: 1000 B.C.-A.D. 50' has wisely been suppressed as too technical to interest the general reader, and the essence of its contents has been distributed in the relevant Bronze Age and Iron Age chapters. In the present Chapter X, 'Roman Sussex', earlier conclusions about the passive acceptance of the Roman conquest, now known to have been erroneous as far as the Caburn at least was concerned, have been corrected. New information about the history of Chichester, Roman roads, iron mines and bloomery furnaces, and, finally, about the results of Saxon raids, are welcome additions.

On a few minor points Dr. Curwen has not quite succeeded in bringing his text up to date: i.e. the retention of the term 'Chellean' for the now generally accepted 'Abbevillian'; the references to the 'Campigny culture', so disreputable nowadays in this country; the statements that the practice of cremation did not begin before the latter part of the Early Bronze Age and that beakers were the first vessels to have flat bases are at least arguable, whatever one means by 'Early Bronze Age' and wherever one chooses to place the first appearance of beakers. The omission of the Atlantic climatic phase from the chronological chart in fig. 1 is presumably a printer's error.

But these are mere quibblings, overshadowed by the author's achievement in providing a most admirably adequate, yet succinctly outlined, framework of general archaeological information to which to relate his detailed local study.

I. F. SMITH.

ROME BEYOND THE IMPERIAL FRONTIERS. By SIR MORTIMER WHEELER. 8½ x 5½. Pp. xii-192. 38 plates and 19 text-figures. London : Bell & Sons, 1954. Price 25s.

'Roman adventuring beyond the outermost boundaries of the Roman Empire' is a theme after our former President's own heart, for the word 'adventure', as he has often told us, provides a key to his own life, and indicates the pioneer nature of his own outstanding contribution to archaeology.

He himself over-modestly describes the book as a 'little' one. This it is only in the mere physical sense of the word, for seldom has so much matter been packed into less than two hundred pages. Its subject has been in his mind ever since that day in 1945 when his Indian students recovered a mass of Arretine ware from the site of a Roman trading station at Arikamedu on the Bay of Bengal. That notable discovery cast a flood of light on the previously dark places of Indian archaeology. Its brilliance lay not only in the excavation itself, familiar to us since its definitive publication in *Ancient India* more than eight years ago, but in the steps that led him to the site.

The present volume falls into three parts, dealing with Europe, Africa and Asia. The first, which deals in the main with the significance of Roman discoveries in Germany outside the Empire, presents most difficulty to the general reader, for even a selective treatment of the great mass of material still leaves him to cope with a great number of unfamiliar names. This section leans heavily on the monumental work of Dr. H. J. Eggers (*Der römische Import im freien Germanien*, 1951), published while this book was in preparation, and the many distribution maps based on those of Eggers give welcome assistance to the reader in threading the labyrinth. The unhappy state of Europe has greatly slowed down the progress of discovery, and the present volume is likely to remain for some time the most convenient summary and interpretation of the archaeological material.

The African section, which is much the shortest, serves, by contrast, to emphasize not only the very sketchy nature of our knowledge, but how recent much of it is. Our picture of the North African provinces owes much to the post-war researches of Barradez, Ward Perkins and Goodchild, and only in 1954 were adequate maps available. In East Africa, for which only two and a half pages suffice, the field remains almost virgin: the author has elsewhere recently urged younger adventurers to enter it.

The section on Asia is the most illuminating part of the book. Scholars like the late M. P. Charlesworth, W. W. Tarn, and E. H. Warmington have dealt with the literary evidence, but the author here writes with the unrivalled knowledge of one who has seen and handled the archaeological material, and himself followed in the footsteps of the Roman adventurers. The result is a study both brilliant and stimulating. As one who first introduced modern scientific archaeological technique in India, has dug at Taxila, handled the Begram hoard, and written the most recent essay on the Indus Civilization, the author can speak with freshness and authority on such a theme as the influence of Rome on Buddhist art.

In a final retrospect an estimate is offered of the value of the evidence as a whole. It can be seen that the need for five commodities essential to the Imperial way of life occasioned the trade that spread Roman culture and influence far beyond the confines of the Empire. Amber from the Baltic, ivory from tropical Africa, frankincense from Southern Arabia, pepper from India and silk from China determined the routes and markets into which flowed the pearls, precious stones, tortoiseshell, muslin, skins and spices that made up the cargoes of the Roman traders.

The book is well printed and pleasant to handle, and abundantly illustrated by maps and plates. Some of the photographs of Arikamedu, which have been seen more than once before, seem to have acquired rather a twilight quality.

It may perhaps be said that the attempt to serve the needs of the general reader at the same time as those of the serious student of the Roman world has led to some regrettable omissions. Footnotes are few, and the bibliography is perhaps too selective, but the book is, and will for long remain, the most convenient introduction to its subject,

and its style is so lively and readable that the student will be led easily to the original sources which it treats in so masterly a fashion.

At a time when most men would be content to rest upon their laurels—and what laurels they are!—the author is conquering new fields and still digging. We can only continue to admire and cheer him on to further adventures.

