Londinium: Architecture and the Crafts by W. Lethaby; A Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain in the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities, British Museum by Reginald A. Smith; The Romans in Britain by Bertram Windle; Roman Britain by R. G. Collingwood
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As completeness and freshness of information are his aims, it is well to point out some places where, being human, he has shown himself fallible in these respects. He does not claim to possess the art of divination on which he writes so excellently, so can hardly be blamed for not having read, in 1920, such works as Reinhardt's *Poseidonios*, Farnell's *Hero-Cults*, Finck's *Auguralia und Verwandtes*, and the articles on the Sibylline tradition in Pauly-Wissowa; or for a tendency to treat Thulin as having said the last word on the liver of Piacenza. But a few gaps appear which might have been filled without the practice of curious arts. Thus, on *quid cuique significaretur* in i, 2, he might have cited the classical discussion of Madvig (on *de finibus* i, 11). On p. 80, he discusses a spondaic rhythm (note on *densus*, i, 13), without mentioning the rather abundant literature on this point. P. 109, he cites the Gospels in a misleading way, viz., 'Matt. xxvii, 51 (cf. Mark xv, 38; Luke xxiii, 45).' Of these passages that from Mark, which is clearly the source upon which Matthew draws, should come first. Pp. 142, 167, there are later editions of the Oxyrhynchus fragments of the *periœchae* of Livy and of Pindar's paeans. Pp. 433, much has been said since the time of Roscher on the origin of the belief in Centaurs, for instance by Miss Harrison in *Prolegomena*. Pp. 409-10, the note on *sescenta* (ii, 34) is excellent, but a reference to the remarks of Lévy-Bruhl on magic numbers would not be amiss. In discussing exstispicy, reference should have been made to Hose and Macdougall's work on Borneo, and to Warde Fowler's discussion of the parallels between Bornese and Italian methods (*J.R.S.* vi, 13 ff.).

There are some misprints, the worst being the repetition of a line on p. 429; and the author has made a few slips, such as on p. 286 (the emperor Honorius is credited with the possession of a *cock* called Roma); p. 211, where he prints *paulo ante sapiens illa* and comments on *illa paulo ante sapiens* (i, 86); p. 169a, l. 5 from bottom, where *praenomen* should be *cognomen*. A few comments, mostly on points of grammar or rhetoric, seem to the reviewer mistaken or inadequate. But all these are minor blemishes on a good and most scholarly work, concerning which one's chief regret is that Prof. Pease has too often confined himself to giving other people's opinions, when his own, on the occasions when he does express it, is always well worth having.

H. J. R.

LONDINIUM: ARCHITECTURE AND THE CRAFTS. By W. LETHABY. pp. 248 and 174, figs. London: Duckworth. 12s. 6d.

A GUIDE TO THE ANTIQUITIES OF ROMAN BRITAIN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH AND MEDIEVAL ANTIQUITIES, BRITISH MUSEUM. By REGINALD A. SMITH, F.S.A. By order of the Trustees, 1922. pp. vi + 136 with 13 plates and 142 figs. 2s. 6a. net.

THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN. By BERTRAM WINDLE. Methuen, 1923. pp. 244 x xii with 68 illustrations. London: Methuen. 12s. 6d.

ROMAN BRITAIN. By R. G. COLLINGWOOD, F.S.A. The World's Manuals. Oxford University Press, 1923. pp. 104, with 51 illustrations. 2s. 6d.

The increasing popularity of the study of Roman Britain is exemplified by the recent appearance of four books dealing with varying aspects of the subject. The Trustees of the British Museum have published a handy and well-illustrated *Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain in the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities*. Sir Bertram Windle has put into book-form a course of lectures on *The Romans in Britain*, delivered by him at the University of Toronto. Professor Lethaby, writing from a more technical standpoint, has produced a monograph on Roman London (*Londinium, Architecture and the Crafts*). And finally one of the latest of the series of *The World's Manuals*, issued by the Oxford University Press, is an excellent and suggestive essay on *Roman Britain* by Mr. R. G. Collingwood. These four works differ widely in scope and method of treatment. Taken together, they express the growing recognition that the period of the Roman occupation of Britain forms an integral part of English history and that its civilisation is deserving of study in every detail.

