

XIII.—REVIEWS.

THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN. By R. G. COLLINGWOOD, M.A. pp. xvi+293. 8 plates and 68 figures. Methuen, 1930.

THE DEFENCES OF THE ROMAN FORT AT MALTON. By PHILIP CORDER, M.A. With contributions by H. MATTINGLY, M.A., and M. R. HULL, M.A. pp. 116. 51 figures. Roman Antiquities Committee of the Yorkshire Archæological Society, 1930.

Mr. Collingwood's new book is more than the handbook for beginners that it professes to be, though beginners will find it a comprehensive and trustworthy introduction, such as has hitherto been nowhere available, to the archæology of Roman Britain. For such students, the chapters on roads, camps, inscriptions, samian, and coins, will be particularly valuable as a guide to fieldwork, or to the interpretation of finds; but not only beginners will find the chapters on forts, villas, coarse pottery, and brooches, instructive and stimulating. In them, Mr. Collingwood has attempted to reduce into types material whose increasing mass has made it difficult for experts to keep track of it; the chapter on brooches (in which the author is clearly specially interested) will considerably lighten the task of reporting on such finds from future excavations; and even where, as in the chapter on forts, we may think Mr. Collingwood inclined to carry typology too far, his conclusions are always worth serious attention. Members of this society will be specially interested in the chapter on frontier works, that contains a remarkably readable summary of the history and problems of the Wall. The present writer has expressed elsewhere

(p. 188 above) his doubts about the view Mr. Collingwood adopts of the history of the Stanegate frontier; and it is surprising that there should be no mention of the forts that were held north of the Wall itself: the Wall was a customs-barrier at least as much as an obstacle to raiders. Again, the Wall-ditch is nowhere mentioned in the text; yet we fancy that "ditch" might be substituted for "broad foundation" throughout the account on pp. 80 and 81, for the stretch from Newcastle to Carlisle, without departing from truth or probability. These, however, are minor points that we would suggest to Mr. Collingwood for reconsideration before the second edition that is sure to be called for soon. The book is copiously supplied with plans and drawings of the author's customary high standard, whilst twenty drawings of inscriptions serve to whet our appetite for the book on the Roman inscriptions of Britain which we await so eagerly. We recommend the book warmly to all who wish to learn, and equally to all who have to teach, anything of the archæology (or, for that matter, the history) of Roman Britain.

In his introduction, Mr. Collingwood deploras the tendency of some excavators to write their reports in language highly technical, and repulsively unintelligible to the general reader; Mr. Corder's book on Malton is an outstanding example of easily intelligible writing, with no sacrifice of technical application. Before the excavations at Malton began, it was not even certain that there was a Roman fort there; Dr. Kirk's initiative proved the fort, and the work done there by him and Mr. Corder and their colleagues, shows it to have been as important as any Roman site in the north, particularly in the fourth century. In one part of the site, there were as many as eleven superimposed occupation levels; the site has suffered dreadfully from stone robbers, and considerably from landscape gardeners. The multiplicity of levels, and the great depth of soil that has to be cleared, make the excavation of it peculiarly difficult, but the present report makes it clear for those who have not had the fortune to visit the site

during the course of the work, that Mr. Corder and his colleagues are more than equal to the task. Many of the conclusions reached must necessarily be provisional at this stage; at least, Mr. Corder lays all his evidence on the table, in clear narrative, and plan, and pottery drawing. The plans and sections are a delight to see, the latter setting a new standard of artistic excellence. In the fourth century, the Wall drew much of its pottery from the same source as Malton, and the present work will be of great value to us for that reason; similarly, Wall parallels may lead to the revision of some of Mr. Corder's provisional dating, whilst their evidence directly opposes Mr. Hull's attribution of the outcurved rim and the hammer-head mortarium to the third century (cf. *Birdoswald*, nos. 11, 12, 19, all of the period 300-368). Among the samian, nos. 4, 7, 8, 10, might also be taken as evidence for the pre-Agricolan occupation of the site. Against Mr. Collingwood's view that the normal fort no longer housed a garrison in the fourth century, we observe that there were men, women, and children living inside Malton fort in that period; and we believe that the Wall supplies similar evidence.