PHILIP CORDER

THE ROMAN FRONTIER IN WALES. By V. E. NASH-WILLIAMS. 9½ x 6. Pp. xviii-162. Pls. 42. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1954. Price 30s.

An up-to-date study of Roman Wales has long been needed. Dr. Nash-Williams has now supplied this need in a volume that is comprehensive, lucidly written and packed with useful information. It is illustrated with numerous plates and abundantly furnished with plans and drawings of outstanding quality from the author's own pen. All this is offered at a price that is within the means of all students of Roman Britain.

The book opens with a chapter on the invasion, followed by a useful estimate in tabular form of the establishment strength of the permanent garrison. Thereafter each fort is systematically and succinctly described and illustrated by a series of maps from the Ordnance Survey, and by plans, wherever these have been recovered by excavation. The gaps in our knowledge are thus plain for all to see. Siting and planning of the forts are then separately dealt with and their individual variations illustrated by comparative plans drawn to a uniform scale. Their gates, principia, praetoria, barracks, granaries and bath buildings are then studied by the same comparative method in excellent drawings, the usefulness of which it is impossible to exaggerate. Each section is accompanied by tables of dimensions and brief factual descriptions. The book concludes with two important appendixes, on the early documentary authorities relating to Wales, and on the Welsh milestones by Mr. R. P. Wright. A folding map of Wales, showing roads, forts and other sites, overprinted in red on a base showing physical features on which are also marked native hill-forts, is not only a boon to the reader of this book, but constitutes a challenge to all Welsh field archaeologists. Roman Wales is now literally put on the map.

Enough has been said to indicate how compendious the book is: it will take its place at once as a work of reference, for no other book on Roman Wales contains a tithe of the information here gathered together. But nevertheless it leaves the reader with an appetite only partly satisfied. Admittedly the mountainous nature of the terrain offers special difficulties to the field-worker, but the Welsh road system has still too many gaps, and the nature of too many of the sites remains dark or imperfectly explored. Dr. Nash-Williams has thrown down a challenge to Welsh archaeologists to put their house in order, for the very thoroughness of his description of what is known serves to emphasize the extent of the unknown. In comparison the English frontier zone is a familiar pattern. But where, it may be asked, is the author who will give us a comparable book on the Roman Frontier in England? Dr. Nash-Williams has at least brought his problems into the open.

The forty-two plates are mostly of first-class quality and greatly enhance the value of the book. It is good to find among them recent air-photographs of Clyro, Tomen-y-Mur, Pennal, Forden Gaer and Cae Gaer by Dr. St. Joseph. In contrast that of Caerleon must be one of the earliest air-photographs taken in Wales, for it shows the amphitheatre only half dug. It is a pleasure to see again Alan Sorrell's reconstruction of the fortress and its surroundings; in the next edition his imaginary picture of the civil settlement may be set against the plan now being recovered by Dr. Nash-Williams from his own excavation. Only one criticism is to be offered. Photographs of sherds are indispensable when texture and ornament are to be shown, as in those of the products of the legionary kilns at Holt (Pl. VIII), but, by contrast, those of mere sherds from Cardiff (Pls. XXXIII B, XXXVI B) are completely unrewarding, while even collections of whole pots (Pls. IV, V) are more appropriate in a popular book than in a learned study of this kind.

The book has been beautifully produced by the Oxford University Press. The Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales, the National Museum of Wales and the British Academy have earned the gratitude of all students of Roman Britain for the grants that made it possible for the distinguished author thus to bring many years of work to fruition.

PHILIP CORDER

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL. By W. F. ALBRIGHT. Baltimore : The John Hopkins Press, 1953. London : Geoffrey Cumberlege. Price 28s.

This slender volume, first appearing in 1942, now republished with additional notes for the third time, marks an epoch in the history of Biblical scholarship. It combines breadth of vision, respect for facts, and a view which is reverent without being dogmatic. It shows vividly the universalist element in Israel, set against its polytheistic or henotheistic background. Professor Albright's appraisal of the Temple prototype in Jerusalem and its relationship with early Greek forms is convincing, but still leaves open the question of their common source, probably Phoenician. So is also his detailed discussion of this building's fittings, especially the columns 'Jachin' and 'Boaz', interpreted as gigantic cressets or fire-altars, following Robertson Smith. Another interesting point is the description of the altar of burnt offering in three square stages, reminiscent of the ziggurat, literally mountain-peak.

The careful weighing of evidence and the scrupulous discussion of diverging views is characteristic of a scholar, who, even if minor points of disagreement arise, cannot fail to command respectful attention. It needs no saying that Albright's 'Archaeology' has to be studied in conjunction with his 'From the Stone Age to Christianity', which deals with kindred aspects of the subject.

It is unfortunate that a book which benefits the non-specialist as well as the scholar is published without illustrations, since some of the objects discussed are not readily accessible in reproduction and demand detailed comparison with each other and their prototypes outside Palestine. This criticism naturally applies less to the philological interpretations of texts. Here a comprehensive survey of the written evidence is found with regard to various languages. In many cases new readings are introduced, which clarify and support Professor Albright's main conclusions.