Roman London, which forms the subject of Professor Lethaby's book, was first

systematically surveyed in 1909, when Mr. R. A. Smith, Mr. F. W. Reader and Mr. H. B. Walters contributed their long chapter to the first volume of the *Victoria County History of London*. That in the main was a summary of finds; a record of the material upon which any account of Londinium must be based. The paper on Roman London contributed by Professor Haverfield to the first volume of this *Journal* was, on the other hand, a lecture, giving, within the limits which a lecture prescribes, a general sketch of the Roman city, its history and characteristic features. Professor Lethaby's book is at once more limited and more detailed. Its range is indicated by its sub title. Its author barely concerns himself with the history of the town or its place in the province. As an architect his interest lies in buildings and in craftsmanship. His opening chapter, on building materials and methods, is of more than local interest, and deserves general study as a technical examination of Roman building. The chapters on cemeteries and tombs and on some larger monuments afford a good classification of funerary records, even though some of the reconstruction is decidedly conjectural. Other topics discussed are sculpture, mosaics, wall-paintings and marble linings, and lettering. Chapter ii, on buildings and streets, produces little to disprove Professor Haverfield's assertion that 'we do not know for sure the plan of a single house or the line of a single street in Londinium'; for Professor Lethaby's theory that the foundations discovered below Leadenhall Market were a portion of the Roman civic basilica hardly amounts to more than hypothesis. The view elaborated in the last chapter, that a river-crossing existed in pre-Roman times at Westminster, is equally disputable. The book would have gained greatly by the insertion of a map. It is provided with numerous drawings of details, but the figure-drawings do not all do justice to the originals. Nevertheless the book as a whole is important as a contribution to the history of the arts and crafts of Roman Britain.

Many of the objects described by Professor Lethaby reappear in the *British Museum Guide*. This was to be expected, for the *British Museum* is not only a national collection but is pre-eminently a London museum. It shares, it is true, with the Guildhall the position of home of the antiquities of Roman London, but it has the advantage of having for its basis the collections of a man who contributed more than any other to the preservation of Roman remains found in the city. Charles Roach Smith, a London druggist, was half a century ahead of his time in appreciating the value of what excavators used to call 'minor finds.' He lived in London at a time when street improvements were constantly bringing Roman objects to light, and when few but he appreciated them. He grasped the fact that the implications of Roman civilisation are to be gathered from a study of articles in common use; and hence the *Guide*, which rightly prefixes to the description of exhibits a reproduction of the medallion of Roach Smith, supplies an excellent representative collection of 'museum objects.' These are classified according to subject, and are well illustrated and described. Places of discovery are recorded and indexed. The index will probably reveal to many readers the fact that the Museum contains unfamiliar objects from sites with which they are well acquainted. The introduction, on the other hand, is too brief to be useful as a survey, and might have been dispensed with. Some of the statements in it are misleading though strictly accurate. Thus we are told that 'Valentia is considered by some to be the region between the Antonine and Hadrianic walls,' and again that the connexion of Severus with the southern wall remains a mystery 'unless the old view can be substantiated that Hadrian constructed the turf wall between the Tyne and Solway as a political boundary, and Severus followed about the same line with the stone wall to serve as a military barrier'; but no caution is added that these theories are exploded and untenable. Otherwise there is little to criticise in the *Guide*. It provides a good introduction to the study of Romano-British life, and is well worth purchasing both by visitors to the Museum and by young archaeologists who desire to acquaint themselves with the various classes of objects found on Roman sites in Britain. Here for instance they will find ten pages on the different forms of *fibulae*, and twice that amount on varieties and shapes of Samian and common pottery, plentifully illustrated by photographs and drawings. The map of Roman Britain reproduced as fig. 1 has not been well chosen.

