

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

1. *The English Lakes*, by Frank Singleton; 208 pp., with illustrations from coloured photographs by Wilfred Elms, 18/- (B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1954).

This is a very delightful book, by a member of our Society who expresses pride in his membership. Its Introduction is partly a sketch of local history from "Geological time" onwards, partly a tribute to the many writers who have been concerned with the same subject in earlier days; we note that he rates Baddeley's *The English Lake District* as "the most authoritative of the guide-books", and describes W. G. Collingwood's *The Lake Counties* as "a classic, perhaps the classic" book on the district. The author's method is simple: he takes each valley in turn, giving an account of its familiar scenery and adding to each a description of some incident or some person connected with it. Thus, in the account of Windermere there is a defence of Bishop Watson of Calgarth, "an absentee of genius", based on Professor Norman Sykes's *Church and State in England in the 18th century*; in the chapter on Troutbeck and Kentmere there is a discussion of the Herdwick sheep, Coniston brings a note on Beatrix Potter and an interesting appreciation of Ruskin, Wasdale a description of "Will Ritson" and the early rock-climbers, and Ennerdale an excursus upon Lakeland foxhounds. Under Buttermere local birds are discussed, and Fletcher Christian of the Bounty; and the problems of afforestation in Lakeland are presented very fairly under Bassenthwaite. Helvellyn is reinforced by "A Cambridge interlude"—a wonderful account of four Cambridge undergraduates setting out, *circa* 1850, on "the tremendous ascent of Fairfield": the chief necessities for the journey, provided by the foresight of its leader, James Payn, included 36 bottles of beer, two each of gin and sherry, and a gallon of water! The last chapter, on Ambleside, Grasmere and Rydal, includes descriptions of local wrestling, hound trails, cockfighting, and William Wordsworth. Only one small slip has been noticed: the Curwen heiress whom John Christian married was Isabella, not Isobella. The coloured photographs are magnificent, but the colours do not seem to be those that we, who live here, see day by day: they seem too brilliant, particularly in their skies.

2. *Prose of Lakeland: an anthology*, compiled by B. L. Thompson, with illustrations by W. Heaton Cooper; 184 pp., 13 plates, 8/6 (Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd., 1954).

This anthology, compiled by our Vice-President, deserves a warm welcome. The 69 examples chosen begin with William Camden's description of the Keswick neighbourhood and end with W. Heaton Cooper's "Sunrise on Scafell" (1938); at the end there are five pages of "Sources and Notes". There is one extract from these *Transactions*, Richard Brathwaite's account of the Windermere ferry-boat's loss in 1636; passages are given from all the well-known writers on the Lake District, including three from W. G. Collingwood's *The Lake Counties*, and the only noticeable omission is A. G. Bradley's *Highways and Byways in the Lake District*. On the whole, the scenery of the district is illustrated rather than its history. The book's appeal is enhanced by Mr Cooper's delightful black and white sketches of Lakeland scenery.

3. *The Lakers: the adventures of the first tourists*, by Norman Nicholson; x + 235 pp., 17 plates in half-tone, 18/- (Robert Hale Ltd., 1955).

The sub-title explains the purpose of this book, particularly of its first six chapters on "The heart of the picture", "The explorers", "William Gilpin", "Thomas Gray", "Echoes of Antiquity" and "The new Rambler"; and there is a useful "Picturesque bibliography" (p. 224 f.) and a list of "Some prints and illustrated books" (p. 230 f.): the tourists discussed include Celia Fiennes, John Brown, J. D. Dalton, Thomas Pennant, William Hutchinson and Thomas West (we miss Bishop Nicolson, George Smith and William Richardson, and James Clarke perhaps deserves some direct attention). The main theme of the book falls somewhat outside the sphere of our Society's interests, but it will be found of interest in its own right to many of our members.

4. *Around Eden: an anthology of fact and legend from and around the Eden Valley*, by F. B. Chancellor; 159 pp., 10/6 (J. Whitehead & Son, Appleby, 1954).

Our member Mr Chancellor is to be congratulated on this delightful volume—a perfect bedside book, to be browsed upon at leisure. Some of the extracts, on the climate and on bull-baiting and cock-fighting, are written by the author; many are taken from books; others (such as the account of the county gaol at Appleby, the vicar of Orton's "Complaint against a

parishioner" and some old-time punishments) are from original manuscript sources. It might be a criticism of the book that its extracts are arranged in no apparent order of time or locality; but in fact this adds to its attractiveness, since the reader never knows what is coming next: and it contains matter of real value—for instance, the reviewer was once asked for information about the Nine Standards, and after a vain search through many volumes he had to acknowledge that he knew nothing; had this book been in print, he would have found the answer on p. 68. In all it contains some 160 extracts; there is a foreword by our member Mr W. M. F. Vane, M.P., and the author has given a delightful preface and a useful bibliography. There is no index, but there is a full list of contents at the beginning of the book.