H. ROSENAU.

EARLY CHRISTIAN IVORIES. By JOSEPH NATANSON. Alec Tiranti Ltd., 1953. Price 7s. 6d.

This little book on late antique and early Christian ivories should be welcomed because it brings before a general public at a moderate price the type of artefact which is usually confined to the specialist. Hitherto, these ivories have tended to be restricted either to the expensive, monumental publication, typified by Delbrück's great work on the consular diptychs, or to the researches, less grandiosely placed before the world, of a Loos-Dietz or a Volbach, whose findings may only be satisfactorily sifted by a student fully equipped with an art-historical discipline and a thorough knowledge of the problems of late antique artistic manifestation.

The period is generally considered to be the most complex and baffling of all those within the modern era, and it is clear that the author is none too comfortably placed within the tangles of style which beset the student when contemplating most of the ivories under review. Yet, to write a short essay on the ivories of the late antique and early Christian period might well daunt any scholar, since almost every generalisation must be hedged with provisoes, and almost every group of ivories set up as a hypothesis is in danger of breaking up under the conflicting processes, so often tenuously subjective, brought to bear upon the construction of a stylistic methodology. We are still fairly remote from a set of general principles within which specific details of late antique and early medieval art may be assessed : the workshops of artistic production are far from being defined or firmly situated,

the graph of style fluctuates with every decade of scholarship; it is possible, for example, to see within such a space of time the Grado panels switched from the 6th to the 11th century, and to see the Joshua Roll, the Paris Psalter, and the frescoes of Castelseprio waver in the minds of scholars between the 7th and the 10th centuries.

By confining himself to the period ranging between the 4th and the 6th centuries the author has avoided some of the pitfalls, but his apparent acceptance of the false division between 'Alexandrian' and 'Neo-Attic' styles advocated by Morey—which leads him to make meaningless statements like 'the transcendental character of Christian teaching was more easily expressed in Neo-Attic representation . . . '—or by his assumption that the animals depicted on the Bargello diptych of Adam and St. Paul are displayed 'in imitation of some oriental textile pattern' show the danger, on different levels, of a too simpliste approach to even a limited period.

On the other hand, in spite of the thinness of the commentary and the occasionally dubious aesthetic judgment, exemplified by his remarks on the diptych of the Symmachi in the Victoria and Albert Museum, or the diptych of Probus at Aosta, or that of the Archangel in the British Museum, the author is to be congratulated on putting together an agreeable anthology of late antique and early Christian ivories, which should be received by a wider public than that usually attained by more specialised studies. For, after all, if students may be attracted by this little book to plunge more deeply into the sea of late antique and early medieval art, Mr. Natanson will already have accomplished more than a little.

J. BECKWITH.

THE VIKING CONGRESS: LERWICK, JULY, 1950. Ed. W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON. Pp. 294. 28 ills. Oliver & Boyd, 1954. Aberdeen University Studies, No. 132. Price 30s.

The First Viking Congress gathered in Lerwick in 1950 scholars from Britain and Shetland, Scandinavia and Iceland, for an inspiring fortnight in which the history, language, folk-lore and archaeology of Shetland were reviewed on the spot, and their wider connections considered. The published volume of papers now edited by Dr. Douglas Simpson, who was one of the organisers of the Congress on behalf of the University of Aberdeen, is a varied and interesting miscellany.

Some of the archaeological papers are notes, chiefly summarising fuller publications; of these may be mentioned C. S. T. Calder's Neolithic Temple at Standydale, W. Douglas Simpson's Castles of Shetland, and Ragnar Knudsen's Viking Military Organisation and the Danish Trælleborgs. One longer paper by Dr. Simpson, though starting from a structural analysis of the Broch of Clickhimin which has since been re-excavated, is a valuable discussion of the brochs that strongly advocates their northern (as opposed to western) origin, and their purpose as the castles of a conquering aristocracy. The late B. H. St. J. O'Neil in another contribution takes the opposite view, that brochs were the response of the local inhabitants to Roman slave raiders, a suggestion made 25 years ago by J. H. Craw in a lecture unfortunately lost. When reading these two papers it should be borne in mind that recent work, notably by J. R. C. Hamilton, shows that much of what has been treated as part of the broch-culture is really post-broch, and renders doubtful any connection with the Glastonbury culture; the links are rather with Iron Age 'A'. Rare scraps of Samian are, moreover, fallible guides to dating.

R. B. K. STEVENSON.

THE LOST VILLAGES OF ENGLAND. By MAURICE BERESFORD. Pp. 445. 16 plates and 15 figs. London: Lutterworth Press, 1954. Price 45s.

