Garstín as fifteenth or perhaps fourteenth, so we may take their judgments as practically coinciding.

There is also an engraving of a broken seal with the legend "Ardmachensis Ep..." which Mr. Armstrong assigns to the twelfth-thirteenth century period.

Some of the early designs are beautiful, and their execution very perfect; they do not, however, show any development peculiar to this country.

The book is a very useful contribution to the study and illustration of this branch of Irish art and history, and gives one confidence in the accuracy and judgment of its statements, and the completeness of its catalogue.

"The Bronze Age in Ireland." By George Coffey.


Mr. Coffey's "Newgrange" of the previous year studied the most remarkable monument of our Bronze Age and made a minute examination of the monumental art of the period in stone. This later book is a description and illustration of all the types of bronze age instruments—of bronze and of gold—found in Ireland and of other articles of the same period, and gives his own and the conclusions of other students as to the chronology of the Bronze Age in this country and as to some features of its civilization.

In "Newgrange" he detailed his theory of the introduction of bronze age ornament and culture into Ireland from Scandinavia, to which the traders for amber across the east of Europe had brought it from its Ägean home.

The authority of Dr. Montefiore is given in this second book for the arrival of bronze age civilization—or rather its first stage, the use of copper—in Ireland about 2500 B.C., which Mr. Coffey thinks may be a couple of centuries too early. This goes back very much farther than the date put forward by Mr. J. Rossmill Allen, who, working to some extent from the same authorities, gives 1300 B.C. as the probable beginning of the bronze age in Britain and Ireland. The author suggests that gold also may have been worked, even back in neolithic days, though the first articles of this metal that have been preserved are contemporary with later centuries of the Bronze Age.

The series of illustrations are very instructive, and with Mr. Coffey's brief but complete and accurate descriptions, give an understanding of all the bronze and gold articles of the period—cetls, daggers, spears, swords, shields, pins, lunulæ, gorgets, torcs, trumpets, sickles, gold lunulæ, balls, and discis, and ring money.

The development of the different types of each weapon is clearly explained, and especially interesting is the resemblance of the ring objects to the comparatively modern illustrations of ring money on sixteenth century sculpture at Benin, Africa. There is also a chapter on the pottery of the period, a list of the finds of bronze age objects, and a further comment on the origin of the symbolism of the Newgrange stone-carvings.

Some of the discoveries in crannogues described by Colonel Wood-Martin, which are not enumerated here, might be thought to rank as bronze age finds, for the author has found evidence in the remains, of the use of the same island habitation from stone age to comparatively modern times.

Mr. Coffey does not treat of the bronze articles that were made in later times—the pins, brooches, and sword scabbards of beautiful La Tene and other styles of ornament which are figured in the "Lake Dwellings of Ireland," but perhaps these would have been outside the scope of his book.

One would welcome a more general suggestion of the social life of the times, but Mr. Coffey is too careful and too deep a scholar for speculation. He gives us, however, the actual facts made known by the different finds of bronze age remains, and these are interesting enough in themselves. A collection of the references to bronze in ancient Irish literature would have been valuable, as these supply long-surviving traditional evidence about the uses it was put to.

Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. xliv., parts 1, 2, 3, 4.

In these volumes there is so much to which we might be expected to draw the attention of our readers that it is almost unfair not to give the complete list of contents. Mr. Westropp, to whom we might present the ancient topographer's motto: "γνῶθι σεαυτόν, ἴσως σωθήσῃς" has at last brought his exhaustive survey of "The Promontory Forts and Early Remains of the West Coast of Ireland" to a conclusion. His satisfaction in knowing that he has achieved a really great task seems to be chilled somewhat, to judge by his valedictory paragraphs, by the feeling that his has not been the work to interest, that he is but the forgotten hewer of stone.