In outward appearance Sir Bertram Windle's *Romans in Britain* is the most considerable book of the four. It is well printed, and though a large proportion of the illustrations are borrowed, with acknowledgment, from Mr. John Ward's books, the half-tone plates, which are new, are good. It covers considerable ground. Chapters on the conquest of Britain, the military system, and the defence of the frontiers, are succeeded by others descriptive of the Roman roads and the towns which lay on them. Then follow chapters on the house in Roman Britain, household objects, and funerary monuments, and three chapters on religious cults. The book is based upon lectures delivered to a public audience in the University of Toronto. Its writer frankly states his position in the preface. He had explored the principal Roman remains of this country and had visited its chief museums. But he realised that an account of sites and objects 'required some historical and archaeological setting, and for that the lecturer had to rely on reading, having no claim to be considered a classical archaeologist or historian.' His pages 'are intended for general readers and not for scholars.' That being so, it would be unfair to criticise the book for not being that to which it makes no claim. But one must add that the author's reading has not always been well directed, and that an indiscriminate use of second-hand material makes a dangerous guide. The writer's slips, as for instance in the misread inscriptions, show less ignorance than carelessness. For these defects his professed aim affords no excuse. The best books for general readers are those which are the most reliable.

Mr. Collingwood's little manual on *Roman Britain* is a work of very different character. It too represents a set of lectures delivered to persons not previously acquainted with the subject, and he warns the specialist student of Roman Britain that he 'will find here nothing that is not familiar to him.' That may be so, but the facts, though familiar, are well put, and Mr. Collingwood's interpretation of them is frequently new and suggestive. His conception of Romano-British civilisation, his appreciation of Romanisation as an influence that grew and developed in a Celtic world, derive from the teaching of Professor Haverfield. But he develops the thesis of the *Romanisation of Roman Britain* and carries it a stage further. In his analysis Romano-British civilisation, because it was compounded of Celtic as well as of Roman elements, was therefore unique and distinct from the Roman civilisation of other provinces. It 'was not an urban civilisation; its most characteristic towns were more like collections of country-houses than real towns, and to see its most characteristic expression we must look at the life of the country districts. Here the evidence seems to point towards a social order of Celtic pattern, pre-Roman, acquiring a Roman colouring; houses of Celtic type acquiring new characteristics from Roman building-construction, Roman art, and Roman manners, but never losing their Celtic stamp or becoming Romano-cosmopolitan instead of Romano-British.' Pottery shows a similar coalescence of Roman and Celtic styles. 'About A.D. 130 we find the older Roman coarse wares disappearing and their place taken by a new style, which is in some ways like the Roman wares, but in others resembles late Celtic ware much more closely than Roman. Three features are especially striking; the style of fabric . . . is late Celtic and not Roman; the characteristic sharp-angled lip of Roman coarse ware is replaced by the more open curve of the late Celtic lip; and a lattice-work and curvilinear style of ornament comes in, executed with a blunt tool.' Castor pottery is characteristic of the new culture. Its animal groups, floral scrolls and human figures, as well as the arrangement of the ornament, are derived from Samian; but the shapes of the vases and the style of the decoration are purely Celtic. 'Thus Roman and Celtic styles in pottery fuse into one another and bring out wholly new styles derived from both alike, as two chemical compounds join and produce two new compounds, each drawing something from both the originals.' Mr. Collingwood's insistence on the national character of the culture of the provinces—he is careful to add that the modern sense of political nationality was wanting—finds its parallel in a few sentences by M. Louis Gillet quoted on the first page of Professor Lethaby's *Londinium*. Speaking of the Maison Carrée and the Mausoleum at St. Rémy he says: 'There is in these chefs d'œuvre something not of Rome. The elements are used with liberty and delicacy

more like the work of the Renaissance than of Vitruvius. In three centuries Gaul had become educated. These Gallo-Roman works, like certain verses of Ausonius, show little of Rome; they are already French.'