With Mr. Collingwood's book as his manual, and Mr. Corder's as his standard of publication, the aspiring archæologist could not be better equipped; this society may congratulate itself on being able to claim both writers as its members.

ERIC BIRLEY.

THE BOUTFLOWER BOOK. The complete story of a family of the middle class connected with the North of England (1303-1930). By DOUGLAS SAMUEL BOUTFLOWER, Master of Sherburn Hospital, Honorary Canon of Durham. pp. 98. Northumberland Press Limited, 1930.

This book, an obvious labour of love, is described by the author as "the story of an English family of the middle

class, apparently dating from the days when it first possessed a surname."

The name Boutflower, nowadays pronounced "Bowflower," was in its older form "Bultflower," and indicated a person who bolted or sifted flour to make white bread. The first known owner of the name was John Bultflower, and the first mention of him is dated 1303. Canon Boutflower conjectures with great probability that he worked for the bishop of Durham, Anthony Bek, and that his duty was to provide his master's table with the manchets of white bread, a delicacy found only on the tables of the wealthy. The bishop granted him a virgate of land in free tenancy at Farnacres in the parish of Whickham, and lands in Pokerley and Hedley were added within the next hundred years. Apperley, a township of 428 acres in the parish of Bywell St. Peter, came into the hands of Boutflowers towards the middle of the sixteenth century, and about that time Geoffrey Boutflower was in possession of lands at Beamish which he held from the earl of Westmorland. They also had property at Loft-houselyntes, known to-day as Overlintz, which they sold in 1596 after a possession of one hundred and fifty years.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century the family had acquired what may be called county status. They had made marriages with well-known families, and had acquired the right of bearing arms: *vert, a chevron, in chief three fleurs-de-lys or.* They were now taking to the learned professions and the services. John Boutflower V was at Christ's College, Cambridge, with John Milton; was at one time chaplain to Bishop Morton, and held successively the livings of Warden and Whelpington. His elder brother became land-agent to the Radcliffes of Dilston, while his younger brother made a good marriage, and became connected with some of the cathedral dignitaries. In the struggle between Royalist and Roundhead, Boutflowers were found on both sides, though it would seem preponderatingly on the latter. Thus, after the Restoration, Thomas Boutflower III, who died in

1684, allowed conventicles to be held in his house at Apperley, and one of his daughters was christened Mehetabel. He was a wealthy man, for it was noted that he had a large house with eight chimneys, and he held lands in five neighbouring townships. His son Nathaniel in 1699 procured a licence for nonconformist worship in his house, though later he seems to have conformed to the Church of England. One of his sons became a captain in the Royal Navy.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the Boutflower property consisted of 1,500 acres in Apperley, Hindley, Bromshaugh and Riding Mill. But the fortunes of the family declined. A John Boutflower became a flour dealer in Newcastle, while his brother, William, was his own miller in Riding Mill. "The Boutflowers can earn money, and save money, and spend money, and give money. But in one respect they fail—they very rarely make money." At this time they must have been losing money. They gradually parted with the property, and with the sale of Riding Mill in 1825 the Boutflowers ceased to hold land in the Bishopric in which they had been copyholders and freeholders for over five hundred and twenty years.

Some had settled in Newcastle, others in Durham. During the nineteenth century they scattered over the country—indeed, over the Empire, for they were to be found in India, Australia and New Zealand. There were doctors, sailors, lawyers and clergymen amongst them, and at the present day one of them, the half-brother of the author of this book, is bishop of Southampton.

This is not an easy book to read: the history of a family, and its ramifications, never is; but the excellent genealogical tables make the story clear, and Canon Boutflower writes pleasantly and easily. It represents researches which have extended over sixty years, and is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of local history.

