

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names.  
By Eilert Ekwall. Oxford, 1936.

Our distinguished member, Professor Ekwall, has in this book achieved a very remarkable feat of scholarship. He has discussed the history and etymology of between 15,000 and 20,000 English place-names, selected partly for their intrinsic importance and partly for the fact of early forms being available, in a single volume of 520 pages. Each name is treated in an article averaging only a few lines in length, the material being compressed to the utmost, but in almost every case the author has offered an interpretation or a choice of possible interpretations. The value of such a book depends, of course, partly on the accurate quotation of the earliest available forms and partly on the soundness of the judgment used in interpreting them. In both respects Professor Ekwall's work is of the very highest quality, and the result is a volume which everyone at all interested in English place-names must possess and keep in constant use, alike for the detail in the body of the work and for the long Introduction with its statement of general principles and its discussion of the various types and origins of English place-names.

The student of our own district will find a great deal of special interest to himself and a great deal that will be new to him. Professor Ekwall's determination to extract the meaning of a name wherever possible combined with the precision of his methods and the width of his learning, has thrown new light on many local names. A few examples may be given. Ambleside he explains from ON. *á, melr*, and *sætr*, as "shieling on a sandbank by a river"; Arlecdon from OE. *earnlacedenu*, as "valley of the eagle stream"; Bannisdale from an ON. byname *\*Bannandi* "the man who curses"; Bewcastle from ON. *búð* "booth" and OE. *ceaster* as "old fort used as a shelter for sheep" (tacitly rejecting the derivation from Bueth); Birdswald from the Welsh *buarth*, fold; Blencogo from the Welsh *blaen*, hill-top, and *cog*, cuckoo, plus ON. *haugr*, hill (a suggestion already made by our late President); Brunstock from ON. *burne* and *stæp*, landing-stage on a stream; Clappersgate as the "road over the stepping-

stones"; Drigg from OScan. *drag* "a portage"; Scafell as "shieling-hill" from ON. *Skálafell*, on the analogy of Scawdale, for which we have an early form Scaldale in 1210; Shap (which, as we all know, was Hepe in the 13th century) from OE. *héap* "heap," as referring to Shap Stones; Skelwith as "the ford of the roarer," from ON. *skiallr* "roaring," a suitable name for Skelwith Force; Tindale from Welsh *tin*, hill or fort, and *iál*, fertile upland region; Torpenhow, rejecting the derivation from the personal name Thorfinn, from British *torr pen* (hill top) plus OE. *hōh*, ridge; Triermain from *tref yr maen*, homestead of the stone; and so forth. An interesting example of two identical modern names with entirely different origins is provided by the two Ulphas: the Cumberland one being "wolf-hill"; OScan. *ulf-haugr*, the Westmorland one "enclosure for trapping wolves," OE. *wulf-hege*, losing the *w* through Scandinavian influence. On St. Bees he omits to mention the mythical origin of the supposed saint from the holy ring (ON. *baugr*) on which oaths were sworn according to the pagan custom down to the 13th century (these *Trans.*, N.S., xxv, 15); and by a slip of the pen he places Pooley Bridge at the "upper end" of Ullswater instead of its foot; but even if a few such points may be found, the book remains an outstanding monument of scholarship and will be for many years the standard work on its subject.

The Historical Imagination. An Inaugural Lecture delivered before the University of Oxford on 28 October, 1935, by R. G. Collingwood, Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy. Oxford, 1935, 2/-.

Roman Britain in 1934. By M. V. Taylor and R. G. Collingwood. *Journal of Roman Studies*, vol. xxv.

"The Registers of Crosthwaite-cum-Lyth, 1569-1812," transcribed by Colonel J. F. Haswell, C.I.E., M.D., indexed by Charles S. Jackson. Privately printed for the Parish Register Section of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society (pp. 267; uniform with the series of which it forms vol. 23).

