

Reviews.

THE MANOR AND MANORIAL RECORDS, by N. J. Hone (Methuen and Co.), 7s. 6d. net.—One of the latest additions to the valuable series of "The Antiquary's Books" is this work by a writer who has frequently contributed important papers to this Journal, and is well-known as an accurate historian and careful investigator of original documents. This volume is peculiarly valuable to the antiquaries of the three counties, as there is a wealth of illustration drawn from the records of the manors of Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Extracts from the Berkshire Court Rolls have already appeared in this Journal, and the Reeve's account of the Manor of Barkham also finds a place in this book. Mr. Hone has done good service in printing the lists of Court Rolls preserved in various depositories. At the present time the compilers of the Victoria County Histories are searching for these documents. Many Court Rolls are stored away in solicitors' offices, and their presence is scarcely known to the lawyers themselves. It would be well to compile a supplementary list to that furnished by Mr. Hone of all the Rolls now held in private hands. The volume shows the adaptation of ancient laws to modern needs, and that modern inventions are often merely a restoration of past conditions. With regard to the origin of the Manor, Mr. Hone advances no new theory, but contents himself with a summary of the views of other authorities, Kemble, Seeborn, Maitland and Vinogradoff. He describes with becoming picturesqueness the Manor Lord, his hall and estate, giving as illustrations the Manor House of Sutton Courtney and Charney, the dwellers on the Manor, the officers and servants, their work and recreation, and his account shows that the position of the tenant of the old English manor compares not unfavourably with that of his modern counterpart. Great praise is due to Mr. Hone for the clearness with which he has treated a difficult subject. This volume is not the least important of the valuable series of works which should occupy a prominent place in the library of every antiquary.

OXFORDSHIRE, by F. G. Brabant, M.A. (Methuen and Co.).—This volume of the "Little Guides Series" will be welcome to many readers of this Journal. The series is now well-established and well-known. The convenient size of the book commends it to the traveller. You can place it in your pocket, and feel armed to face the architectural problems that may meet you on your journey, and to know what are the most important places and chief objects of interest that lie in your way. Mr. Brabant seems to have studied the county well, but he is not an infallible guide. He prides himself on having ventured, when visiting an old Church, "on the fascinating but difficult task of attempting to reconstruct the Church historically." Surely this is not a very novel or overwhelming task for a student of architecture. He can know little of architecture if he supposes that it is unusual for Churches to illustrate the varieties of the different styles, which characteristic he seems to think rather peculiar to Oxfordshire Churches. However, his descriptions of the architectural features of the Churches are very satisfactory. Anyone who has visited Barton Abbey and seen the old staircase and the ancient attics will know that, although it has been much altered, it is not "a modern mansion built on the site of an old monastery." We observe that Mr. Brabant adheres to the objectionable use of "antiquarians" for "antiquaries." The recent restorations at Broughton Castle show that the hall is not "entirely Elizabethan"; Lady Gordon Lennox states "it is a matter of much satisfaction that this part of the building should no longer be robbed of its true antiquity." But in spite of a few inaccuracies this guide to Oxfordshire will be found extremely useful to all who wish to visit this delightful county, and Mr. New's illustrations are a very attractive feature of the book.

ORIGIN OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE, by the late Thomas William Shore, and edited by T. W. and L. E. Shore (Elliot Stock).—The many friends of the late Mr. Shore will be glad to possess this work as a memorial of an earnest and learned antiquary who did good service in Hampshire, and later in London and

Middlesex, in promoting the study of the past. Happily at his death this work, which is styled "A Study of the Settlement of England and the Tribal Origin of the Old English People," was left in such a condition that the author's sons had little else to do but to revise and edit the manuscript and prepare it for the printer. Thus the result of many years of careful research, close study, and ripe learning has not been lost, and this book is a valuable addition to our knowledge of an intricate and difficult subject. The main source of information is derived from the study of place names, by means of which colonies of Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Goths, Northmen, Frisians, Rugians, Wends and Danes are successfully traced, and in support of the theories derived from this source we find them confirmed by the remnants of dialects, anthropological researches on the skulls and contents of burial mounds, runic inscriptions, and traditions, folk-lore, customs of inheritance, many of which are curious and interesting. The readers of this Journal will study particularly the chapter on the settlements in the Thames Valley. Windsor, anciently Wenddisore, is said to derive its name from a Wend and his family. Goda denotes a Goth, of whom traces may be found at Godston and other places. Goths, Geats or Jutes came up the river from Kent. The Chaucians, a Frisian tribe, settled at Cookham. Oxford has nothing to do with oxen. It was formerly Eoccen-ford, and is connected with a tribe who bore the name Eocce, probably Frisian. Mr. Shore concludes that the settlement of the Thames Valley was formed by a migration of Gewissas from the South, and by Kentish people or Goths and Frisians, with some Wends who came up the river. The science of place-names can scarcely be called "exact," and some authorities may dispute some of the author's conclusions; but the volume is extremely valuable and suggestive, and is a fitting memorial of a learned and enthusiastic antiquary.

THE RISE AND FALL OF READING ABBEY, by Dr. Hurry (Elliot Stock).—The Author of the large work on Reading Abbey has in this volume published his Presidential Address to the Reading Literary and Scientific Society. This little work forms a most useful guide to the Abbey, and is embellished with several illustrations. All Reading people should read this admirably written account of their once famous Abbey. The author shows a true reverence for antiquity and for the holy work of the Church, of which these walls were the witness.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF LETCOMBE REGIS, by H. J. Daniell (Wantage, Clegg & Son).—Mr. Daniell has compiled a valuable little book on the parish of Letcombe Regis, the architectural features of the church of which are described in this Journal. We should heartily welcome a similar work on every village in the county. The history of the manor is traced from the time of the Domesday Survey. It was held by King Alfred and continued in the royal family until 1246, when it passed to the Abbey of Clugny. There is a description of the village and its story, the church and its mural tablets, and of the Court Rolls, which is reproduced from Mr. Hone's book mentioned above.

NEOLITHIC MAN IN N.E. SURREY, by W. Johnson and W. Wright (Elliot Stock).—We are delighted to welcome a cheaper re-issue of this work, which was reviewed in these columns at the time of its first appearance. All collectors of "flints" should possess this work.

HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE, by the Rev. E. Conybeare (Elliot Stock).—This is a cheaper edition of one of the best of the Popular County Histories Series. Mr. Conybeare has attained to what he deems the first object of a popular history, "to be readable." It is certainly that, and much more. It is the result of ripe knowledge and careful study, and the very model of what a county history, intended for general readers, should be. It is a very fascinating work, and the author has not allowed the absorbing interest of the annals of the University town to overshadow the story of the Shire.