

## REVIEWS

ANTIQUITIES OF THE IRISH COUNTRYSIDE. By SEAN P. O RIORDAIN, Professor of Archaeology, University College, Cork. *Cork Univ. Press*, 1942. [Historical and Archaeological Papers, no. 4]. pp. 57 and 47 *illus.* 5s.

This excellent and useful handbook of Irish field-archaeology 'is intended to give some answer to the questioning man in the street', and it serves its purpose admirably. It is composed on the same lines as the handbook *Field Archaeology* produced by the Ordnance Survey, but is fuller and contains illustrations. There is a classified bibliography. The outlook is modern and professional without being abstruse. The few comments we have to make are of the kind that a reviewer inserts to pad out his notice of a good book which offers few loopholes for serious criticism.

The author retains the word 'dolmen', which has been officially abandoned in this country (p. 36). Admittedly the substitute 'burial-chamber' may be inaccurate if the monument is not the chamber itself but the remains of a portal. But, although not familiar enough with Irish field-archaeology to speak authoritatively, we still doubt whether the 'pure dolmen' ever existed as a type, unassociated with a cairn or other stonework.

It is interesting to note that saucer-barrows in Ireland as in Britain belong to the Late Bronze Age and survived into the Early Iron Age (p. 41). But if by 'ring-barrow' is meant disc-barrows, these are not just saucer-barrows without mounds, but a quite distinct and earlier type of barrow. 'Pond-barrows', as Colt Hoare called them (not mentioned here), are a rare type whose date is unknown; these are sometimes called ring-barrows; they consist of a bank enclosing a flat depressed area without any mound.

There are a few air-photographs (fig. 11, opp. p. 18, would have been better printed the other way up), and there would doubtless have been many more if they had been available. There is a great and untilled field for a pioneer in this branch of research in Ireland. Good results can only be obtained by acquiring the necessary technical skill, studying the correct lighting (a low sun usually), and by an enthusiast who carries out archaeological air-reconnaissance with a camera. In this way it is certain that many more areas of early fields will be discovered, supplementing those which the author himself was the first to recognize in Ireland. O.G.S.C.

## Books Received

EXCAVATIONS AT OLYNTHUS, part XI. NECROLYNTHIA, a study in Greek Burial Customs and Anthropology. By David M. Robinson. (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Archaeology, no. 32). *Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press; London, Humphrey Milford; Oxford University Press*, 1942. pp. xxvii, 279, 71 *plates*, 26 *figures.* £4 10s.

THE LEGACY OF EGYPT. Edited by S. R. K. Glanville. pp. xx, 424, 34 *plates.* *Oxford: Clarendon Press*, 1942. 10s.

DIONYSIAC SARCOPHAGI IN BALTIMORE. By Karl Lehmann-Hartleben and Erling C. Olsen. *Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and The Trustees of the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore*, 1942. pp. 82, *frontispiece and 44 figures.* Price not stated.

THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND THE HEBRIDES: a geologist's guide for Amateurs. By Alfred Harker. *Cambridge University Press*, 1941. pp. xxiii, 127. 8s 6d.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE. BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Report of Excavations at Wroxeter (the Roman city of Viroconium) in the county

## ANTIQUITY

- of Salop, 1923-27. By Donald Atkinson. *The University Press, Oxford, 1942.* pp. xviii, 387, 73 plates (3 in pocket). 21s.
- ON THE SACRED ORIGIN OF THE GERMANIC DEATH PENALTIES. By Folke Strom. *Stockholm: Wahlstrom and Widstrand, 1942.* pp. 300. 8 kroner.
- AMARAVATI SCULPTURES IN THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT MUSEUM. Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum. By C. Sivaramamurti. *Madras, 1942.* pp. 376, 65 plates. 14 rupees 8 annas.
- POETRY AND PROPHECY. By N. K. Chadwick. *Cambridge University Press, 1942.* pp. xvi, 110. 7s 6d.
- DIWYLLIANT GWERIN CYMRU. By Iorwerth C. Peate. *Brython Press, Hugh Evans, 358 Stanley Road, Liverpool.* pp. xvi, 154. 7s 6d.
- PLACE-NAMES OF MIDDLESEX, apart from the City of London. By J. E. B. Gover, Allen Mawer and F. M. Stenton, with the collaboration of S. J. Madge. (English Place-Name Society, vol. 18). *Cambridge University Press, 1942.* 18s.
- THE ROADS OF LAUDERDALE. By R. P. Hardie. pp. xv, 106, map. *Oliver and Boyd, 1942.* pp. xxxiv, 238. 7s 6d.
- WHAT MEAN THESE STONES? The Significance of Archaeology for Biblical Studies. By Millar Burrows. *American Schools of Oriental Research, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, Conn., 1941.* pp. xvi, 306, 58 figures, maps (end sheets). 2 dollars 50 cents.
- TWO CELTIC WAVES IN SPAIN. By P. Bosch-Gimpera. (The Sir John Rhys Memorial lecture, British Academy). *Oxford University Press, 1941.* pp. 126, maps and 6 plates. 9s 6d.
- AESCHYLUS AND ATHENS: a study in the Social Origins of Drama. By George Thomson. *London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1941.* pp. xii, 476. 21s.
- ART IN ANCIENT MEXICO. Selected and photographed from the Collection of Diego Rivera by Gilbert Médioni and Marie-Thérèse Pinto. *Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1941.* pp. xix, 259 illustrations. 10 dollars.