Almost equal interest attaches to the history of the conquest and occupation which forms Mr. Collingwood's second chapter. His account of the building of Hadrian's Wall (admirably illustrated by a section of the Ordnance Survey reproduced on the back end-paper) and his sketch of British history in the fourth century may one day require to be modified. We are still far from certainty at many points in the history of Roman Britain, and the best that we can do is provisionally to adopt those theories which best explain ascertained archaeological facts. Such theories are entitled to hold the field until fresh discoveries require them to be rectified, and are necessary stages on the road to truth. In conclusion we would draw attention to the answer which Mr. Collingwood gives to the difficult question why, if Britain became Romanised, its civilisation disappeared. He replies that Britain was exposed to worse enemies than Gaul, and that it was just the most civilised, that is the most Romanised, of the population who attracted marauders bent upon loot, and who were destroyed or were driven out of their homes into mountains or forests where civilised life was no longer possible.

H. H. E. CRASTER.

THE ECLOGUES, BUCOLICS OR PASTORALS OF VIRGIL. A Revised Translation, with introduction, text and notes, by T. F. ROYDS, M.A., B.D. Pp. 120. Oxford: Blackwell, 6s.

Mr. Royds, who is the author of a useful little book on 'the Beasts, Birds and Bees of Virgil' and of a study of the Fourth Eclogue, presents in this volume a translation of the Eclogues which, if not inspired or distinguished, is at least for the most part pleasant and readable, while the writer's loving study of his author is plain on every page. The translation is mostly in blank verse, but the couplets of Damon and Menalcas in Ecl. III are in Elegiacs, the Daphnis-songs in Ecl. V are in rhymed couplets, and the contest in Ecl. VII is in rhymed quatrains. Mr. Royds' handling of English metres is generally scholarly, but at times he disregards the natural accent of words with unfortunate results, and in his elegiacs, and especially in the pentameters, the management of the caesura is not always happy. His language is more free than that of many translators from mannerisms and false archaisms, but 'nathless' (many times—once actually as the last foot of the iambic line) and 'raught,' are incongruous with his general style; and so is the use of words here and there in a forcedly literal sense: e.g., 'Phoebus loves no scroll | better than that *prescribed* with thy name': or 'He sang how through the vasty void *concurrent* | the seeds, etc.' Now and then, the conversion of substantives into verbs is somewhat odd: 'The very cot shall *bloom* delightful flowers,' 'to bless the fields with fruits | And *flush* on sunny hills the reddening grape,' and somehow 'Amaryll' and 'Galaté' are less convincing than the more familiar 'Philomel' and 'Arethuse,' nor is 'utmost Garamanth' a happy rendering of '*Extremi Garamantes*.' Mr. Royds does not often make the mistake of contaminating translation with commentary, and his lines are very free from padding; but 'the *embattled* corn' (Ecl. VIII, 100) is entirely gratuitous, and in V, 25, 26, the imported ideas destroy the simple perfection of the original, 'No beast to taste the water-spring had heart | And from sweet meadow-grasses stood apart' (*nulla naque amnem | libavit quadrupes nec graminis attigit herbam*). Now and then the translation suggests an idea which is just (sometimes more than just) wrong: e.g., I, 10, 'work my will' (*ludere quae vellem*); II, 20, 'how *deep* my foaming-pails' (*nivei quam lactis abundans*); IV, 17, 'and rule a world by righteous father *tamed*' (*pacatum patriis virtutibus*); VI, 48, '*befooled* the fields with bellowings of kine' (*implerunt falsis mugitibus*); VII, 65, 'ashes *afield*' (*fraxinus in silvis*); X, 43, '*swoon* with thee' (*tecum consumerer*); and in VII, 50, *postes* cannot mean 'rafters.'

The notes are very brief, but explain most of the points which ought to be explained to the 'general reader'; perhaps there should be some reference to Professor Tucker's interpretation of passages in Ecl. I (Class Rev., 1908), but Mr. Royds may have considered