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Review: Anglo-Saxon England

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glaciation, and that this vegetation included not only genuine Arctic species, but also many of the chief members of the present flora, such as heather (*Calluna*), cotton grasses (*Eriophorum*, spp.), crowberry (*Empetrum*), and mat grass (*Nardus*). The author's idea of "Arctic" species is perhaps wider than that of most plant geographers; and it may be doubted if he has sufficiently considered the possibility that the driftless area of this northern locality might have been a more or less permanent snow-field during the Glacial period.

The "moorlands" of north-eastern Yorkshire are described as "heaths" in Tansley's 'Types of British Vegetation'; and consequently some discussion on the relationships of moors and heaths might well have been included within the scope of the book.

References to allied literature are freely given in the form of footnotes; but it would have been of great assistance to students if these had been summarized at the end of the book.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Elgee has produced both an interesting and valuable work on biological geography, and that his book represents an important addition to the extensive literature of a great county. C. E. M.

#### ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND.

'The Archæology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements.' By E. T. Leeds. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Pp. 144. 5s. net.

Mr. Leeds, assistant-keeper at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, is well known to *Fachmänner* as a competent and vigorous student of Anglo-Saxon archæology. In the present monograph he discusses the archæological evidence which bears on the course and chronology of the English conquest down to about 600 A.D. Like other recent inquirers, he throws overboard the traditions of the A.S. Chronicle, on which the older modern narratives (for example, that of J. R. Green) depend. What he would substitute is not yet quite clear; he is, of course, like the rest of us, at the beginning of a difficult research, and many of his conclusions, as he frankly admits, are still uncertain. But his volume contains some new suggestions which are likely to stand; it advances knowledge, and deserves the attention of scholars. Perhaps it would gain that attention more easily if its author had aimed at a more lucid style, a terser and directer exposition, and a clearer grouping of arguments; perhaps, too, he would have done wisely to have aided his readers by more illustrations. But his stuff, rough-hewn though it be, is real. Of geography, with which we are here mainly concerned, he says little—indeed, too little. He notes, interestingly enough, the dislike of early English settlers in East Anglia and elsewhere for clay soils (pp. 44, 55, 69), but he gives no illustrative map. He emphasizes the preferences of the same settlers for river-valleys and their avoidance of Roman roads (p. 18), but his map is too small and far too sparsely named to help the reader, and he himself whittles his own conclusion down by pointing out that it is not true north of Lincoln (p. 71), nor in Kent (p. 100), and we suspect that he might have added another exception, along the Peddar Way in East Anglia. He should correct, too, his sweeping statement that along the Roman road from Bourn to the Humber there is not a single village with an English name, either on the road itself or within half a mile (p. 17); there are quite half a dozen. A mysterious sentence on p. 18 about two roads "near East Stoke and Burton" also seems to need revision of some kind. On the whole, we doubt whether Mr. Leeds, despite various interesting and valuable reflections, has got to the bottom of Anglo-Saxon geography. Perhaps he would reply that no one else has, and that it is not here his proper business.

'Coast Erosion and Protection.' By E. R. Mathews. (London: Griffin & Co. 1913. Pp. xiv., 147; 33 *Plates*. 10s. 6d. *net*.) The author is an experienced engineer who has constructed numerous sea-walls and coast defence works. He has dealt in this book with the evidence before the Royal Commission on Coast Erosion. There are numerous illustrations showing great waves which have damaged sea-walls. The book is generally accurate, but the author repeats the old fallacy that the materials of the Yorkshire coast have been carried south by the tides and deposited on the Lincolnshire shore, and that they are also being carried up the Humber. A reference to the proceedings of the British Association at Glasgow in 1901 will show that this is impossible. There is no indication that alluvial matter is being carried into the Humber on a flood tide.

'L'Archipel de la Manche.' By Camille Vallaux. (Hachette. Pp. 245. *Illustrations*. 4 *fr.*) The author has spent several years in the Channel islands and has produced an interesting guide-book which deserves wide use by visitors. There are many well-chosen illustrations which show the picturesque character of the sea cliffs. A translation of a short passage describing Sark may give some idea of the contents: "The north-east coast of the island consists of lofty walls of mica-schist and gneiss in alternate horizontal layers of different colours. Only a narrow strip of beach is uncovered at low tide, and this can only be reached from the top of the cliff at one place by means of a steep goat track."

'Hellas and the Balkan Wars.' By D. J. Cassavetti. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1914. Pp. xv., 368. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) The objects of this volume are principally to set in a proper light the Greek character and the share and conduct of Greece in the recent war. The author claims Greek origin, but his views are in no way, on that account, favourable towards the Greeks in any exaggerated sense. He summarizes the causes of the war, and then deals analytically with the sea and the land campaigns, a process which involves much matter of topographical interest and value. The book is for the rest mainly political, as the maps (which are clear and good) are also. Chapters on Athens and Greek women during the war, and on the "spirit of Hellenism," are added by a pseudonymous hand, and Mr. W. Pember Reeves supplies an introduction.

'Camping in Crete.' By A. Trevor-Battye. (London: Witherby. 1913. Pp. xxi., 308. *Map and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) This book is of considerably higher scientific value than its title might suggest: its character is in great part narrative, but its main object is to give an impression of "the appearance and 'feel' of the island"; it succeeds, and fills a gap in Cretan literature by doing so. There is a long appendix of "Notes and Observations," including sections on the caves of Crete (a subject identified with the work of Miss Dorothea Bate), fauna, flora, people, industries, harbours, etc., which make the book a source of reference on the modern island of quite encyclopædic character. A good map with brown relief-shading, on a scale of 1 : 600,000, is not the least useful feature of the volume: it shows the wide range of the visitor's travels in the island. Numerous photographs of fair standard effectively illustrate the text.

#### ASIA.

'China Revolutionized.' By J. S. Thompson. (London: T. Werner Laurie. 1913. Pp. 590. *Map and Illustrations*. 12s. 6d. *net*.) A review of the events that have attended the Chinese revolution during the past two years. The author, who hails from the land of the Stars and Stripes, has devoted much