

Reviews

The Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford. By the late Rev. E. W. Watson, D.D. Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd., 1935. Pp. viii+72; 22 plates. 3s. 6d.

In this book the late Dr. Watson, formerly Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, gives a concise description and historical account of the Cathedral together with notes on the buildings of the College; the development and organization of the Collegiate Society are also explained. The least possible use of technical terms has been made and the readers are encouraged to ask intelligent questions, the answers to which may be found elsewhere. An interesting account of the legend of St. Frideswide precedes a description of the interior, exterior and appendages of the Cathedral. Throughout, the contents are well arranged in a readable form and the architectural account of the development of the fabric is given in a clear manner. The author does not hesitate, however, to deplore the modern imitation of the Norman work and the fittings of the choir with the exception of Skidmore's iron screen. In describing the Refectory, now known as the 'Old Library' and used as undergraduates' rooms, Dr. Watson points out that it offers the only remaining opportunity in Oxford for an ancient building to be restored to its original dignity. The illustrations are good and accompany the text in the appropriate places; there is an index of persons and places. A regrettable omission is that of a plan of the buildings; no book of this kind should be published without one, however adequate the description may be.

P. S. SPOKES.

Notes on the History of the Parish of Charlbury with Chadlington and Shorthampton, Oxon. By Canon Julius D. Payne, M.A. Oxford University Press, 1935. Pp. vi+48; 1 plate. 2s.

Canon Payne has been Vicar of Charlbury since 1903 and has collected together much useful information which is here presented in a concise and adequate manner. He was himself present at the rediscovery of the Roman villa at Fawler and also during the uncovering of the wall-paintings in Shorthampton church. The history begins with an account of the Fawler villa and is followed by twenty-two other short chapters on various interesting happenings and personalities in the locality. In dealing with the wall-paintings in Shorthampton church, Mr. P. M. Johnston's description in the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. LXII (1905), is given here in a condensed form. It is to be hoped that these useful notes will help to keep before the public the fact that in Shorthampton are some notable paintings which are deserving of permanent preservation. Some readers may consider that the architectural descriptions of the fabric of the churches could have, with advantage, been extended. The frontispiece is a reproduction of pencil sketches by Mr. P. M. Johnston of five of the corbel heads in the nave of Shorthampton church. There is an adequate general index, and the printing and format are good.

P. S. SPOKES.

REVIEWS

Catalogue of Oxfordshire Seventeenth Century Tokens. Edited by J. G. Milne. Printed for the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and sold by Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, London, 1935. Pp. xx + 48; 16 plates. 3s. 6d.

Few counties have been fortunate enough to find within their borders both a collection of their county trade tokens such as that in the Ashmolean Museum and a person of Dr. Milne's well known ability and energy to take up the task of compiling a catalogue such as the very interesting one under review. The excellent illustrations, taken from casts of the actual specimens, cover every variety dealt with, so that the sometimes small differences in the dies used can be easily followed.

The researches of Dr. and Mrs. Milne have brought to light not only a mass of hitherto unrecorded information as to the trades carried on by many of the issuers, where this is not mentioned on their tokens, but also much evidence as to their status, gathered from a perusal of their wills, contemporary hearth-tax returns, and so forth. Light is also thrown on the question of where and by whom the tokens were struck. Dr. Milne shows that the same punches were used in making the dies for pieces issued in London, Norfolk and Oxfordshire, and suggests that these were all made in London. Further research in other counties will probably tend to strengthen this view.

Notwithstanding the fact that in two cases the issuer is described on his token as a mercer, the designs on nos. 17, 18, 63, 110, 111 and 151 certainly represent rolls of tobacco, not rolls of cloth! In other counties such rolls are frequently found depicted in association with pipes, as is the case on no. 75 where Dr. Milne correctly describes it.

Beside the nineteen publicans mentioned (p. x) it would be safe to infer from the designs used, that at least a dozen more of the issuers kept licensed houses, and a reference to a present-day directory will show that in many towns there is still a licensed house with name to fit the design on the token.

It is a matter for regret that the catalogue, notes and index have been printed in separate sections. Had the information contained in the notes and index been printed after the descriptions in the catalogue, the reader would have been spared unnecessary trouble in turning from section to section. This particularly applies when referring to the considerable number of pieces which were either not known to Williamson or which had been attributed by him in error to places of a similar name in other counties.

Nevertheless the catalogue should certainly be in the library of every person interested in the past history of Oxfordshire, and may well serve as an incentive to numismatists in other counties to work up their own county series in a similar manner.

EDWIN HOLLIS.

The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire. By E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden. Printed for the Visitors and sold at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1936. Pp. 64; 19 plates, 8 text-figures. 3s. 6d.