This book should have had a predecessor long before 1954 for its subject has been strangely neglected. The deserted village site as a fairly common feature of the countryside was made clear to me twenty-five years ago in Lincolnshire while following up the local work of Canon C. W. Foster in dealing with the more conventional field archaeology of that county. Mr. Beresford has now taken up the subject of rural depopulation in

a scholarly and eminently readable book ; one, furthermore, which, while soundly based on documentary sources, pursues the subject right out into the field, and also, for that matter, into the air. Without the aid of air-photography his quest would have been much more difficult and his book would have lacked many cogent illustrations. The 'dose of boots' recommended by Professor R. H. Tawney to the writers of local history has here been taken without reserve in most parts of the country. The writer has seen for himself.

Mr. Beresford deals faithfully with the eminent economic historians who have often so consistently belittled the physical facts of depopulation, and has fully confirmed the credibility of John Rous' account of Warwickshire depopulations by comparing it with the facts still observable on the ground to-day.

The historical processes giving rise to village desertion are traced from the early medieval removals of secular neighbours by Cistercian monks through the troubles of the 14th century and the great depopulations of the 15th and 16th centuries down to the rural rehousing practised by the great landowners of the 18th century. Government counter measures are examined in detail and clear maps show the extent of the damage county by county.

A chapter describing in detail the methods employed in searching for the lost village is particularly valuable ; among others they include the examination of maps and air-photographs, the study of older county historians, subsidy lists, poll-tax receipts, walking over the sites, etcetera ; so that, by one line of attack or another, or by a combination of many, a successful identification is achieved. The book concludes with a valuable list of known sites county by county which gives a brief description of each and National Grid references.

The lost villages of England can no longer be ignored, and through the activities of the Deserted Medieval Villages group we may hope for light in places which have remained dark too long.

The book has a well-designed dust jacket.

C. W. PHILLIPS.

MONMOUTHSHIRE HOUSES, PART III, RENAISSANCE. By SIR CYRIL Fox and LORD RAGLAN. National Museum of Wales, 1954. Pp. 178. 31 plates. Price 21s.

With Part III of *Monmouthshire Houses* we see the completion of the first comprehensive study of vernacular or traditional building in any English county. Part I, published in 1951, covered the medieval period from c. 1415 to 1560 ; Part II, published two years later, the sub-medieval period from c. 1550 to 1610. Part III is sub-titled Renaissance Houses and covers the period c. 1590 to 1714, there being an overlap of about twenty years between this and the preceding phase. As in the earlier volumes, there are lavish illustrations in the form of photographs, text drawings (elevations, plans, and structural details), and maps. It is superfluous to praise this important study, which has already established itself as a model of research and presentation in a comparatively new field.

If one has any regrets it is that the chosen county, by reason of its convenience for the two distinguished authors, should lie so near to Wales and be so much influenced by it. One would have welcomed even more warmly a study of a purely English county, with a more typically native vernacular, while recognizing, such is the great variety of regional building, that no county would have been typical of more than its own immediate setting. One need hardly say that the sooner we make comparable surveys of half a dozen other English counties the better they will be, for the rate of destruction or of substantial structural change is now so great that we are losing irreplaceable evidence every year, even possibly rare types of houses. The authors of *Monmouthshire Houses* observe that such is the rate of change in the countryside that houses which were first noted and described in the 1940's had been modernised, sometimes beyond recognition, when revisited for the checking of details. Thanks to the general prosperity of English agriculture, there is now a widespread movement for the restoration (or obliteration) of our traditional peasant building which is strictly comparable with the almost universal restoration of

churches in the 19th century, with the consequent destruction of historical evidence with which we are all familiar. Most urgent of all is the necessity to study urban houses built before 1750, which we take for granted as show-pieces where they survive but about which we know almost nothing so far as their internal plan and structure are concerned.

It is impossible in a short notice to comment upon the multiplicity of fascinating detail with which the authors illustrate the development of the modified Renaissance style in their Monmouthshire houses, but an economic historian may perhaps be allowed to make one or two points. One is gratified to see that the archaeological evidence of a widespread rebuilding in the period 1560-1642 agrees so completely with the historical evidence drawn largely from other sources. It is interesting, too, to note that the use of brick for vernacular building from about 1690 agrees so closely with what one observes in counties so far apart as Devon and Leicestershire; and that the archaeological evidence for the use of glass in farmhouse windows appears to coincide with that revealed in the household inventories. There are indeed many points where the archaeologist and the historian could fruitfully work together and pool their different resources in studies such as this, and it is to be hoped that some day we shall see the results of such a partnership.

The authors conclude with a provoking discussion of the end of the Regional Style, which they are inclined to put in the early years of the 18th century, with the opening of the region to external influences from Bristol, and even from London. My own observation of East Midland vernacular building in the 18th century does not agree with this conclusion. I should be inclined to put the obliteration of the Regional Style at not much before 1800; but until we have a number of regional studies as expert as this one on Monmouthshire Houses we cannot begin to argue profitably.

W. G. HOSKINS.

ENGLISH MEDIEVAL CASTLES By R. ALLEN BROWN. Pp. 208; 101 illustrations and plans. B. T. Batsford, Ltd, 1954. Price 16s.

