

*The Life and Times of Anthony Wood*, Antiquary, of Oxford, 1682–1695, collected, &c., by ANDREW CLARK, M.A., Fellow of Lincoln College and Vicar of St. Michael's, Oxford. Vol. I. (Oxford: for the Oxford Historical Society, at the Clarendon Press. 1891.)

*The Colleges of Oxford: their History and Traditions*. Twenty-one Chapters contributed by Members of the Colleges. Edited by ANDREW CLARK, M.A. (London: Methuen. 1891.)

In addition to the diary or autobiography of Anthony Wood already edited by Hearne and (both for the 'Athenae' and also for the short-lived 'Ecclesiastical History Society') by Dr. Bliss, we have in the 'Life and Times' now issued by the Oxford Historical Society full information from Wood's hitherto unpublished account-books and other papers, all arranged in the nearest chronological order possible, and with much greater completeness than Huddesford or the other editors achieved. The industry with which this task has been performed by Mr. Clark deserves the highest commendation; but this will come as no novelty to those who know his four volumes of the 'Register (of Matriculations, Degrees, &c.) of the University of Oxford,' which he has already contributed to the publications of the Oxford Historical Society in continuation of the earlier volume by the Rev. C. W. Boase, as well as the two thick volumes of Wood's 'City of Oxford,' issued by the same society under Mr. Clark's editorship. There is much that is petty in this work, as there is in Boswell's Johnson, or in Pepys, or (shall we not say it) in Evelyn or in Madame d'Arblay, and yet how few books are more entertaining than these, and how many less instructive!

We are all of us small-minded in greater or less degree; and very few there are but take some interest in noting such things as the price of a ton of coals or of a cup of coffee two or three centuries ago; while to Oxonians past and present, the living picture of town and college life has a peculiar charm. Besides this, in spite of certain peculiarities of character, there is in Wood, as also in Hearne—whose 'Collections' have been recently edited by Mr. C. E. Doble—a spice of the middle-class Englishman which takes our fancy. And even when the glamour of romance is dispelled and the gilding rubbed off, as it is most certainly in such diaries, there is still a fascination in the history of the Stuart times. Oxford in particular had then been brought (wantonly it may be) into touch with the pulses of English life. Oxford, within the memory of most of us now living, has seen no such stirring times; but Anthony Wood in the seventeenth century had an elder brother in the siege of Drogheda, and could himself remember the mustering of the scholars under arms at Oxford and the king reviewing his ill-fated army, and how Charles rode into Christ Church, and how the schoolboys' heads were turned with soldiering, and the scholars' minds distracted by the maids of honour, who came to chapel in what was conventionally supposed to be the dress of angels; and then the siege, and the influx of the puritans—not all such useless men when you got to know them, but troublesome; and by-and-by the restoration of the Book of Common Prayer, and Charles II touching for the king's evil in Christ Church choir. With the instinct of an historian Wood makes his manuscript

a history of his own times, all the more valuable, perhaps, because, unlike Burnet, he did not himself pass them through the press before they fell into his readers' hands. The criticisms which he passes on the state of men and things which he had known have all the freshness of the diary written by a young man of talent to please himself, with just the spice of expectation that it may sooner or later find other readers.

Since the days of Ingram and Le Keux not only have fresh documents been brought to light, and others rendered more accessible, and the study of history developed, but the colleges themselves have been growing their own history in more ways than one. Fresh colleges also have been growing up: Keble has sprung from the seed which Newman and Manning could not take, and presumably would not have wished to take, away with them from Oxford, any more than Newman would have rooted up the snapdragon upon the wall. Hertford has revived on the site of that Magdalen Hall which was once a nursery of English puritans. In the collection of chapters on the colleges which Mr. Clark edits, Mr. Lock has given a clear account of the rise and present state of Keble College, thus preserving a record of certain facts which in a short time might otherwise be forgotten. The vicissitudes of Hart Hall and the curious tale of Dr. Richard Newton's vigorous efforts after college reform in the last century have been recounted by Mr. Hastings Rashdall, who, as a former scholar of New College, has written the account of that foundation also. He devotes three or four of the twenty pages which fall to the share of most of the contributors in this collection to tracing the career of a scholar of St. Mary Winton, and he has rightly claimed for Wykeham the origination of 'the Oxford tutorial system.' Mr. Rashdall's '*Origines of the University of Paris*' will be remembered by readers of the *ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW*. His contribution to the history of the Black Friars in Oxford (Oxford Historical Society '*Collectanea*' II., 1890) followed up the line suggested by J. R. Green after the publication of a monograph by the Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher in 1882.

