

ANTIQUITY

design ; its weakness in its delineation of human and animal forms. Precisely the same strength and weakness are shown in the art, seven hundred to a thousand years later, produced in the only Celtic-speaking area which did not come under Roman influence. This similarity suggests that the conquest of the island by Celtic speaking peoples from the continent represented a strong infusion of new blood and not merely the intrusion of warriors few in number, who became a dominant aristocracy. Space will not permit us further to discuss the problems suggested by the examination of this fascinating volume. No archaeologist engaged in comparative work in this country can afford to be without it, and the members of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland by whose subscriptions publication was made possible, are to be congratulated. Should a second edition be called for, the author should include a map of Ireland, showing the distribution of the monuments.

CYRIL FOX.

A CENTURY OF EXCAVATION IN PALESTINE. By PROFESSOR R. A. MACALISTER. London : The Religious Tract Society. 1926. 8vo, pp. 335 and 36 plates. 10s. 6d.

The author divides this book into five chapters—A sketch of the history of excavation in Palestine, excavation and topography, excavation and political history, excavation and cultural history, and excavation and religious history—with a useful bibliography at the end.

As long ago as A.D. 326 Queen Helena excavated in order to find the Holy Sepulchre, but it was not till about 1860 that modern excavation began, although from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries various travellers left us more or less useful accounts of their journeys. The Palestine Exploration Fund was inaugurated in 1865, and one of its first tasks was the great survey of Palestine by Conder and Kitchener. Later on work was carried out by American, French, German, Austrian and, since the war, Jewish societies. The author describes the formations of *tells*, or the mounds that conceal the remains of ancient cities, and the *khirbehs* or visible ruins dating as a rule from a period not earlier than the Roman. The pre-Jebusite or Canaanite culture was far superior in every way to the subsequent Hebrew—a culture that in spite of its literary attainments was deficient in inscriptions and artistic work in general. The Philistines however under a strong Aegean influence later raised the cultural status of the Jews. The former were the “ People of the Sea ” who were so decisively beaten by Ramessu III (1198–1167), and who on being driven back from the shores of Egypt settled on the seaboard of Palestine. “ It might almost be thought ” says Professor Macalister, “ in a superficial view of the excavations that the excavator and the historian were working in totally different fields ; ” for there have been no traces of the kings of Israel who loomed so large in the pages of the Old Testament. There is evidence of human habitation in Palestine during all the Palaeolithic periods with the exception of the Solutrean. The author does not agree with de Morgan’s theory that the Neolithic period was totally absent in western Asia. The Bronze Age which differed in many details with that found in Europe gave place to the Iron Age at about the time of David, or roughly 1000 B.C. Engravings on the crust of flint scrapers are sometimes found, but the tranchet is unknown except for the cache at Gezer, and arrowheads are usually of the leaf-shaped variety. The fact that one at least of the standing stones at Gezer is of a kind foreign to the neighbourhood recalls the Blue Stones at Stonehenge. Cupola or cup markings on stones are common to sites of all periods in Palestine, but as elsewhere their purpose is unknown. “ Its

REVIEWS

(Palestine's) entire culture was derivative. Babylon, Egypt, Crete, Rome, each in turn, lends its helping hand ; never is it stimulated to make an effort for itself." The difference between the pilgrim of former days and the modern tourist is shown in the following passage : " The pilgrim was guided by an ecclesiastic who had renounced the world (at least in theory) ; the tourist is guided by a dragoman who renounces nothing that he can lay his hands on." R. C. C. CLAY.

EVERYDAY LIFE IN ANGLO-SAXON, VIKING AND NORMAN TIMES.

By M. AND C. H. B. QUENNEL. London : B. T. Batsford, Ltd. 1926. 8vo, pp. 123, 82 illustrations. 5s.

This book completes the *Everyday Life Series* from Palaeolithic to modern times, and the authors are to be congratulated upon the accomplishment of a well-written, well-illustrated and painstaking work. The series is designed primarily for children, and it is to be hoped that before very long it will become part of the normal curriculum of every boy and girl. The style and the numerous illustrations will appeal to the older child, who, if intelligently instructed, is naturally interested in things of the past. With the education of the child in the rudiments of archaeology, we can hope for the disappearance of vandalism which, through ignorance, is too prevalent even to-day. Some of our museum curators are already doing good work in this direction and their labours will undoubtedly bear fruit. But it is not to the child alone that this series will be of service. Time and again we are asked by persons who have become interested in archaeology and who wish to go deeper into the subject, " Which is the best book to begin with ? " In future our answer will be " Quennell's." R. C. C. CLAY.

OUR HIGHLAND FOLKLORE HERITAGE. By A. POLSON, F.S.A. SCOT. Inverness : The Northern Chronicle Office. 1926. 8vo, pp. 167. 5s.

This collection of beliefs and stories gathered from the north of Scotland is very welcome as it puts on record some of the traditional lore of the past which, thanks to the written word, the facility of communication and the increase of knowledge, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Folklore is now, and deservedly, coming into its own ; and its co-operation with anthropology and archaeology is as necessary to the progress of science as the team-work of the various persons in an operating theatre is necessary to the success of an operation. It is interesting to notice how widespread are certain beliefs such as the power of amulets and the healing properties of particular springs, and the *corp creadh* is an example of sympathetic magic that can be traced back to the days of the Upper Palaeolithic peoples whose paintings of animals on the walls of caves were thought to bring them luck in the chase. The *teine eigin* or " need fire," kindled as it is by the friction of one stick upon another or the rotation of an upright stick in a prepared socket, must have had its origin in the far distant past, and has its modern counterpart in the bow-drill of the Eskimos and the stick and groove of the Polynesians. Birth, marriage, death, ghosts, fairies, kelpies, hallowe'en and yule-tide are but a few of the subjects that the author treats of ; and the avoidance of over much explanatory matter adds to the pleasure of reading. Mr Polson thoughtfully informs us as to which side of the bed to get out in the mornings, and reassures us that " the Old Celts had quite a variety of tricks by which they could cheat the Devil." R. C. C. CLAY.