C. E. WHITING.

A HISTORY OF NORTHUMBERLAND. Vol. XIII. The Parishes of Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newburn, Long Benton and Wallsend. The Chapelries of Gosforth and Cramlington. The Townships of Benwell, Elswick, Heaton, Byker, Fenham and Jesmond. By MADELINE HOPE DODDS, Hist. Tripos, Cambs. Newcastle upon Tyne, Andrew Reid & Co., Ltd.

The district dealt with in this volume lies to the north-west, north and north-east of Newcastle upon Tyne. As Miss Dodds points out, none of the townships of which it is composed, has escaped the effects of the development of the trade and manufacture of Tyneside during the last hundred and fifty years, and the consequent increase of population. Seven of these townships have become included within the municipal boundaries of Newcastle. The history of the land within the ancient boundary of Newcastle has been omitted, but the reason for this omission—namely, that it has been already written by Gray (1649), Bourne (1736) and Brand (1789)—seems hardly sufficient. Much water has passed through Tyne Bridge since these works were written, and our knowledge of municipal history and institutions has considerably advanced in the last half century. Newcastle has an interesting municipal development and a unique history as the centre of the coal industry which would well repay investigation under the supervision of the scholars who form the committee of the Northumberland County History.

The section on geology by Professor Garwood naturally deals mainly with the coal measures and with the various seams which have been worked in the district under review. Besides coal, the other economic products of the soil here are sandstone used as building material, Grindstone Post from which the famous Newcastle grindstones are made, fireclays and ironstone nodules. The fossil flora and fauna of the coalfield are referred to, but are too numerous to be listed; hence only references are given to works where such lists may be found.

We learn from the section on the Prehistoric Period that flint implements have been found, but, as is well known, they are scarce in this district and the stone axe heads discovered here may probably belong to the Bronze Age. As Mr. Parker Brewis remarks, "the later habitations of man have obliterated many indications of earlier occupation," yet the Bronze Age here, as elsewhere in the neighbourhood, is well represented. Several burial sites have been noted, and they have revealed beakers and food vessels which are carefully described and illustrated. Many Bronze Age weapons and implements have also been found in the district or dredged up from Tyne. The absence of any record of the discovery of Iron Age objects, as Mr. Parker Brewis states, may not be significant. Objects of this date are rare in the north of England, and in dealing with the archæology of a comparatively small area, such as this is, deductions cannot be drawn. All that can be deduced is that the population of the Iron Age in this part of England must have been sparse, but it cannot be imagined that this district was depopulated after the Bronze Age until the coming of the Romans.

The next section, on collieries and the coal trade, by Mr. T. E. Forster, is valuable as regards the later history of the trade. "No district in this country," Mr. Forster truly remarks, "has played so large a part in the history of the coal trade as that which occupies the lower portion of the valley of the Tyne." Mr. Forster, however, does not break any new ground in the early history of coal working. He tells us that "the actual working of coal appears to have commenced in the latter half of the thirteenth century along the outcrops of the various seams met with on the northern side of the valley." According to Galloway, coal was being shipped to London in the early part of the reign of Henry III, and in 1256 the approaches to Newcastle were made dangerous by derelict workings. These statements indicate well-established workings that must have been in use for many years, and would therefore carry the trade back to an earlier date than Mr. Forster

gives to it. The subject is one that wants further investigation; perhaps an examination of the old workings might yield some additional information. Mr. Forster gets into his stride when he reaches the seventeenth century, and from that date we have a useful account of the trade. He shows the development of the industry from numerous small and scattered pits sunk by lords of manors and their tenants; then the working by lessees who took the mining rights over a given area for a term of years. The combination of the interests of these lessees by means of partnerships, a system which lasted for some time, was followed by the formation of the companies of the last hundred years which are now being merged to form the greater undertakings of the present day.

With the advancement of the industry the trade required organization, and the Hostmen, who carried the coal from the pits to the staiths and ships, were incorporated for this purpose by Queen Elizabeth in 1600. The inventions for the better working of the pits are described, and the illustrations are good, both from the technical and artistic points of view.

