Note

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obscure beginnings, in which Finn and his *fiana* do not play the part assigned to them by the later and modern legend.' These extracts indicate the drift of Professor Meyer's introduction. In Scotland we get traces of the Fiann all over the Highlands, not only in legend, but also in place-names. (I do not recall any Scottish personal name based thereon.) The oldest recorded example is that in the well-known gloss, said to be contemporary, affixed to a charter of Alexander II. (1214-1249) to the Abbey of Kinloss, wherein occurs 'Tubernafeyne of the grett or kemppis¹ men callit ffenis is ane well.' In Perthshire the *fiann* are specially connected with the numerous brochs and broch-like structures which occur in the basin of the Tay, including Rannoch, all of which are known as Caistealan nam Fiann, the Castles of the Fiann. While Professor Meyer prints the pieces noted above, he mentions, with short notes and approximate dates, fifty-nine poems and prose pieces dealing more or less directly with the subject. The volume is highly suggestive, and throws fresh light on the much debated subject, 'Who were the Fiann?' W. J. W.

NOTE

In my review of Dr. Henderson's book, which I had no opportunity of correcting in proof, the following misprints occur:—on p. 379, 'scheme' for 'theme,' *porljotr* for *þorljótr*, *þor-* for *þor-*, *þórr* for *Þórr*, and near the foot of the page, 'Snorn's' for 'Snorri's.' On p. 380, 'piórs-á' and 'pjórs-á' for 'Þiórsa-á' and 'Þjórsa-á.' On p. 381, *purs* and *puss* for *þurs* and *þuss*.

W. A. CRAIGIE.

QUERY

The following comes from the Provincial Archivist, Toronto:—I am enclosing a query note to you for the *Celtic Review*. Interest in Highland history is being fanned here at present, and Mr. Ferguson's article in the *April Review* has been variously discussed. The *Review* is a constant source of pleasure and inspiration. Long may it thrive.

On page 411 of MacBain's *Excursus on Skene's Highlanders*, MacBain says: '... Dugall was really Somerled's eldest son, and therefore head of the house of Somerled.' ... 'The name Dugall is for Dubh-ghall, "Black Foreigner," that is, Dane.' It would be interesting to explain the seeming inconsistency here. How could Dugall, Somerled's eldest son, get, as a personal name, the name used to designate the visiting Danes?

ALEXANDER FRASER.

REPLY

The explanation of the name given to Somerled's son is simply that, even so long ago, names were given without consideration of their significance, and that Somerled called his son 'Dugall' with as little reference to its original meaning as is the case at the present day.

¹ i.e. warrior.