It is a red-letter day for students of Anglo-Saxon archaeology when the report of the excavation of a new cemetery is published. The present volume is no exception and we all welcome its appearance. The report is both handy in form and comprehensive in character, and one may note how much more satisfactory it is to have a publication of this kind (issued, moreover, at a price which makes it available to any student) than to have to ferret out the essential information from several volumes of some journal, as is too often the case.

REVIEWS

The cemetery was found during building operations on a new housing estate, and the intelligent interest of one of the workmen, who reported the discovery to the *Oxford Mail*, enabled the Ashmolean Museum to undertake the excavation, with the generous and enlightened co-operation of the Abingdon Town Council, to whom the site belonged. This is another indication of the rapid spread of interest in things of the past which is taking place all over the country.

Eighty-two cremations were found, and one hundred and nineteen inhumations. It is interesting to see that cremation was so widely practised by the West Saxons (for it is at present thought that these Berkshire cemeteries are those of West Saxons) in pagan times. Not only was it practised on a large scale, but evidently it persisted throughout the period, as can be seen from the fragments of an early equal-armed brooch and of late saucer and square-headed brooches found in the urns. Apart from these brooches the most interesting objects from cremations are the numerous sets of miniature shears, tweezers and knives, and the small combs, which were placed unburnt in the urns, evidently for some ritual purpose.

Of special interest among the objects found with skeletons are two swords which from the form of their scabbard chapes appear to have been direct importations from Belgium. The authors think that this indicates the presence of actual Frankish settlers in the population of Abingdon at this time. A *tutulus*-brooch, a form rare in England but well known on the continent, is also a discovery of some importance. For the rest, the range of pottery forms and the brooch types are of great interest to the general student of British archaeology, and the whole work must be frequently consulted by the specialist in the antiquities of the Anglo-Saxon period. The authors are to be congratulated on their most useful work.

T. C. LETHBRIDGE.

Oxfordshire By-ways. By Miss R. M. Marshall. The Alden Press (Oxford) Ltd., 1935. Pp. 141; frontispiece and end-map. 2s. 6d.

This little book, to which Sir Michael Sadler has written an introduction, is the outcome of articles in the *Oxford Times* and contains pleasant and well-informed notes, written with historical insight, on a number of villages to the north and east of Oxford. It is a book to possess if you live in any one of them and, if not, to dip into on a winter's evening. One hopes that its authoress may use her knowledge and ability to contribute to historical research by writing a complete and detailed history of one or more of the parishes. Otherwise her work may be lost and forgotten in the passage of time and that would be a pity, for she must have expended much trouble on it.

The information contained in this book is on the whole accurate and well-chosen but we may note that many more interesting and amusing details about the astute Thomas Tesdale, the tenant of Glympton Manor, and his wife Maud and their connexion with Abingdon and Henley will be found in Mr. A. E. Preston's *The Church and Parish of St. Nicholas, Abingdon* (Oxford Historical Society, 1935); also that the name 'Oddington' is derived from Otintone (not Ottendune) and has no connexion with otters, the first syllable coming from the personal name 'Ota.' It is to be regretted that a little more care was not expended on the index and on the sketch-map on the end-papers; otherwise the production is worthy of the notes.

M. V. TAYLOR.

REVIEWS

Companion into Oxfordshire. By Miss E. C. Williams. Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1935. Pp. ix+268; 16 plates. 7s. 6d.

This excellent book is heartily to be recommended to those who would learn something of Oxfordshire history and antiquities and it should be found in every Oxfordshire house or motor car; to base short drives on its arrangement would add materially to their pleasure. Like many another such work, which easy travelling has made fashionable, it is neither guide nor history, but unlike many it tells us what we want to know in a simple and unpretentious fashion; fine writing and purple passages are mercifully absent and there is little that can be detected as padding. Wide reading—necessary where no county history exists—and much care has gone to its construction and the result is a book as leisurely and as pleasant as the Thames itself. The arrangement—mainly topographical—and selection are skilful, but, if a little chronological order could have been woven into the regional one on which the book is arranged, some repetition would have been saved, and some idea of the historical development of the county would have been given to the reader; it is a little incongruous to end with a description of the county's earliest antiquity. The information is varied, including descriptions of the livery cloth and plush industry at Shutford, the blanket works at Witney, details of armour on brasses and other monuments, information from the Goring Charters in the Bodleian and the Bishop's Registry at Lincoln, notes on birds and suggestions of alluring walks. And if, instead of some of the gossipy stories, which in a book of this kind must be told uncritically, we would have had some account of Watereaton and Lovelace or Ducklington or North Leigh church, or deserted Wilcote or Beckley manor house or Rousham with its lovely gardens, Thame abbey or Islip tithe-barn, we recognise that others would not and that selection must always be personal. Miss William's choice is at any rate representative.