Issued to its subscribers with characteristic punctuality, this the latest annual publication of the Parish Register Section of our Society maintains the high standard of accuracy set in previous volumes of the series and yields to but few in the general interest of its contents. The Westmorland parish of Crosthwaite-cum-Lyth was until 1535 a chapelry of the huge mediaeval parish of

Heversham, but in that year Cuthbert, Bishop of Chester, at the earnest petition of the inhabitants of the village, setting forth their great distance from Heversham Church, "so that they cannot carry their dead to be buried without great charge and inconvenience, nor carry their children to be baptized without great danger to the said children both of soul and body," granted a licence for the chapel of Crosthwaite to be raised to the status of a parish church, reserving certain rights to the mother church of Heversham. This arrangement led to disputes, and the question became still further complicated by the loss of an indented award made in 1580 at the destruction by fire of Heversham Church in 1601. Traces of this dispute are to be noted in Crosthwaite and Lyth registers. We find that the usual church fees had to be handed over to the vicar of Heversham. These fees are set down in each case in the early entries and are:—Burials, 7d.; Marriages, 13d.; Churchings, 3d. The first curate appointed, Edward Whytlocke seems to have got into trouble over these payments, for the following entry occurs:—"Anno 1573. I, Edward Whytlocke, was dyscharged the last daye off June receyvinge off any mo Churchinges and maister vicar shall receive the sm from thence fauthe." There are numerous instances of burial in the church—one curious entry reading:—"Buried in Steeple," and it appears the parishioners were very tenacious of this privilege, which involved payment of a small fee to Heversham.

Among the local names occurring most frequently are those of Atkinson, Barrow, Bell, Birkett, Briggs, Cartmell, Crossfield, Dickinson, Garnet, Harrison, Knipe, Robinson, Rowlandson, Strickland, Swainson, Walker and Wilson.

Curious spellings of local place-names occur, such as Carpmelfell, Flodder, Hubberstyhead (Huberstead, Hubertstihead, Hubberstead), Poolbank (Pulbank, Powbank and Powbancke), Rusmickle, Sinderbarrow (Synderbarrowe) and Barkbooth or Barkbore.

There are several notes of collections, among them the following, "Given to Anne Rigby the 25 Dec. 1630 who had a briefe and seale of Philip Earle of Pembrock touching a loose by fire and for ransoming of her husband who is a captive in Dunkirke, xiid." Interesting details are also given of the distribution of the Gilpin and Storey charities. The Rev. James Peake who entered upon his duties as Curate on June 6th, 1768, deserves a word of praise for the care he devoted to the registers in his charge, a duty which his predecessors in the 16th century appear to have sadly neglected.

It is to be hoped that this volume, to which both transcriber and indexer have devoted so much time and hard work, will be instrumental in inspiring a still wider interest in the valuable work which is being accomplished by our Parish Register Section.

"Windermere Grammar School, A History" (Kendal: The Westmorland Gazette, 1936; pp. 88; 8s. 6d. (Limited Edition, 4s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.). This excellently produced little history of Windermere Grammar School has been compiled by a sub-committee of the Old Boys' Association of that school, and reflects credit upon those responsible for its publication. A clear account is given of the condition of Windermere in 1613, and of the increased demand for education which induced the level-headed statesmen of the neighbourhood to found by subscription, in that year a free school for the inhabitants of Applethwaite and Undermillbeck, where scholars were to be instructed in "grammar, writing and reading and other good learninge and discipline meete and convenient for them to the honor of God." From the account which follows of the early years of the school, we glean some interesting details with regard to its feofees and to several local families, such as those of Philipson and Bolton. The growth of the school is traced through successive changes of place and management up to its development into a modern secondary school, and a fitting tribute is paid to the memory of the late Mr. P. P. Platt under whose headmastership the recent expansion of the school took place.

