

Neolithic' remains his views are not quite clear; he seems to derive the Larne culture from Scotland, yet states that the Oronsay culture was Azilian, while that of Larne was Campignian.

The Bronze Age scarcely receives as much attention as the importance of the subject demands, and one would gladly have had more information as to the resemblances to be noted between Irish examples of metal work and those discovered elsewhere. The gold trade is touched upon very lightly, and its possible connexion with the spread of megalithic culture is ignored.

Professor Macalister is convinced that Celtic speech did not reach Ireland until the Iron Age, and that before 300 B.C. the island was non-Celtic. His reasons for so late an arrival of Aryan speech are not very convincing, and it is difficult to bring such a view into line with evidence drawn from other lands.

Still, in spite of these small criticisms, the book is both valuable and readable, and we have but one further complaint to make, which the author has anticipated. When the reader comes across such words as Latharna, Droichead Atha, Bóinn, and Teamhair, he is somewhat puzzled until, on referring to the index, he discovers that they are his old friends Larne, Drogheda, Boyne, and Tara.

HAROLD PEAKE.

English Goldsmiths and their Marks. By Sir CHARLES JAMES JACKSON, F.S.A. Second edition. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$; pp. xvi + 747. London: Macmillan, 1921. £5 5s.

The virtues of this useful and voluminous work are already familiar to all who deal in any sense with old English plate. The taste for plate is widely spread, though indulgence in collecting pieces of importance is necessarily limited to a very few. Still, as in other branches of collecting, the competent amateur can at times find chances to gratify himself at moderate prices, though an inevitable result of the circulation of books such as this is naturally to diminish the number of such occasions. The collector is everywhere and almost of all classes, and the resulting supply to meet his demands must cause the more thoughtful among us to reflect deeply, not altogether with satisfaction. A clever American woman pointed out to me that the antiquity shops in Paris far exceeded the bakers' shops in numbers, and that whereas the contents of the latter were daily consumed, and the antiquities were not, yet the antiquity shops were week after week as full as ever. London seems likely to be soon as well provided as Paris in this direction, and the time-worn motto, *caveat emptor*, should be more than ever in fashion, although it is perhaps less applicable to the buyer of old English plate than to other forms of antiquities, owing to the drastic powers for punishment vested in the Goldsmiths' Company; yet even the plate collector cannot afford to dismiss the warning entirely. The desire for the more ornate forms of old plate is responsible for the embellishment with scrolls and wreaths of many a plain coffee-pot, originally innocent of all decoration. Here the hall-marks do not avail, for they are, as a rule, genuine, and the buyer's only security is in the possession of knowledge to judge of

the propriety of the ornament and whether it corresponds with the date shown by the marks.

It is not a little curious—whether regarded as an example of English conservatism or as an argument against modern demands that the government should do everything—that for something like six hundred years the entire control of the purity and quality of manufactured plate in these islands should have been continuously left in the hands of a City company. Nor, apart from the jealousies of some other of the City guilds, does there seem ever to have been any serious criticism either of the methods of the Goldsmiths' Company or of the results of their control. During the past century many of the companies were favourite objects for attack, though it would seem that the public has eventually realized how munificent they have been as patrons of science, art, and education at large, and in this direction the Goldsmiths' Company has long taken a foremost place. In any case, apart from their specific benefactions, the story of their long administration of their public trust is one that reflects glory on English probity.

It hardly needs to be stated that the great work that Sir Charles Jackson has produced is the result of the collaboration of a number of busy hands. His correspondents, whether in the West Country, in Ireland, or in Scotland, have industriously set themselves to add to the ever increasing mass of facts that Sir Charles has set out with great clearness in this huge tome. But it is to him that we owe the systematic handling of them so as to make the searcher's task an easy one. No one can pretend to be independent of his forerunners, nor can a work of this magnitude be done without helpers. Sir Charles Jackson is just and grateful to both, acknowledging the merits of Cripps in the one direction as he does the help of his many coadjutors in special districts.

The main attractions of this second edition lie in the number of additional marks that have accrued in the past fifteen years, and these the author sets down as two thousand, a figure that in itself deserves a new edition. It is in this direction naturally that improvement will come. It is hardly likely that any great discoveries will be made in the history of English plate. The whole story is practically known, and only modifications in interpretation are likely to be made.

One prescription set out by the author should, I think, be taken with some care. The number of official assay offices was limited, and they are all set out by Sir Charles Jackson. Their stamps are, of course, well known. A great deal of plate, spoons, and such-like, bears, however, stamps that belong to none of these offices. A step has been taken with regard to these that may be justified, but it should be remembered that the evidence is purely circumstantial. On p. 448 we have Rochester, and at the foot of the page 'Examples of Rochester marks'. These marks are a capital R (three varieties), and the text says that as such a letter is a charge in the arms of the city 'it seems safe to conclude that in conformity with the rule which obtained in the sixteenth century, the goldsmiths of Rochester adopted as their town mark the letter R from their city arms, and that the reversed R on the Snaue communion cup is the Rochester town mark.' That the communion cup is in Kent is some corroboration of this theory, but it

is the only Kentish instance given of the Rochester mark. It may refer to Rochester, but again it may not. The same may be said of other attributions to towns elsewhere. The evidence in such cases needs confirmation, ingenious though it is.

Sir Charles Jackson is to be congratulated on his second edition. One final word to his publishers may be permitted. The volume weighs $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and should on this account alone have a stronger binding than they have thought fit to give it. C. HERCULES READ.

Fishing from the Earliest Times. By WILLIAM RADCLIFFE. 9 x 6; pp. xvii + 478. Murray. 28s.

The author of this scholarly and delightful book may well be pardoned for the 'bravery' which seeks to justify a claim to original research. The research, indeed, is obvious, and the originality is refreshing in these days when the term is so commonly misused; moreover the author's literary style, for which he claims no merit, is of rare excellence. It was no light task to produce an extensive work on the archaeology of fishing, in its relations with the angler's craft and the science of ichthyology; but Mr. Radcliffe grappled with the task in a joyous spirit which must inspire even the general reader with courage to read the book from beginning to end. Our author is frankly discursive and naïvely pedantic, and he carries us with him through the piscatorial essays of an Ancient World in spite of our archaeological or linguistic limitations. It is worth the trouble to turn these many pages for the sake of finding the choice and graphic illustrations which accompany the text.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that the subject is one which may be regarded from different points of view by the archaeologist, the philologist, the scientist, the historian, and the angler himself. Each of these will desire to obtain information of a concise and practical nature for his own particular use, and each will perhaps be disappointed to find that Mr. Radcliffe's treasury of classical archaeology and philology and early folk-lore relating to pisciculture and pisciculture is not merely a manual or treatise for the elucidation of any one of those studies.

Perhaps the first two of these specialists will fare better than the rest; for the natural history of antiquity is curiously elusive, while the historian who is accustomed to critical methods of analysis and synthesis will be somewhat nonplussed by Mr. Radcliffe's practice of referring freely to the evidence of post-medieval writers for the elucidation of pre-medieval texts. These analogies, however, are sometimes helpful, and they are interesting, like every other part of the work. It is only to be regretted that Mr. Radcliffe did not have the opportunity of completing the sequence of these analogies by original researches in the medieval period; for here alone his illustrations are conventional and therefore inadequate. In any case the historian will not take too seriously the author's clever special pleading for his own interpretation of certain textual evidence, and if the historian does 'boggle' at it, the man of letters will be able to enjoy the witty by-play. The angler must also be reckoned with as a specialist equipped with both a theoretical and a practical knowledge of the subject. He will