The account of the collegiate foundation which Walter de Merton established to oppose the influence of the regular orders has naturally been undertaken by the warden. Dr. Brodrick has revised what he brought out in the '*Memorials*' of his college in 1885. Among other things, his description of '*scrutinies*' and '*variations*,' the *ignis regentium* and *rex fabarum* will be read with interest. An *excursus* on the *Rex Natalicius*, or Christmas Prince, was contributed to the second volume of '*Collectanea*' of the Oxford Historical Society some years ago, by Mr. H. H. Henson, of All Souls. Dr. Magrath has told us elsewhere how an inquiry from Mrs. Arthur Evans set him to work upon the study of his archives, and we may thank her for having done so. Dr. Fowler's sketches of college life at Corpus are fresh and full of valuable matter put forward in an attractive way. He has had rather larger scope allowed him in respect of space than those authors who have had to treat of colleges which have enjoyed the privilege of a separate history already in print. Thus, a special interest attaches to the chapter on Balliol College by Mr. Reginald Poole, who describes the Renaissance movement. That on Oriel is by Mr. C. L. Shadwell, to whom we had already been indebted for the publication of the fourteenth-century catalogue of his college library, and who now throws

some light upon the influence exercised by former bishops of Lincoln. Mr. Llewelyn Thomas tells us how Wales acquired a hold upon the offices of the Bodleian in the eighteenth century, and how James Howell and Beau Nash and Dr. Johnson, among others, had more or less connexion with Jesus College. Pembroke College under the Georges is graphically sketched by Mr. Douglas Maclean, while the editor of the volume, Mr. A. Clark, contributes a clear account of the constitution, studies, and history of Lincoln, including some tales of that college a century ago which rival some of Gunning's reminiscences of Cambridge, but which we will not spoil by repetition.

The editing of the book is admirably done. In view of a future reissue, we may here note the misprinting of two names—that of St. Cosmas on p. 125, and that of the late bishop of Salisbury on p. 462. A summary of the contents of each chapter, though otherwise desirable, would probably have made the book just too bulky for a single volume, and some of the chapters would have required special skill to epitomise.

CHR. WORDSWORTH.

*Rodney.* By DAVID HANNAY. (London: Macmillan. 1891.)

MR. HANNAY'S 'Life of Rodney' may be called an independent attempt by an author who has made a study of sea affairs to measure the place of that great admiral in the history of the royal navy. If we do not find it all we could wish, it may at least be said that there is room for difference of opinion. The author, therefore, will not quarrel with us if we observe that he is evidently impressed with the need of departing from the traditional treatment of his subject, such as Lord Stanhope adopted from Mundy's Life and Letters of Lord Rodney; and he certainly succeeds in producing a very different picture; but we are not sure that the oldest one is not in reality the more truthful. In the first place there seems to be some deficiency in the estimate here given of Rodney's earlier career. His conduct in Hawke's battle off Ushant was so distinguished that it might well have been given more fully than in two or three sentences; and his resolute action in bringing Captain Fox to a court-martial might well have been employed as a favourable illustration of his similar conduct in later years. When engaged in reducing his inefficient subordinates in the West India fleet to proper discipline, he was, in reality, using the only possible means of saving his country from impending ruin. Many of the captains were spoilt by a long peace and violent political strife. As he says in one of his excellent letters given by Mundy: 'It is the misfortune of sea officers in general to know little of the world, and to be bred in seaport towns where they keep company with few but themselves. This makes them so violent in party, so partial to those who have sailed with them, and so grossly unjust to others. Do them justice, and make them do their duty.' It is a mistake to disparage Rodney on this point in comparison with Nelson. The principles of the two men were exactly the same; but Nelson began his great career in command of fleets at a time when the navy had already received the training which the long peace preceding Rodney's battles could not give. Himself an elderly man, the latter admiral brought to bear on unpromising materials the skill and ex-