5. *Lancashire-Westmorland Highway*, by Jessica Lofthouse; 227 pp., 16/-, and

6. *The Curious Traveller through Lakeland*, by the same; 199 pp., 18/- (Robert Hale Ltd., 1953 and 1954).

The first of these books covers the southern approaches to our district from Liverpool, Preston and Lancaster to Kendal and thence via A.6 to Penrith, with a digression to Shap Abbey, Bampton and Lowther. The second describes the country from Levens to Kendal, and then follows the road to Windermere and the coastal approaches to Cark and Cartmel; there are also chapters on the road from Cartmel to Newby Bridge, Windermere, Ambleside, Grasmere and Keswick, and on that from Keswick to Penrith, with an excursion to Patterdale and Hartsop. Both books can be recommended as pleasant, gossipy accounts of our countryside and its adjacent territories; but they are by no means free from errors, and must not be regarded as serious history. The best feature of them is their illustration by the author's delightful pencil drawings.

7. *The Jacobite Risings of 1715 and 1745*, by R. C. Jarvis; xx + 427 pp., plates, 21/- (Cumberland County Council Record Series, vol. I, 1955).

As we go to press, an advance copy of this long-awaited work has reached us; Mr Jarvis's name is sufficient indication of erudition and of readability, and we welcome the initiative shown by the Cumberland County Council in publishing some of the records in its archives (though it may be regretted that the Society has not been associated in the venture which, we believe, was partly sponsored by the former Editor of these *Transactions*

whose name, strangely mis-spelt, is subjoined to a brief introductory note). It is hoped to include a detailed review of the book in the next volume of *Transactions*.

8. *The Lady Anne, Hereditary High Sherifffess of the County of Westmorland and Lady of the Honour of Skipton-in-Craven*, by C. M. L. Bouch; 18 pp., 5 plates, 2/- (Cumberland and Westmorland Herald Co., Penrith, 1954).

Though our President does not claim that this booklet is a work based on original research, it is nevertheless a most useful and readable account of one of the greatest figures in the history of Westmorland. He has quarried much of his material from G. C. Williamson's monumental biography of the countess, a book which needs time to consult; Mr Bouch's work is in fact a short cut to the standard biography, and it enables the reader to see at a glance all the trees in the wood. Moreover, he is a whole-hearted admirer of one who, in her day and generation, was a very great lady and one, too, whose fame lives on to this day. The first edition was quickly exhausted, and the printers have now produced a second.

C.R.H

9. *Professor Wilson of Elleray (Christopher North): a short essay on his life and his association with the Lake District*, by B. L. Thompson; 16 pp., 2 plates (Titus Wilson & Son Ltd., Kendal, 1954).

A pleasantly written account of a remarkable man—poet, prose writer and lecturer—who “even to-day is still spoken of, in affectionate regard, by Westmorland people who have never read his works but have ‘heard tell’ of him from their grandfathers”. There is also an account of his house, Elleray. This booklet by our Vice-President is delightfully designed and printed.

10. *Historical Castle Sowerby and Mid-Cumberland*, by R. R. Sowerby; 74 pp. and index, 6 plates, heraldic frontispiece in colour, 2 genealogical tables and map, 18/- (Titus Wilson & Son Ltd., 1954).

Our member Mr Sowerby is already well known as the author of two books on the Kirkby Stephen district; here he gives a readable and “popular” account of the locality from which he believes his family sprang, and adds a variety of other items, including the biography of a distinguished de Sowerby in the United States. Famous people flit across the stage, including the “King-Maker”, Mary Queen of Scots, and Old and the Young

Pretenders; and great local families—the Moultons, Dacres and Greystokes—are briefly mentioned. On the pedigree a word of caution is needed: the author has perhaps relied too much on the statements of that strange figure, Marshall-General Plantagenet-Harrison. It is generally accepted that the latter, when he quotes original documents, can be relied upon; but that, in his anxiety to provide a pedigree, he frequently links together individuals of the same name (but often from widely separated localities) without any warrant.

11. *The English Historical Review*, lxi (April 1954), includes "The patrimony of St Cuthbert" by Sir Edmund Craster (pp. 177-199); this paper mainly concerns properties which came in pre-Conquest times to form the endowment of the See of Durham: the author regards it as "not improbable that St Cuthbert or his successors did hold an estate in the confines of Carlisle and that this may be identified with the parish of St Cuthbert Without", and he finds no ground for rejecting the story "that King Ecgfrid gave Cuthbert the land called Cartmel, with all the Britons who dwelt there". He also regards it as certain that Bishop Eardulf and his followers came with the saint's body to the coast of Cumberland, after the raid of Halfdene the Dane in 875.