The parish histories, which occupy nearly three-quarters of the volume, are on the lines adopted in the previous volumes of this series. It is impossible to give a detailed criticism of so large a subject, containing such varied details. Each parish is prefaced by the population returns for the townships of which it is composed, given for the decennial periods of the census, beginning with the first census of 1801. A study of these returns is very illuminating. The rural districts most remote from Newcastle, such as the parishes of Heddon-on-the-Wall and Newburn, show a gradual increase of population as the one hundred and twenty years covered by the returns progress, with the largest number at the beginning of the present century. As we approach Newcastle we see what was a rural district at the beginning of the nineteenth century, changing into an urban district about the middle of that century. A good example is that of Elswick township, which has grown

from 301 inhabitants in 1801 to 59,400 in 1921, but here the establishment of Armstrong's works in 1848 gives a very good reason for the increase. In Benwell the population grew from 951 in 1801 to 30,126 in 1921. Similar increase of population is to be found at Jesmond, Heaton and Westgate.

Following the population returns is an account of the parish as a whole, giving chiefly the ecclesiastical history with the story of the church. The architectural descriptions supplied by Professor Hamilton Thompson are excellent. They show clearly the development of the building. Many of the arguments given for the dating of early details are suggestive of further application, and will be valuable for students of early ecclesiastical architecture. While on the subject of architecture, perhaps a criticism may be offered as to the absence of descriptions of some of the smaller but important buildings. Although many drawings and plans are given, there are no descriptions of Denton Hall, Adam of Jesmond's *camera* in Heaton township, St. Mary's Chapel at Jesmond, the Church of Holy Cross at Wallsend, the chapels of South Gosforth and Byker and Newburn Hall, all of which are of considerable interest. It is hardly sufficient in a work of this kind to refer the reader to another book for such essential details:

The manorial history by Miss Hope Dodds is taken under the townships, and has been worked out with care and substantiated by citing ample authorities. A special feature of this volume is the reproduction of a series of manorial and other ancient maps; the most important, perhaps, is a map of Benwell made in 1637, which shows the fields and gives the names of the owners of them. The chart pedigrees, chiefly the work of the late Herbert Maxwell Wood, are remarkably well done, and give all that is essential without overcrowding, a fault that so frequently mars a pedigree. A new early genealogy of the Bolbec family, correcting one in an earlier volume, has been prepared by Mr. A. M. Oliver, and will be appreciated by genealogists. These numerous pedigrees are one of

the chief features of the volume. The heraldry is carefully prepared and the numerous shields of arms are well drawn. The plate of seals gives an interesting series of early personal seals.

We have practically no borough history in this volume. At Wallsend the control of local affairs passed from the court leet to the select vestry of the Twenty-four, the chairman of which took to himself the title of mayor. At the present day there is a municipal borough created by charter in 1901, with a mayor, aldermen and councillors, but the borough of Wallsend has as yet no history. Newburn seems to have been a borough in the twelfth century, but after 1201 it ceased to be considered more than ancient demesne of the Crown.

Tyneside is a district of industrial development. The history of the coal trade, as already shown, has a section to itself, and the fisheries of Tyne are of sufficient importance to come under a separate heading. Salt-making was an ancient industry carried on by the monasteries of Durham and Tynemouth, and glass-making flourished at St. Lawrence and Howden in the seventeenth century and at Lemington and Long Benton in the eighteenth century. But the principal industrial developments took place at Wallsend and Elswick in the middle of the nineteenth century. The chemical industry was established at Wallsend at this time, and shipbuilding and marine engineering at a little later date, the latter industry being represented by the celebrated Parson's Marine Steam Turbine Company. Some interesting details are given of the firms and companies engaged in these trades. The story of them is usually the same, beginning with the establishment under individual effort, then the development under a firm or company, followed by amalgamation of a series of companies. The history of the Armstrong Works at Elswick is one of the romances of industry. William George Armstrong, who became Lord Armstrong, practised for some time as a lawyer and invented various pieces of machinery as a hobby. One of these inventions

—a crane—proved so successful that he established works for the manufacture of it and other machinery at Elswick. At the time of the Crimean War he invented breech-loading guns, and new works were opened to make them. Ship-building was the next venture, and so the record of the Elswick Works goes on as one of continued expansion. The Armstrong Company has absorbed numerous other engineering companies, and their work-people now number about 15,000. At Newburn, Iron Works were started in 1797, and Steel Works in 1822. Both grew and prospered until the present industrial depression caused them to be closed and their sites to be built over.

