

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

1. *North Country Bishop, a biography of William Nicolson*, by Francis G. James; 330 pp. + 1 illustration, Yale University Press (Oxford University Press, 36/-).

This is an admirable and important work. In the first four chapters on "The Gateway to Preferment" (Nicolson's early history and his career at The Queen's College, Oxford), "Mr Archdeacon" (his work as archdeacon of Carlisle and rector of Great Salkeld), "The Traditional Faith" (an account of the local background in which Nicolson was brought up), and "The Cumberland scholar: Recognition and Reward" (the future bishop's place in the 17th-century world of scholarship), we have a full account of the bishop's early life before he became bishop.

Next follow chapters on "The Border Diocese" and "The Carlisle Clergy", which give an interesting account of the problems which faced Nicolson after his enthronement at Carlisle in 1702. Especially valuable are the pages devoted to a description of the amount of nonconformity at this time. Then we have a full account of the episcopate itself: "episcopal duties and disputes", "the making of a church whig", "the lord of Rose", and "the fruits of Victory", these fruits proved to be, not as Nicolson hoped the rich northern see of Durham, but instead the rich Irish one of Derry.

There follows an interesting, but to an Englishman rather depressing, account of the Church of Ireland. Mr James' book is well documented, with full references to the authorities used, and concludes with a bibliographical essay of 14 pages.

Needless to say there are occasional slips. John Nicolson occurs as the diocesan Registrar in the pedigree of the Nicolson family at the beginning of the book but as Register of the diocese on p. 205, and Haworth castle, p. 201, should be Naworth.

C.M.L.B.

2. *An Antonine Fort: Golden Hill, Duntocher*, by Anne S. Robertson; xii + 134, numerous illustrations, 15/- (Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh and London, 1957).

This is a notable addition to the series of reports on the Roman Wall in Scotland, and deserves careful study further afield also.

In it, the President of the Glasgow Archæological Society gives a clear and informative account of the excavations which she directed at Golden Hill, near the western end of the Antonine Wall, on behalf of Glasgow University (which has crowned the project by ensuring worthy publication of the results). She found it to be the smallest fort yet known on the Antonine Wall, and to incorporate a fortlet assignable to the initial phase of construction and strikingly like a Hadrianic Turf Wall milecastle in size and shape. In her study of the structural evidence, Miss Robertson makes constant and neat use of parallels from elsewhere (this Society's *Transactions* are frequently cited, for example), and she has been meticulous in her recording of the regrettably scanty yield of small finds. But she has produced more than a mere excavation-report, adding in her "Summary and Conclusions" (pp. 89-121) a reasoned review of the evidence for the history of Roman Scotland in the 2nd century; and her breadth of vision and ability to see and to do justice to the views of other enquirers, even where she herself comes to other conclusions, will ensure that this penetrating discussion leads to further active research on both Walls. E.B.

3. *Enjoying the Lakes*, by Edmund W. Hodge, 221 pp. + 37 plates, 21/-. (Oliver & Boyd, 1957).

Mr Hodge is clearly a great reader and his lively pages show that he has the gift of selecting and annotating passages from 18th-century authors with rare skill and judgment. The result is a most readable book and one which can be studied not only with pleasure but also with profit. Mr Hodge has given us an admirable survey of the Lake District from the 18th century to the present day, and his shrewd and pungent comments are always interesting even though one does not always agree with him. An admirable series of plates is a feature of the book which all in all is a valuable contribution to the history of the Lake District.

4. *Wardens of the marches of England towards Scotland, 1377-1489*, by R. L. Storey (English Historical Review, October 1957, 593-615).

This brief account by one of our members, based largely upon unpublished material at the Public Record Office, adds much to our knowledge of this important but neglected subject. A list of wardens is given as an appendix.

5. *The Story of Carlisle*, by Joyce and Brian Blake, illustrated by Colin Allen; 129 pp., 16 plates and numerous text-figures (Carlisle City Education Committee, 1958).

It was a splendid way of commemorating the octocentenary of Carlisle's first charter to commission a special volume, primarily for issue to all the city's schoolchildren — though it is understood that some copies will be on sale to the general public; and the Education Committee's choice of authors and illustrator is abundantly justified by the resulting book. In it, the authors group their subject under eight chapters: a walk around the city, roads, rivers and railways; the city grows; Border city; churches, large and small; how the city has been governed; the city at work; and portrait of a city; and there is a good select bibliography at the end, and of course an index. The treatment is clear and stimulating (as we should expect from its authors), constantly linking the present with the past and drawing attention to the need for further research, and to some of the ways in which it can be undertaken; it can be recommended warmly to all who are interested in the history of Carlisle and of the Border region.

E.B.

6. *Archæological Guide and Glossary* by James Stewart. 226 pp., 28 plates and many drawings in the text. Price 25/-. (Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Kendal, 1958).

The four sections of this book entitled Prehistoric, Roman, Abbeys and Castles are each divided into two parts. There is first a brief outline, which, being short, can only satisfy the newcomer to the subject, and which inevitably contains over-simplified generalizations.

Each outline is followed by a longer glossary, which, containing many simple sketches, serves a useful purpose, but also suffers from over-simplification. For example, the Prehistoric glossary contains the following entry: "PICTS were the descendants of Neolithic man in Scotland. They tattooed themselves".

Specialists in any particular subject dealt with by Dr Stewart could no doubt suggest alterations or modifications to many of his statements, but, as our President writes in a foreword, "he knows the sort of question that the layman is likely to ask, and how to answer it succinctly".

7. *Reminiscences of a Younger Son*, by Lt-Col. Piers William North, D.S.O., M.V.O.; 157 pp. + 6 illustrations. (Titus Wilson & Son Ltd., Kendal, 1957).

Our member Col. North has written a racy and entertaining book, which will appeal to a large circle of readers. Now 86 years of age, he has had an adventurous and interesting career about which he writes very modestly.

He has a fund of good stories which he tells uncommonly well, and since in the course of a long life he has been everywhere and met many interesting people his book contains not a dull page. A fine record of service in many fields.