Notices of Archaeological Publications.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF ENGLAND. FIRST INTERIM REPORT. THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD. Post quarto, xvi + 312 pp. London: Printed for H.M. Stationery Office by Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1910. 11s. 6d.

It is proverbially difficult to estimate the importance of contemporary events, and the judicious critic must often seek safety in the current political catchword, "Wait and see." But for once in a way, forsaking their habitual caution, English antiquaries may hail the appearance of this volume as a portent of the happiest omen. For the first time in the recorded history of the nation, the Government of the day has determined to "make an inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilization and conditions of the life of the people," not only in England, excluding Monmouthshire, but also in Scotland and Wales. And this with the intent to "specify those which seem most worthy of preservation." Such an official recognition of the value of our national antiquities cannot fail to raise in the mind of every zealous antiquary the vision of a term to his normal occupation of crying in the wilderness against vandalism in high (or low) places, because it is clear that the authors of the Commission's being consider it only as a means to an end, and that end the ultimate protection by the State of the most valuable monuments of the history of the nation. It is true that by the terms of reference, which limit the Commission's enquiries to monuments of earlier date than the eighteenth century, a number of important and beautiful objects will be left unnoticed, but at least a great step has been made in the right direction, and the first-fruits of the work, the Inventory for Hertfordshire, may be welcomed without reserve. Anything less like the normal blue-book it is difficult to imagine. Bound in a stout grey cover with a specially designed title page, and full of half-tone illustrations, plans and a large map on which the site of every monument is indicated, it has 26 pages of introduction and 220 pages of detailed inventory, and is further provided with an excellent glossary of technical terms, and an index whose only fault is its length. The introduction, which is the work of Mr. Page, with an architectural summary by Mr. Peers, gives in a concise but entirely adequate manner the history of the county, as far as we yet know it, from the time when Palaeolithic man lived in it "in caves or the rudest of tree huts beside lakes or rivers." To say that Hertfordshire is full of interest is only to state a truism, for what English county is not? But that interest rises but seldom into the highest rank, whether historically or monumentally. The sack of Verulamium by Boadicea in the year 62, the submission of the English to the Conqueror at Berkhamstead in 1066, and the battles of St. Albans, 1455 and 1460, and of Barnet in 1471, are events which may lay claim to first-rate historical importance, while the royal castles of Berkhamstead and Hertford figure prominently in the Barons' wars, but there is nothing

else of much note. The Tudor sovereigns were much in the county, whether at Hatfield, Tyttenhanger, Hertford, Hunsdon, or Ashridge, and at Hatfield Elizabeth received the news of her accession to the throne; for the rest the goodness of its soil and the nearness of London made Hertfordshire a land of prosperous squires and London merchants, whose houses are still one of its most attractive features. In the matter of monuments, only three can be considered of the highest rank; the remains of Verulamium, the abbey (now cathedral) church of St. Albans, and the house of the Cecils at Hatfield. Yet on looking through the pages of the inventory the attention is caught again and again by rare and interesting details, and that the Commissioners are fully alive to the fact is shown by the schedule at page 246 of monuments selected as especially worthy of preservation. No less than eighty-three items are given, counting St. Albans cathedral and its many treasures as a single monument only, and the boundary line between these chosen examples and many others in the body of the inventory is one which has been very hard to draw.

With regard to the inventory itself, its construction is extremely simple, and well calculated to give a clear impression of the distribution of the monuments. It is arranged under parishes in alphabetical order, and in each parish the monuments, if any, are set out under the heads of Pre-historic, Roman, Ecclesiastical, and Secular, with now and again a residuum of "unclassified." The monuments are numbered consecutively for each parish, and are so marked on the map at the end of the book, and it is worth noting that Hitchin easily heads the list with no less than thirty-eight. In this connexion a criticism suggests itself, that in dealing with a parish which has a number of monuments of the same class, it would be more convenient for purposes of reference if the streets in which the monuments occur were given in alphabetical order. Take the case of Hitchin already mentioned. The streets appear to be here noted, roughly speaking, from south to north, but no regular order is observed. Nine separate street headings at least are given, and it is easy to see that in a larger parish a great deal of inconvenience might arise from such a method. It is true that the ample index at the end of the book makes amends for this, but in an inventory, which is after all itself only a glorified index, the value of the final index is rather as a summary than for reference.