Perhaps the weakest part of the book is the account of the antiquities. Rollright is given pride of place, but there is no mention of Bronze Age discoveries, nor of the Early Iron Age camp at Chastleton, nor of the numerous villages of pre-Roman and Roman date by the side of the Thames, of which Roman Dorchester became the market centre, nor of the Roman villa at North Leigh. And Alchester near Bicester was a little Roman town, not a camp (p. 184). The Saxon barrow by the Cheltenham road near Asthall is too striking to be omitted as are the jewellery and armour in the Ashmolean Museum from the Saxon cemeteries at Brighthampton, Wheatley and elsewhere in the county.

Two small points may be mentioned. The figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John over the porch of Langford Church are looking away from the Cross (p. 242) because at some time they have been taken down and wrongly replaced. Anthony Wood should be known as the author of *Athenae Oxonienses*, the ancestor, we may say, of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, as well as of the *History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford*. In the bibliography there should be included Jordan, *A Parochial History of Enstone* (1857), Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *Three Oxfordshire Parishes* (Oxford Historical Society, 1893) and that model study of a parish—Warde Fowler's *Kingham Old and New* (1913). But these omissions are trifles in a book that is otherwise admirable.

M. V. TAYLOR.

REVIEWS

The following monographs, articles, and notes on subjects of local interest have also appeared since January, 1935 :—

- Lobel, Mrs. M. D., *The History of Dean and Chalford*. (Oxfordshire Record Society, xvii).
- Preston, A. E., *The Church and Parish of St. Nicholas, Abingdon, and other papers*. (Oxford Historical Society, xcix).
- Salter, Rev. H. E., *Cartulary of Oseney Abbey*, v. (Oxford Historical Society, xcvi).
id., *Medieval Oxford*. (Oxford Historical Society, c).
- Antiquaries Journal*, xv, 30 ff., 'Recent Iron Age discoveries in Oxfordshire and N. Berkshire,' by E. T. Leeds; 199 f., 'Bronze objects from Woodeaton, Oxon.,' a note; 420 ff., 'The Warden's text of the Foundation Statutes of All Souls College, Oxford,' by E. F. Jacob; 477, 'A seal of Oseney Abbey,' a note.
- Antiquaries Journal*, xvi, 165 ff., 'An adulterine castle on Faringdon Clump, Berkshire,' by E. T. Leeds.
- Antiquity*, ix, 96 ff., 'The Hoga of Cutteslowe,' by Helen M. Cam; 217 ff., 'The ramparts of Dorchester, Oxon.,' by G. S. Keeney and C. E. Stevens; 472 ff., 'A Roman villa at Ditchley, Oxon.,' by C. A. Raleigh Radford (see also above, pp. 24 ff.); 478 f., 'An air-photograph of Black Ditch Field, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.,' a note.
- Antiquity*, x, 93 f., 'Stonesfield Slate-tips,' by H. G. Dines.
- Archaeologia*, lxxxiv, 27 ff., 'On a picture commemorative of the Gunpowder Plot recently discovered at New College, Oxford,' by L. G. Wickham Legg.
- Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, xxxix, 58 ff., 'Note on a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon wheel-cross found at Abingdon,' by E. A. Greening Lamborn; 60 ff., 151 ff., 'Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches, ctd.,' by P. S. Spokes; 171 ff., 'Analysis and list of Berkshire barrows,' by L. V. Grinsell.
- Newbury District Field Club Transactions*, vii, no. 3, 149 f., 'A Saxon cross shaft fragment from Wantage,' by Stuart Piggott; 160 ff., 'Excavations on Churn Plain, Blewbury, Berks.,' by H. J. E. Peake, and others.
- Numismatic Chronicle*, 1936, 82 ff., 'A late Roman hoard from Kiddington, Oxon.,' by C. H. V. Sutherland (see also above, pp. 70 ff.); 251 ff., 'A Roman hoard from Eynsham, Oxon.,' by C. H. V. Sutherland.
- Oxfordshire Archaeological Society Report*, 1935, 59 ff., 'Architectural Notes (Faringdon, Great Coxwell Barn, Coleshill House, Kelmscott House, Langford Church),' by T. Lawrence Dale; 63 ff., 'North Hinksey and the Willis family,' by W. Bradbrooke; 75 ff., 'The Manor of Taynton, Oxfordshire,' by Rev. A. L. Browne.
- Records of Buckinghamshire*, xiii, 77 ff., 'The Annual Progress of New College,' by G. Eland. [A transcript, with introduction and notes, of a MS. describing Warden Woodward's Progress over the College's estates at Great Horwood, Bucks., 1659-75.—Ed.]