This is not an important book, in the sense that Hamilton Thompson's *Military Architecture in England* and Mrs. Armitage's *Early Norman Castles* are important books. But it is the most thoughtful and scholarly study of English Castles that has been written since those two epoch-making works appeared, within a few months of each other, some forty years ago. Dr. Brown is a trained historian, familiar with record and chronicle sources alike, who all the time interprets his buildings within the control afforded by their evidence. It is, indeed, the author's first-hand knowledge and sure use of original documentary material which sets this volume apart not only from its predecessor in the British Heritage Series but also from other recent ventures in the same field. The result is that, while his account is essentially a popular one, it will none the less be read with pleasure and profit by the specialist.

Dr. Brown approaches his subject from three angles. First there are four chronological chapters, Early Norman Castles (1050-1150), Early Stone Castles (1150-1250), The Perfected Castle (1250-1350), and The Decline of the Castle (1350-1550), providing together a well-balanced and unusually readable summary of the material; one is especially conscious of the author's skill in working into his narrative, with all its inevitable diversity of example, the same thread of continuity as runs through the development of so many of the examples cited. Next, in a chapter on Castle-building, a number of building works for which written evidence survives are capably used 'to take us behind the scenes of medieval military architecture, and do something towards answering the questions of how much the castle cost, how long it took to build, what amount and sort of labour it employed, and who were the master craftsmen who planned and directed its construction'. There follow three vividly-written chapters on The Castle in War, The Castle in Peace and The Castle in General, in which the author allows a reflective mind to ponder over the castle as a major phenomenon in the life of medieval England.

In the matter of illustration the publishers' high standard is well maintained, only two of the half-tones (21, 88) falling short, in the reviewer's opinion, of the quality to which

their subjects are entitled. The pairing of some of the plates (e.g. 27-28, 57-58, 95-96) is particularly effective; in one case, indeed, (97-98), it gives most graphic expression to the unique duality of our building and documentary inheritance. The ground-plans are less uniformly good, and one may hope to see more up-to-date versions of Nos. 38, 42 and 44 substituted in a later edition. The technical production of the book is excellent and there appear to be only two minor misprints for future correction (p. 74, l. 7, for 1293 read 1283; p. 128, l. 28, for 'least' read 'lest'). Author and publishers alike are to be congratulated on a notable addition to the literature (and Dr. Brown's felicity of phrase allows the word to be used advisedly) of the English medieval castle.

A. J. TAYLOR.

DUNDARG CASTLE. By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON. Pp. xii+95; 8 text figures and 25 half-tone plates. Oliver and Boyd, 1954. Price 18s.

Dundarg is a promontory on the southern coast of the Moray Firth, defended by a triple system of banks and ditches and occupied by the somewhat scanty remains of a 14th-century rebuilding of a 13th-century castle of the Comyns. It is believed that it may also be the site of the *cathair* of Aberdour which, according to a much-debated 12th-century insertion in the Book of Deer, was given by the 6th-century ruler of Buchan to St. Drostan. The work under review is mainly the record of excavations carried out here in 1950-1 with a view to finding concrete evidence of early Christian settlement and to ascertaining the age of the various elements in the landward defences. Both investigations, the former conducted independently by Dr. Simpson, the latter by Dr. F. T. Wainwright (who reports separately on his part of the undertaking), were inconclusive. The only remains to be fully examined within the supposed site of the Celtic monastery on the promontory proper (the inner ward of the medieval castle) were the foundations of a small structure, the size (20 ft. x 11 ft.), orientation and opposite door openings of which suggest its use as a chapel. Unfortunately the entire absence of dating evidence cannot at present allow it more than a hypothetical association with the age of the saints, though the hypothesis is one for which Dr. Simpson argues strongly. Owing to a combination of restricting circumstances Dr. Wainwright's examination of the outer banks and ditches could also only be conducted on a limited scale, and here again dating evidence was conspicuous by its absence. While it seems fairly certain that the innermost ditch originated with the medieval castle, and that the remaining double rampart-and-ditch antedated it structurally, such trenching as could be carried out failed to establish the age of the outer system. Unstratified finds made at the time of earlier excavations in 1911-12, and here fully inventoried for the first time by Dr. Simpson, do, however, point to prehistoric occupation; and, while Dr. Wainwright very properly declines 'to erect a structure of interpretation not formally permissible from evidence acquired', it is reasonable to infer from these finds that the bivallate defence is that of an Iron Age promontory fort. Nevertheless, the verdict of a Scottish jury on this as well as on the other main count of the Dundarg case would have to be one of 'Not proven'. This being so, it is to be hoped that both the authors may yet have an opportunity of returning to the site and being rewarded by the evidence which has hitherto eluded them.

A. J. TAYLOR.

'ENGLISH STAINED AND PAINTED GLASS.' By CHRISTOPHER WOODFORDE. 9½ x 6. Pp. xviii-83. Pls. 80. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press, 1954. Price 30s.