With this slight exception there can be nothing but praise for the order and system of the report, a system carried equally into the individual accounts. That they are thorough and careful it is safe to say, and though doubtless some mistakes may be pointed out from time to time, it is clear that all has been done which could tend to ensure accuracy in the information. One item, however, it must be allowed, presents very great difficulties, namely the notes on the condition of each monument. These to be of any real value would need to be a summary of the report of an experienced architect who was also an antiquary; without this it is difficult to keep to any constant definition of "good condition." The condition of, say, Anstey church is good; so is that of the south transept gable of St. Albans cathedral church; but one is a well-preserved twelfth and fourteenth-century building, the other a mere archaeological outrage, dating from about 1880.

The prospect of a series of county inventories like the present volume

is certainly an attractive one, but from the nature of the case it is neither possible nor desirable to produce them quickly. It is indeed highly probable that this generation will not see the end of the great work, and its full consequences will probably only be enjoyed by our grandchildren; but at least it is a comforting thought that nothing can take from our own times the credit of its inception.

GENEALOGIES OF THE CAMARTHENSHIRE SHERIFFS, from 1539 to 1759.
Compiled by JAMES BUCKLEY. 9 x 6, xvi + 221 pp. Carmarthen: W. Spurrell and Son, 1910.

It is not at first sight quite obvious why Mr. Buckley should have selected the exact dates of the 220 years his book covers: 1543 is understandable, as it was the year of the Statute 34 and 35, Henry VIII, c. 26, sec. 22 of which finally placed the sheriffs in the Welsh counties in the same position as those in the English, but 1539 does not mark any particular epoch in the history of Welsh sheriffs nor does 1759, unless possibly it was selected as marking the last sheriff of George II, considering the reign of George III too modern for historical purposes, but 1759 was not the last of George II, as that king did not die until 25th Oct. 1760, and as sheriffs are appointed to come into office early in April, the last sheriff of George II was the one for 1760. We do not quite see why the pedigree of Sir Rhys ap Thomas is given, as he does not appear to have been a sheriff of Carmarthenshire within the period included in the book, unless it is to show that Jenkin Lloyd, the sheriff in 1539, was descended from a common ancestor with Sir Rhys, and that he was the direct ancestor of Griffith Rhys, sheriff in 1567-1583. The book contains some points of genealogical interest for which it is to be regretted Mr. Buckley does not give his authorities, thus, on page 5 cardinal Beaufort (he is only called bishop of Winchester) is represented as being lawfully married, the name of his wife is unfortunately omitted, and on page 6 the pedigree of Sir Thomas Jones of Abermarles begins with a lady who is described as a daughter of John, duke of Burgundy. This, it is presumed, is John the Fearless, who was murdered at Montreau in 1419, by a daughter of Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, presumably Thomas Arundel, who died in 1414. Arundel had plenty of detractors, but this daughter who is inserted as if she were legitimate, discloses a new side of his character, and although Barante tells us that John the Fearless was, like his father, not faithful to his marriage vows, but had many mistresses but little known, yet it would have been of interest to know the authority for including the archbishop's daughter among them. With these two entries before us we entirely agree with Mr. Buckley's observation that the pedigrees in his book "are open to criticism." Sir James Williams of Panthowell, sheriff 1543, was also said to be descended from the duke of Burgundy and archbishop Arundel's daughter. Their child Elizabeth married Thomas ap Gruffyd, who, it is stated, had two lawful wives, both named Elizabeth, both of whom had legitimate descendants, while in addition to these he had thirteen illegitimate children. With these facts the difficulties of Welsh genealogy are apparent.

The pedigrees show what has often been stated, that the Welsh pre-

reformation clergy did not practise celibacy. On page 11 a descent of Rev. ap William ap Thomas Goch, three times sheriff, in 1546, 1549 and 1562, is traced through Gwladys, the daughter of Sir David ap Howel, the vicar of Llanfairarybryn, the parish in which Llandovery is situated, and the sheriff's mother is given as Joan, the daughter of Richard Talley, the abbot of Strata Florida. Charity would point out that as he was the last abbot, the lady was not born before he resigned, but as he resigned in 1553 and the daughter's son was sheriff in 1546, this explanation is more charitable than accurate. It is an ungracious task to point out the defects of Mr. Buckley's book, for no one can open it without being struck with the care and labour he has bestowed upon these pedigrees, and it is certain that no one who tries to write on or edit Welsh pedigrees can hope to be free from mistakes. Besides, illegitimacy was not regarded as anything to be ashamed of in a Welsh pedigree; for instance there is the case of Walter Powell, the sheriff in 1752, who left two natural children, between whom his property was divided, and they seem to have prospered much the same as legitimate Welsh landowners of the time.

