

## PUBLICATIONS.

“ Outlines of an Economic History of Lancaster (1680-1860) ” Pt. I, by M. M. Schofield, M.A., 1946 (*Transactions* of the Lancaster Branch of the Historical Association, ed. J. H. Sutton, M.A., M.Ed.) pp. 56 *n.p.*

This illuminating little study of a valuable aspect of local history is published as the first volume of the *Transactions* of the Lancaster Branch of the Historical Association, and if subsequent studies reach the same standard will have inaugurated an invaluable addition to local publications. The economic history of North Lancashire had been almost totally neglected till late years, but Mr. Schofield has made a very useful beginning of a very worthwhile task. He has studied local sources and Port Commission Records and has deposited material he was unable to print in the Lancaster Public Library. In Tudor days Camden found Lancaster “ not populous and the inhabitants thereof all husbandmen.” But by the end of the 17th century small merchants were busy speculating in shares in ships and their cargoes hoping to gain profit from the sale of the tropical produce of the New World (p. 12). From then trade increased slowly if persistently till the last half of the 18th century which is termed “ the Golden Age of Lancaster Shipping.” By 1788 Lancaster could be described as “ one of the most flourishing towns in the kingdom.” The overseas and coastal trade from 1760-1820 is examined in most interesting detail, as is Lancaster Industry in the eighteenth century. Chapters on “ The Economic Function and Institutions of the Port of Lancaster ” and “ Landmarks of Lancaster Prosperity ” close a most interesting survey, which is clearly written and illustrated by three very informative charts.

“ The Maryport and Carlisle Railway,” by J. Simmons (The Oakwood Press, 1947, 4s. Paper, 5s. Cloth), pp. 34.

This little volume in the Oakwood Library of Railway History is written by an expert but will be of the greatest interest to all our members however unversed in railway technicalities. The writer points that the Maryport and Carlisle Railway is notable as being a purely local line “ run entirely by the local gentry and coalowners,” and its history (which only ended in 1923) was marked by “ steady unflinching prosperity.” So far as limitations

of space allow, every side of its past is considered. An amazing amount of interesting and reliable detail is packed in together with a useful map, and five pages of plates which include a reproduction of the Railway's coat of Arms—the arms of Carlisle and Maryport quartering those of the families of Senhouse and Lawson. There were originally two trains a day between Carlisle and Maryport together with three local trains from Maryport to Aspatria and what is pleasingly termed "short train occasionally at 10 a.m."

At a time when so much of our local life is being hammered into a tiring uniformity, this essay is particularly refreshing.

"A Handlist of Lancashire Enclosure Acts and Awards" (Lancs. County Council Record Publication No. I, 1946, pp. 40, n.p. Preston).

This list is a sign of the valuable material at the disposal of Lancashire historians and now to be found in the Lancashire County Records Office. It gives careful lists and details of the various kinds of Enclosure Acts and adds particulars of certain attendant documents. It is expanded from the work of Mr. W. E. Tate.

"Roman Law and Roman Britain," by Eric Birley (Durham University Journal, March, 1947).

Examines the *Corpus Juris Civilis* for references to provincial governors and others who worked in Roman Britain, and surveys briefly the part played in formulating and administering Roman law by senators or equestrians whose names occur in historical records of Roman Britain.

"Britain under the Flavians; Agricola and his Predecessors," by E. B. Birley (Durham University Journal, June, 1946).

Our member examines the basis for Agricola's reputation and the real place of his governorship in the development of frontier policy in Britain. He shows how undesirable it is to trust completely Tacitus' estimate of his father-in-law's abilities and accomplishments.

"Cartmel Priory Gatehouse" (Titus Wilson for the National Trust, pp. 7, 3d.).

In this leaflet Mr. B. L. Thompson admirably summarises the little information available concerning one of the most picturesque medieval buildings in our area.

"An Inventory of Thomas Lord Wharton, 1568," by Joan Evans (Archaeological Journal CII, pp. 134-50).

Will be read with interest by all who attended our recent Kirkby Stephen Excursion and are interested in the Wharton family.

" Prelates and people of the Lake Counties; a history of the Diocese of Carlisle, 1133-1933," by Rev. C. M. L. Bouch. 1948. 514 pp. + xvi. Price 21/-. Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Kendal.

As we go to press an advance copy has arrived of a notable book for Lakeland historians. A full review will appear in our next volume but it seems desirable to draw readers' attention to this work without delay. Mr. Bouch is well known as an active member of our Council and Society who has been one of the principal contributors to our *Transactions* for some years.

In this new work he has attempted with remarkable success a task which was long overdue. Since the late W. G. Collingwood published his *Lake District History* in 1925 there has been no attempt to give a general synthesis of the very considerable amount of new material which has accumulated since the classic old histories of our district were written. Mr. Bouch has most industriously digested an enormous mass of material (in which our own *Transactions* figure largely) into a most accurate and highly readable bird's-eye view of Lake District History. In a much larger work than Collingwood's he wisely avoids the early medieval period of our history where so much remains to be done that it is at present dangerous to say anything. In consequence he is able to produce a fascinating amount of detail. Specially interesting are the sections on social and economic history—a pioneer venture in works of this kind. The writer has also used some useful unpublished documents. Written in lively vein and well illustrated, the book is one which all interested in the history of the Lake Counties will wish to possess.

#### FICTION.

" The Masque of King Ulphus," by Edmund Casson (Ulverston, 1947).

Mr. Casson's works are well known to our readers and his plays, of which this is the latest, have aroused much interest locally.

" The Half Brothers," by Edward Frankland, pp. vii, 416, Macdonald, 10/6.

Readers of the *Bear of Britain* and *England* growing will know exactly what they may expect of Dr. Frankland. " The Half Brothers " will not disappoint them. Here we have a lively reconstruction of the past, of a dark age of lust and brutality when the battle was to the strong. Especially well done is Dr. Frankland's account of the meeting of the Kings at Dacre in 927. Indeed apart from the skill shown herein in making the past come alive, the novel is well worth reading for the vivid description of local scenery written as only a true lover of Cumberland and Westmorland could write them.