At the end of the volume, and occupying some eighty pages, is an account of the Roman Wall from Wallsend to Rudchester Burn, which, as we are told in the Preface, is "of particular importance since it deals with a region in which there had been no systematic search for the remains of Hadrian's Wall." It has been compiled by Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. B. Spain, assisted by Mr. F. G. Simpson and Mr. R. G. Collingwood, whose names are a guarantee of the quality of the work. It gives the result of the investigations undertaken by the North of England Excavation Committee, much of which has not previously been published. The forts of Wallsend, Newcastle and Benwell and Hadrian's Bridge over Tyne were within the twelve miles of country here dealt with, through which the Wall passed, besides mile-castles and turrets along the line of Wall. All these buildings have been robbed of their masonry by the builders of the monasteries of Jarrow and Tynemouth, of the castles of Tynemouth and Newcastle, and of the town walls of Newcastle. Previous to the recent excavation little was known of the eastern extremity of the Wall. The fort of Wallsend lies beneath a colliery village, and a pit has been sunk just outside its western limits. Nevertheless, its general outline has been gradually recovered by careful investigations of the Committee: a plan based on their excavation is given. The Wall from Wallsend to Newcastle upon Tyne is about

7 feet 6 inches in thickness above the footings. The positions of the four mile-castles or fortified gateways in this section have been located, and they vary from 1,443 yards to 1,575 yards apart, all less than the Roman mile of 1,618 yards.

The fort at Newcastle, or "Pons Ælii," takes its name and origin from the Roman bridge, the northern head of which it guarded. It is argued that it was the original terminus of Hadrian's Wall, the sector to Wallsend being a later addition; the irregular spacing of the mile-castles is given as evidence of this theory. In a city like Newcastle, so completely built over, it is difficult to obtain a plan of the Roman fort, but advantage has been taken of rebuildings, which, with a certain amount of excavation, has enabled the investigators to obtain some idea of the size and shape of the fort.

It is suggested that Hadrian honoured the bridge over Tyne with the name of his family at his visit to Britain in A.D. 122, before which probably there was no bridge over the river. The Roman bridge remained in use for over eleven centuries, but in 1248 it was destroyed by fire. The mediæval bridge stood for five centuries. When the present swing bridge was being erected in 1866, special instructions were given to one of the engineers to record any details of Roman construction, and from the notes then taken much of the information used in the account of the bridge is derived.

The site of Benwell Fort or "Condercum" lies on more open land, yet the portion north of the wall is now covered by a reservoir of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The part south of the fort is in the grounds of Benwell Park and Condercum House. Excavations have revealed enough to give the general outline of the fort, of which a plan is given.

The Wall and vallum between the forts is minutely described, and much new information has come to light about the mile-castles and turrets.

The section concludes with an account of the inscribed

and sculptured stones in which many inscriptions are given that are not in the "Corpus," and indeed several hitherto unrecorded. Although there is no special attribution to this list we seem to trace in it the hand of Mr. Collingwood, who has so ably followed in the steps of the late Professor Haverfield in his epigraphic studies. The Roman section has a separate index, the purpose of which is not quite apparent.

The volume is well illustrated. Some of the reproductions of drawings and aquatints by the Richardsons are very pleasing from the artistic point of view. The plans of the churches still lack the uniformity of scale which is wanting also in the earlier volumes.

We learn from the preface that the publication of this volume exhausts the resources of the committee. It is to be hoped that the necessary funds will be forthcoming to pay for the two volumes yet to be issued to complete this important and scholarly work as it was originally designed in 1890.

WILLIAM PAGE.