It is highly gratifying to read these words in Dr. Woodforde's preface:

'It would be as foolish to say that all English stained glass produced before the year 1500 is good as to say that all English stained glass produced after the year 1800 is bad. It is equally foolish to believe that a window made during the reign of Queen Victoria is not worth looking at because it was not made in the reign of King Edward I. A window may be odious; but it must be intrinsically odious, not odious by comparison.'

For a long and close familiarity with stained glass necessarily leads to the conclusion that the 'orthodox' window is nothing but a clever invention of 19th century historians

and aesthetes. Critics seldom agree about the date when decadency set in, and whenever a window of the late middle ages pleases them, they manage to pronounce it 'two-dimensional'.

Dr. Woodforde has already served our studies greatly by devoting whole chapters of his books on *Stained Glass in Somerset* and on the *Stained Glass of New College, Oxford*, to the 17th and 18th centuries. In the present work, he carries the record down to 1952. Dr. Woodforde is the more justified in giving up half his book to a hitherto neglected period because England certainly played a leading part in the history of glass painting during the last two centuries. In the 18th century it was the only country in which the art was widely practised (as Mr. J. A. Knowles has shown) and generally enjoyed. Connoisseurs were already collecting masterpieces for which the Continent had nothing but contempt. The French Revolution and its conquests enabled them to hoard up treasures the amount and quality of which have not yet been accurately appraised.

To English glass-painters, the restoration and adjustment of all that old glass opened, so to speak, a wonderful school for style and technique, as can be realized if we compare the production of a William Peckitt with that of a Thomas Willement. On the other hand, the joint endeavours of Charles Winston and Messrs. Powell, of J. R. Clayton and W. E. Chance to obtain better glass profited all Europe. Likewise the action of William Morris originated a widespread movement which in many countries gave birth to modern glass painting or promoted its rise.

While rehabilitating windows of late date, does Dr. Woodforde evince sufficient interest in early ones? As a matter of fact, he does not trouble much about the remote beginnings of the art of glass painting, not even about its first steps in England. He is ready to admit that the incomplete panel in York Minster showing a king from a *Tree of Jesse* is 'the earliest glass that *could* have been produced in England'.

He states that it is 'more or less contemporary' with the windows of the same subject at St. Denis and at Chartres, and that 'it was not painted, as was once supposed, for the choir built by Archbishop Roger between 1151 and 1181, but for Thomas of Bayeux's church, which was pulled down in 1154'.

Now a good tracing published by Westlake shows that, while the tree with its magnificent leaves resembles Chartres and St. Denis very closely indeed, there are notable differences between the figures. At York, the arms are almost horizontal and the cloak is not fastened by a clasp on the breast but draped, with a flap-end thrown over the left shoulder. The folds of the garments and the features of the face are much less archaic than at Chartres and St. Denis. As we find similar characteristics in a tracing of the Blessed Virgin Mary from a *Tree of Jesse* formerly in Canterbury cathedral,¹ it may be safely asserted that the two English specimens, though derived from the well-known French models, were only painted in the last years of the 12th century (Mr. Rackham's date for the Canterbury fragment). Another panel at York, the medallion with *Habakkuk visiting Daniel*, now in the central light of the Five Sisters window, is very probably somewhat earlier.

The author finds it hard to decide whether a 13th century window 'could have been imported from France or painted by Frenchmen who had come to England to execute this and other commissions or painted by Englishmen using French designs and perhaps trained by French glass painters'. It is certainly very difficult in most cases and Dr. Woodforde's wisdom ought perhaps to be praised: so many books on art have been disgraced by the preposterous claims of chauvinism, jingoism and other aberrations. Yet I think it would be a worthy task for an English expert to try to discern in the early windows of his country such 'national' traits as are met with in illuminations, wall-paintings and sculptures. But Dr. Woodforde hardly finds anything but 'tentative beginnings and crude drawings' before the 14th century.

We are quite prepared to share the author's partiality for that century, which may indeed be considered as the *grand siècle* of English glass painting. But why does he pretend

¹ B. RACKHAM, *The Ancient Glass of Canterbury Cathedral*, plate B and page 116.

to ignore French influences during that period? The connection between French and English windows of the first half of the century is so close that Westlake suggested that they came from one centre only, supposed to be Rouen. His theory is, of course, absurd, and it is belied by the fact that even the windows which most resemble those of France—in the nave of York Minster for example—show typically English heads.

Generally speaking, Dr. Woodforde has no wish to connect the evolution of English glass with the main streams of the history of Art. No doubt he will revise his position in the 'larger more detailed work' he promises to give us soon. He will also bestow more attention upon the history of the technique, which can often shed useful light on the chronology of stained glass. It is by no means unimportant to ascertain when the silver stain,¹ the pigments derived from the red chalk and the enamel colours were added to the traditional means of the craft. Moreover, it will be necessary to expose with greater precision the features of the various 'schools', even if such characteristics are 'easier to observe than to define', as the author candidly admits.

As it stands, the general survey here given by Dr. Woodforde is a most welcome addition to the literature of English glass. This elegant volume is full of interesting and valuable information, mainly of historical and iconographical character, and reveals a unique knowledge of the places where windows ancient and modern can be studied.