Attention should be called to two serious omissions, (1) there is no index whatever. It may be said it would have been difficult if not impossible to have made an index with names very often identical, and where differentiation is a difficulty, this is true, but the more difficult the index the greater its need. To the book it would have been invaluable and would have greatly increased its usefulness for reference. The proverbial search for a needle in a bottle of hay is easy when compared with the search for such a man as David Lloyd in this book. (2) The second omission is a more notable one. Mr. Buckley treats of the vexed question of the precedence to which a sheriff is entitled and discusses the precedence of the sheriff and Lord Lieutenant. He wholly omits to mention that this is the one point on the subject that is not open to discussion, as it has been authoritatively settled, and had been for some six years before Mr. Buckley's book. The royal warrant of the 20th February, 1904, declared that the king's lieutenant of a county should during his term of office have on all occasions place prominence and precedence before the sheriff having concurrent jurisdiction in the said county.

MANUEL D'ART BYZANTIN. Par CHARLES DIEHL. 9 × 5½, 837 pp. Illustrated. Paris: Librairie Alphonse Picard et Fils, 1910. 15 fr.

This important book, a companion to the well-known volumes by M. Camille Enlart on mediaeval art in France, is an able resumé of what is known of the art of the christian east by a well-known Byzantine scholar. Its chapters treat fully of origins of the architectural monuments, of paintings, mosaics, manuscripts, tissues, sculpture, metalwork, enamels and glass, together with ample accounts of iconography and the iconoclastic movement, and discussions of "the Byzantine question" and the general characteristics of this art. This wide survey is admirably accomplished; it is clearly seen and sharply defined. It is an indispensable work for all students of the phases of art with which it deals and it would be absurd to try to find and express a few points of difference on details in a work of such magnitude.

The point of view is very much that of Strzygowski, but the theories of that daring writer are dealt with cautiously and subjected to some criticism ; on the other hand the contentions of Revoira are hardly mentioned. Rome is very much ignored, although to some extent it must be taken for granted, while considerable prominence is given to remote and, apart from the theory, unimportant works of comparatively late date in Asia Minor, which are probably seen a little out of perspective, as they have been so recently found. My own impression, if I may refer to so small a thing in face of the opinion of a scholar of M. Diehl's great learning and reputation, is that a distinction will have to be made between Byzantine architecture as a method of building and the same as a means of expressing thought and feeling through building. I do not think that there is much in the structural system which was not Roman—the wider Roman of the empire—although the expressional result differed so obviously from that of classical art. Building in brick, the erection of domes, the encrusting of surfaces with marble and gilt glass were all probably "Eastern" inventions, but these methods were all absorbed into Roman art, and Rome passed them on to Byzantium. There is only one important exception which I can think of, and it applies probably only to Rome, the city, and not to that which was Roman in the larger sense : the conception of a roof as a terrace, through which groups of domes emerge from several chambers of the interior, seems to be oriental, and hardly to have been known in Rome, although it largely influenced Byzantine architecture. Now a relief on the famous silver casket of Projecta in the British Museum shows a palace roofed by such a domical system. It probably represents a house in Alexandria, and is certainly of the fourth century ; that is the oriental system of dome and terrace building was used in eastern Roman, or Hellenistic cities. Seeing further how common was the pendentive under domes in the recently discovered Egyptian small burial chapels of the fifth century, it is probable that this feature is also Alexandrian. It seems certain now that it was known in the city of Rome from the second century. In a sense Byzantine art in eastern cities inherited such building customs directly, but yet Rome had intervened, and we cannot say what would have become of Hellenistic art without this intervention ; how much had been brought about by Roman organisation, how much stimulated by Roman patronage. Late Hellenistic architecture must to this extent be considered Roman, and Byzantine architecture in its structural system derives in the main from Hellenistic sources. The spirit, however, was truly of the East—Jewish, Greek, Christian, Egyptian, Persian.

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