

most illuminating map of the *Churches of Domesday*, designed to show how Christianity threaded its way from the banks of the Trent up the valleys of its tributaries, finally piercing the fastnesses of the Peak. For Repton crypt Mr. Tudor claims an antiquity denied to it by the late Dr. Cox, claiming that its outer shell at any rate is seventh century work, originally the mausoleum of Saxon Kings. More than a word is needed in praise of the 'format' of the book: Messrs. Bemrose have spared no pains—and we know what that means—to make it worthy the occasion; it is a delight to handle and read. It is illustrated with photographs and with charming thumb-nail sketches of Derbyshire churches by Mr. Tudor.

A.C.K.

XIV.

GRIFFON VULTURES IN DERBYSHIRE.

Vague talk of two great raptorial birds having been seen in the Ashbourne district was current among naturalists during the summer of 1927, accompanied by the customary scepticism on the part of the well-informed. Two letters from local medical men, Doctors Sadler and Hollick, which appeared in the September number of *British Birds*, removed all doubts as to the correctness of the record, since they contained detailed and independent descriptions by careful observers, the latter of the two, speaking from experience of the bird in its native haunts. Dr. Ernest A. Sadler reported:—

“ On June 4th, 1927, I saw two Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) over Ashbourne at about 6 p.m. When first seen they were only a few hundred yards distant and their unusual size was, of course, a characteristic feature, but later they soared away to an immense height when high in the sky they made a N.W. course against a strong wind. They were under

observation for about a quarter of an hour; at the end of that time one turned into the eye of the wind and sailed to the S.E. (towards Derby) whilst the other kept on its N.W. course (towards the Peak) and both were lost to view. The white ruff round the neck and the white bare head were clearly seen in the case of one of the birds and even at a great height were easily detected when they caught the sunlight. The colour of the birds was a dirty brown."

Dr. Hubert H. Hollick independently confirmed this, adding that he "had previous experience of vultures in S. Africa. Roughly they seemed to be six or seven feet across the wings." Seeing that there are two previous records only of the occurrence of this bird in the British Isles, its appearance in Derbyshire seems worthy of notice in the pages of this Journal. A Griffon Vulture was reported to have been seen in Cork Harbour in 1843, and according to the late Howard Saunders one was seen soaring round near Southampton Water a few years before he published his *Manual of British Birds* in 1889.

W.H.W.

XV.

HUMAN REMAINS, LITTLE CHESTER.

In the course of the excavations on the site of the Roman Camp at Little Chester last year, five human skeletons were discovered. They lay about 2 ft. 6 ins. below the present surface of the ground inside the camp and close to the west wall. All showed signs of regular burial and all were placed with the feet to the east. Three were men, one a woman and one a child of six. Sir Arthur Keith, President of the British Association to whom the skulls were submitted, had no hesitation in deciding that the interments were of post-Roman date, but he was not of the opinion that they were later than the thirteenth century. The presence of a number of skeletons