The eighty plates are good and mostly well chosen. Plate 21 should be explained: the beautiful head of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Winchester College is seen from both sides, the outer face showing finishing touches of grisaille, the gloss of silver stain and the patina produced by the decay of the glass.

JEAN LAFOND.

A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTS 1660-1840. By H. M. COLVIN. Pp. xiv-821. John Murray, 1954. Price 70s.

The architect 'may throw his whole energy into the work on which he happens to be employed, or he may satisfy himself and his employers by occasional visits. He may bring all his inventive power and skill to bear upon his design, or he may simply hand over a slight sketch to be worked out entirely by his assistants. In short, he may make an art of his calling, or he may make it a mere business; and in proportion as he inclines to one or the other of these two extremes, he will generally achieve present profit or posthumous renown'.² But in spite of Eastlake's improving innuendo, Fortune has continued to scatter her gifts indiscriminately, perhaps indeed with broadening smile. Happily, the Biographical Dictionary suffers neither from the prejudice of the Victorian moralist nor from pagan caprice; in intention and, judging by the range of references, very nearly in truth, it includes all the architects, of profit and renown, working between 1660 and 1840. During much of the period the definition of the term 'architect' was vague, and Mr. Colvin, in determining to make his work comprehensive, has included some men usually considered solely contractors, surveyors, tradesmen, and clerks; but so far from these entries being superfluous, they effectively demonstrate the total building process.

The names are arranged alphabetically; each entry begins with a short biography, naming the architect's principal buildings in a brief commentary, continues with a list of references and known portraits, and concludes with a list of works under the headings, 'Public Buildings', 'Churches', 'Houses' etc., with their extent and dates. Two short introductory chapters are devoted to the building trades and the architectural profession;

¹ At present the earliest specimen of the use of silver stain with a stated date is to be seen in the small country church of Le Mesnil-Villeman, not very far from Mont-Saint-Michel. A contemporary inscription shows that it was given in 1313. Of course silver stain was invented somewhat earlier, *circa* 1310, as I think. The window at Le Mesnil-Villeman was probably

painted at Rouen, where the artists appear to have been in close touch with the leading painters of Paris. Cf. *Bulletin de la Société Nationale des Antiquaires de France, séance du 8 décembre 1954*.

² C. L. Eastlake, *A History of the Gothic Revival* (1872).

an appendix lists the public offices held by architects. The text is so arranged, in a consistently systematic way, that reference is quick and easy.

The Dictionary is a very substantial addition to accurate knowledge of our architects and buildings of the period. It possesses a further attribute, which, since it is unlikely to be in the bookseller's puff, should be noticed here. The processes of research, that is, the references to published and unpublished sources, documentary, topographical and the rest, are set forth in detail and form perhaps the most complete bibliography of the subject published hitherto. Thus the work is two books in one, and both indispensable to the architectural historian. The bibliographical side reveals one omission that, understandable though it is, may prove a serious one. Local newspapers do yield much information for the later 18th and 19th centuries, particularly in regard to the larger provincial towns, yet references to them are sparse. Admittedly the task of combing them is perhaps more than a lifetime's work, and Mr. Colvin's decision to publish now, at the risk of incompleteness, and thus make his information immediately available, disarms criticism.

The architects and buildings first urgently sought by the reader are perhaps his own emotional affair; but a second more leisurely scrutiny suggests the following random comments. To the designs of James Wyatt may be added the scheme of 1795 for completing King's College, Cambridge, in the Gothic style, a scheme notable for the ponderous proposal to balance the Chapel with a Hall approaching the same scale. There were few half measures about Wyatt, and it may be shown that his rebuilding at Hereford Cathedral was much more drastic than is indicated in Mr. Colvin's biography of him. The list of John Cruden's works could include Belfield, Weymouth, a building as elegant and accomplished as his Boodle's Club. Charles Humfrey submitted a scheme for remodelling Sidney Sussex College in manorial Tudor, before Wyatville was commissioned, and to the contracts with Christopher Cass and Andrews Jelfe should be added the mid 18th-century work of remodelling at Trinity Hall.

Thus, in a work of this detail, there must inevitably be room for such minor additions. The misstatements are few. James Essex, junior, is credited with more work than is justified at Emmanuel and Sidney Sussex Colleges. The street front of the former presents an involved development of designs of three periods, only one entirely of Essex's invention, built in two phases. To Peter Mills is assigned the Hitcham Building at Pembroke College, Cambridge; but the documentary evidence is ambiguous when read in conjunction with the architecture of the range. Mills seems to have been responsible for redesigning a part only of it, possibly during building.

The most serious omission, considering the historical significance of the man, is that of the name of A. W. N. Pugin. There is a case for including Decimus Burton (1800-1881), who was most active before he was forty, and for excluding G. E. Street (1824-1881); but Pugin's life was short, 1812-1852. From 1836 onwards he was helping Barry on the Houses of Parliament, and before 1840 he had designed Scarisbrick Hall, one of the most sincere, as it is one of the most beautiful, of the 19th-century houses of the Gothic Revival. These alone would seem to justify his inclusion, were not *Contrasts* (1836) and *True Principles* (1841, but a reprint of his two lectures at St. Mary's College, Oscott) title enough.