12. *Cumbria*, new series, iv 5 (August 1954), includes a centenary appreciation of our late President, W. G. Collingwood, by Frank Haley (pp. 150-153), who has been able to reproduce another photograph of him, taken "about 1920" (cf. also CW2 liii, plate facing p. 253).

13. *Archæologia Aeliana*, 4th series, xxxii (1954), includes the following articles by members of our Society: "Christopher Hunter: antiquary" by John Rogan (pp. 116-125); "The Riddleys of Ridley and Willimontswick" by W. Percy Hedley (pp. 160-175); and "The temple of Mithras at Rudchester" by J. P. Gillam and I. MacIvor, with a contribution by Eric Birley (pp. 176-219). In addition, there is a memoir of our late member Sir Walter Aitchison by I. A. Richmond (pp. 347-349).

14. *Dumfriesshire and Galloway Transactions*, 3rd series, xxxi (1954), includes the following papers: "Some military aspects of Roman Scotland" by Eric Birley (pp. 9-21); "Roman roads in SW. Scotland" by O. G. S. Crawford and others (pp. 22-34); three papers on the cult of Maponus, including a comparison

between that deity and the Cumbrian god Cocidius, by C. A. Raleigh Radford, Eric Birley and John MacQueen (pp. 35-57); papers by R. C. Reid on "Edward I's pele at Lochmaben" (pp. 58-73) and "Staplegorton" (pp. 167-173); and "Hoddom" by C. A. Raleigh Radford (pp. 174-197), important as a contribution to the study of early Christianity in the Solway region and including a new examination of the important series of Anglian sculptures from Hoddom.

15. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, lxxxvi (1954), includes "The Roman fort and temporary camp at Oakwood, Selkirkshire" (pp. 81-105) and "A Roman signal-station on Eildon Hill North, Roxburghshire" (pp. 202-205), both by K. A. Steer and R. W. Feachem; both papers are of importance for the study of the Agricolaan occupation of northern Britain, and Grace Simpson and J. P. Gillam contribute reports on the samian and other pottery to the account of Oakwood, noteworthy as yet another Roman site discovered as a result of the routine examination of National Survey air-photographs.

16. *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, 105 (1953), includes "Excavations on the site of the Roman fort at Lancaster, 1950" by I. A. Richmond, with notes on the pottery by J. P. Gillam (pp. 1-23); in this report new and important light is thrown on the history of that fort, which in the time of Diocletian was re-modelled on lines reminiscent of the Saxon Shore series, with massive curtain-wall and projecting bastions: and attention may also be drawn to the convincing detective-work which has led to the identification of the shrine to Ialonus (CIL VII 284) on Folly Farm, a mile north of Lancaster.

17. *Antiquaries Journal*, xxxiii (1953), includes "Three Roman writing-tablets from London" by I. A. Richmond (pp. 206-208); xxxiv (1954) includes "The Rudston *fibulae*" (pp. 73-75) and "A triple-headed bucket mount" (pp. 225-229) by E. J. W. Hildyard: the latter paper takes into account the bronze ox-head from Burrow in Lonsdale, for which reference may also be made to p. 100 f., above.

18. *Journal of Roman Studies*, xlv (1954), includes "Queen Cartimandua" by I. A. Richmond (pp. 43-52) and "Roman Britain in 1953" by M. V. Taylor and R. P. Wright (pp. 83-111).

19. *Corbridge Roman Station (Corstopitum), Northumberland*, by Eric Birley; 24 pp., 4 plates and folding plan, 1/- (Stationery Office, 1954).

This is the third edition of our member's Guide to Corstopitum, first issued in 1935; it takes into account excavations there up to 1953, and is furnished with a new plan, drawn to the same scale as those in recent volumes of *Archæologia Aeliana* (thus giving a useful conspectus of recent researches).

20. *Proceedings of the British Academy*, xxxix (1954), includes "Senators in the emperors' service" by Eric Birley (pp. 197-214, obtainable as an overprint, price 3/6, through booksellers).

21. *Bonnie Prince Charlie in Manchester: an eye-witness account*, by W. H. Thomson; 96 pp., 35 illustrations and 2 maps (printed and published by the author, no date [1954]).

This little book contains a text of Beppy Byrom's diary (first published in the *Journal and Remains of John Byrom*, 1857), with notes and illustrations; to the members of this Society it will be of special interest for its glimpses of the Manchester which provided the Prince with a regiment and Carlisle with his last garrison in England. The author is to be congratulated on the labour of love to which the book testifies; it was published at a nominal price (10/6) and in a strictly limited edition, and is now out of print: but there is a copy in the Jackson Library at Tullie House.