Of special interest is William Wordsworth's speech at the opening of the new school buildings provided by Mr. John Bolton in 1836. This address, which so far as can be ascertained is the only public speech the poet ever made, is printed in full and is sure to be of interest to many readers. In one of the appendices is printed the earliest school deed. The book is well printed and illustrated with several reproductions of old prints. It should prove of value to all local historians.

"Illustrated Regional Guides to Ancient Monuments under the ownership or guardianship of His Majesty's Office of Works. Volume I: Northern England," by the Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, F.S.A., M.P., First Commissioner of Works (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1936; 1/-). The little regional guides, of which this is the first volume, are intended, so we are informed in the preface, to provide visitors with a brief outline of the history and principal features of the monuments in the ownership

or guardianship of H.M. Office of Works. Within the narrow limit of some sixty pages, the writer has given a wonderfully clear summary of the archæological history of the North of England, and added brief but useful notes upon the principal monuments within that wide area. A word of praise must be accorded to the twenty half-tone plates with which this little volume is illustrated. There seems to be an error in the illustration of the view of Rievaulx abbey which is described as being from the north-east, whereas the photograph is evidently taken from the south-east. It must be remembered that the axis of the church at Rievaulx runs almost N. and S. instead of E. and W. The second reference to Rievaulx is on p. 53, not on p. 51 as given in the index.

The book is a model of clearness and conciseness, and it is to be hoped that the low price at which it is issued will secure for it the wide circulation it deserves.

"The Dalesman, A story of the Fells," by A. W. Rumney (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1936; 5/-). It is now twenty-four years since our member, Mr. Rumney, first published that delightful study of life in the fells, "The Dalesman." Since then the book may well be said to have become a "classic" of our district, and we welcome this reappearance of an old favourite published in a new and attractive form by Messrs. Titus Wilson and Son. The author has added a short prologue giving a picture of life in a lakeland valley about a hundred years ago.

"St. Paul's Church, Jarrow," by C. E. Whiting, D.D. (Durham University Journal, December, 1935). The numerous members of this Society who had the pleasure of hearing Professor Whiting's admirable address upon Jarrow Church and the Venerable Bede, on the occasion of last year's autumn excursion will welcome the opportunity afforded by its publication in the *Durham University Journal* of studying its matter in detail.

"The Trimbles and Cowens of Dalston, Cumberland," by William Tennant Trimble (Carlisle: Charles Thurnam and Sons, Ltd.). This handsome volume printed for private circulation is a valuable contribution to local history. Argyllshire was the original home of the Trimble family, one of whose members Colonel Trimble served in Ireland with Cromwell's army in 1651, and was given an estate in county Longford. All of his sons were subsequently deprived of their lands by James II, and two of them

came over to Cumberland and acquired properties in the neighbourhood of Thursby and Dalston. The subsequent history of the family and of its connections with those of Tennant and Cowen, the latter among the leaders of our local industries in the 18th and 19th centuries, is one of unusual interest casting as it does many side lights upon the history and of the Dalston neighbourhood.

"Guide to Torpenhow Church," by Cecil Bulman (Carlisle: Charles Thurnam and Sons, Ltd.; 3d.). In this concise and handy little guide, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be devoted to purposes connected with Torpenhow Church, Mr. Bulman gives an interesting summary of its architectural history. Much of his matter is taken from the description of the church, read by him, before this Society on the occasion of its visit to Torpenhow in 1934.

"The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Historical Pageant," by W. T. McIntire (Nottingham: The Nottingham and Notts. Pageant Committee, 1935).

"An Account of St. James's Church, Buttermere," by the Rev. J. T. Pedder, Vicar, and A. Macdonald (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1936; 3d.).

It is not until the eighteenth century that we have definite information with regard to this well-known village church. At that date we find Brackenthwaite, Buttermere and Wythop established as sub-divisions of the great parish of Lorton. An early "reader" at Buttermere was "Wonderful Walker." This interesting pamphlet gives a concise history of the first chapel and the present building which succeeded it in 1840. Its value is enhanced by the reproductions of an old print of the early chapel and photographs of the modern church.