Unexpectedly, though not unreasonably, the impression vividly conveyed by this Dictionary is a deeply moving one. Implicit in these pages are the work and the high endeavour of the few articulate men who, in their buildings, have expressed the changes in taste that are tokens of the great movements of men's minds. Long before publication, Mr. Colvin was unselfishly generous with the fruits of his researches. The foretaste thus obtained of the quality of the compilation gave architectural historians high hopes of the book. It need only be added that these hopes are not disappointed.

A. R. DUFTY.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE EARTH. By SIR MORTIMER WHEELER. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. xi-221. Pls. 23; text figs. 23. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press, 1954. Price 25s.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler's own select bibliography contains only eight titles, none more than twenty years old, and to this small number of books on the purpose and techniques of archaeology he has made a masterly and inspiring addition. Those students who are capable of response to the urging of high aims and broad thinking will find this the best stimulus they can have to their notions of what they are about.

The historical review of the development of field work pokes mild fun at the excavators of a century ago, as shown in a cut from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1852. The criticism of some more recent work in the east is just as legitimate, but it stirs the tragic, not the comic, sense, and those familiar only with field work in Britain and its published results would find his strictures hard to credit were they not backed by illustration. Out of this historical survey, field work in this country comes well, and the great men—Pitt Rivers in particular—stand more clearly to view. In the chapter on 'Tactics and Strategy' Sir Mortimer Wheeler returns to the overall planning of field research. Similar things have been said before (by R. G. Collingwood in Chapter XI of *An Autobiography*) but now they are made vivid by examples from a wide experience. The excavator without an intelligent policy is condemned as 'an archaeological food-gatherer'. The last chapter on 'What we are digging up, and why?' returns to the same plane: the purpose of excavation is the reconstruction of man's past achievement. At one point the author asks, with mock uncertainty, whether archaeology is an art or a science. Every reader will be ready to tell him that, like history, it is an art which makes use of scientific techniques; the masters of it are artists.

The chapter on 'Publication and Publicity' (a conjunction which no one else would have ventured to make) says things which have not been said before. Jargon is derided and 'the higher forms of journalism' are commended as models. This reviewer recalls being advised, while a temporary civil servant, to model his official reports and memoranda on the leaders of the *Daily Express*, and this by a superior who had himself written leaders for *The Times*. It is pointed out how much more difficult such apparently simple writing is than using jargon.

For the rest, there are chapters on stratigraphy, the layout and methods of excavation, the 'watchmakers' jobs' on a site, and methods of preservation and recording. Every point is made clearly and succinctly by one who can see both wood and trees at the same time. Moreover, no one else could so readily and happily draw on military parallels; they give flavour to the book as well as point to the maxims. Each principle is exemplified, not only from Verulamium or the Mysore plateau, but also from Sutton Hoo or a barrow excavation in Flintshire—the best work of recent years, whoever its author. There is only one small thing to regret: that Sir Mortimer Wheeler did not credit his readers with a stronger desire to use his book for reference purposes. It is to be hoped that students will make their own index, and enter in it such items as 'Excavation, vertical and horizontal', 'Devil's advocate, functions of' and 'Sections, intelligent differentiation of', because every page has advice and precept of solid worth and enduring value.

M. W. BARLEY.

DOWN TO EARTH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGY. By ROBIN PLACE. Demy 8vo. Pp. xvi-173; 90 illustrations. London: Rockliff, 1954. Price 16s.

This vigorously composed little book is not just another manual on the technique of excavation, as its title might lead one to suppose. What then is the intention of the author of 'Down to Earth'? It is apparently to present to the layman the aim of the archaeologist, which is the reconstruction of early man's way of life, by a rational and imaginative interpretation of his surviving relics and to demonstrate how the prehistorian sets about obtaining the information he seeks.

The book is divided into three sections: Part I summarizes the knowledge already obtained from excavation and chance finds; Part II describes the excavation of five sites

representative of each period from 'Palaeolithic' down to 'Early Iron Age'; Part III gives some account of ways and means of establishing relative and absolute chronology.

The idea at the back of this manual is sound, the vehicle terse, the meaning clearly conveyed, and the summaries of the various excavations are admirable, indeed brevity is the keyword. But this virtue can be carried to excess, and over condensation is dangerous when it resolves into a series of sweeping statements. The writer has a lively interest in her subject and the examples used are up to date and arresting. The illustrations are, unfortunately, not all well reproduced and the omission of scales in most cases nullifies the value of the objects presented. Again, the idea of an historical table as end papers is practical, but the presentation is somewhat arbitrary and admits of no scope for the current recognition of the wide overlap of cultures in time and space. By a regrettable oversight, the Halstatt Invasions have been labelled 'Iron Age C'.

K. M. RICHARDSON.