

## ANTIQUITY

RACIAL ORIGINS OF ENGLISH CHARACTER. By R. N. BRADLEY. London : Allen & Unwin, 1926. pp. 192. 6s.

There is much interest abroad in all that relates to the evolution of men and the interpretation of their diversities in time and space, and the author here presents us with an amusing sketch, full of shrewd hits, which is at any rate on a far better level than the diatribes of H. S. Chamberlain and L. Stoddard. Unfortunately we need to know far more of the associations of physical and psychical features, and to have much careful weighing of the respective powers of environmental-historical influences and racial hereditary traits. Nevertheless the suggestion of the Nordic ruler with his games, his conventional pride, and his half-kindly contempt; of the anabolic Alpine looking upon death as a negligible bridge to higher anabolic successes; of the intellectual Beaker-man compounded of and understanding both Alpine and Nordic; and of the Mediterranean steeped in feeling and passion, all have some justification. The Mediterranean type is perhaps the least adequately treated; his tendency to reckless multiplication in the slums of cities is rather hastily ascribed to racial tendencies, whereas a case could be made out for looking upon it as the outcome of conditions of life which have not encouraged care for the morrow. Mr Bradley is, no doubt, on right lines in ascribing much that we value in British life to the fact that in our island environment we have found so many opportunities for expression of the characteristics of that multiplicity of types which we owe to our position at the end of zone of contact between racial and cultural movements from the Mediterranean on the one hand, and the European plain on the other. The recognition of the type of the "Beaker-man" is an interesting point in this book. Bradley accepts from Peake and Haddon the name Prospector for the stalwart dark broadhead of many west-coast patches in Europe and the British Isles; he need have no doubt about the occurrence of the type, but the name is open to question, and his suggestion that it is a variant derived by modification of the Mediterranean is very doubtful. He is even more speculative than usual in an appendix on language, where he develops the theory that something akin to Arabic had influence long ago on place-names in south-west Europe. The distribution of place-names with certain prefixes is even more remarkable than Bradley suggests, but it is doubtful whether in this matter he does more than stimulate criticism. The reviewer realizes with some regret what a different book it would be possible to compile on the bases of consideration of most of Bradley's observation; but this only indicates that we are trying to find a way into a new field of enquiry, and the brightness of this sketch, as well as its effort to avoid savage prejudice, is certainly commendable.

H. J. FLEURE.