

REVIEWS.

THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN IN EAST ANGLIA.

BY J. REID MOIR.

Happily Mr. Reid Moir has realised that a scientific subject must be conveyed to those who read for pleasure combined with instruction, in phraseology that is easy of comprehension.

Simplification is especially desirable in works dealing with primitive times for it is regrettable that Adam employed such ultra scientific and polysyllabic nomenclature when he named every living creature in that dim and distant day.

We have no evidence that these harsh terms contributed to their demise but we have evidence that writers who adopt similar tactics kill their book as far as the general reader is concerned.

Polysyllables may possess no terrors for members of our Society, but some may look askance at a book of this title, as belonging to that "no man's land" of prehistoric days, as distinct from the historic times in which they profess an interest.

There is however no fixed gulf between the two epochs but there is an overlap, and it is with this overlap that the book deals, and in an illuminating manner places several "in the air" theories upon a substratum of fact.

Of the book we may quote that it is "thrice blessed," not omitting the context.

For in addition to belonging to the "Reading without Tears" library and being historical, it is also local.

The first chapter deals with the Pleasures of Flint Hunting, a pleasure which is not over-estimated, for apart from any scientific aim, it adds zest to a walk and trains the eye to study the lie of the land, and the possible cause of the up hill grind, the clay on our boots or the sand in our eye—cause and effect, enhanced by the why and wherefore of a worked flint that is a probable "find." For as the author states "For the student of ancient man there is perhaps no more prolific hunting ground in existence than that of East Anglia."

Full of interest is that part of the volume which deals with the altered surface of our country, attributed to submergence, the various glacial periods and the melting of the ice, the laying of clay and the formation of gravels and other deposits.

The dating of man's first appearance on the scene appears impossible to evolutionists but Prof. Joad supplies an elastic suggestion that life has been on the earth 12 million and man one million years. This allows us 11 million years for the origin of man, in which he developed the opposing thumb and the consequent stimulating of his mental process into the dawn of reason, which prompted him to make tools.

There was probably a long period between man's using of tools and making them.

For countless generations he must have pushed, pulled and grubbed up roots with his fore-paws before nature rewarded his efforts with an evolved hand. Then he began to pick things up—food, stones, a broken branch. His hand gave him the upper hand among animals, but he was not man. That title was obtained when he progressed further and made tools and weapons with a conscious reason for his actions.

Mr. Reid Moir dwells upon the difficulty which often arises as to determining whether certain shaped-stones are natural, used or made.

He has tried many experiments as to the effect of cold, heat, pressure and blows upon the shaping of flint and supplies excellent illustrations and explanations of the results. We can therefore reasonably conclude that this or that shaped flint is the result of natural causes and, if so, that it has been used by the early animal man or was made by MAN.

The creative, destructive and formative operation of the Glacial Periods are fascinating reading and suggest the origin of "piling Ossa on Pelion."

Their influence on man appears to be glossed. We are told "that man in the past has always flourished in the warm episodes intervening between the various glacial periods," and again "We see him surviving the onset of arctic-cold, and, as better conditions obtained coming back to his old haunts."

Does this imply that primitive man was less hardy than the arctic tribes of modern days and did he emigrate and immigrate to keep his place in the sun?

True, the arctic tribes do not flourish but they exist, and though they could they do not migrate because they prefer the glacial rigours.

Even if primitive man has left no remains of glacial occupation, it proves little, for tribes such as the Eskimo use no stone or metal (until lately) and will leave no material trace of their sojourn in the ice fields.

This hypothesis in no way impairs the author's facts, for he rarely theorizes and avoids guesswork.

The world famous Grimes' Graves naturally command considerable attention, and their oft-told tale is brought up-to-date and accompanied by photographs and an explanatory sectional sketch of a pit.

The derivation of the name "Grimes" graves from Grimm, a Norwegian water-sprite is a parallel rather than the origin, both being derived from an attribute of the god Odin—Grima being a mask or hood was a sobriquet of Odin when his work was masked and its meaning veiled. Anything stupendous and incomprehensible was the work of Grim or Odin-hooded; a term singularly applicable to Grime's Graves, for up to quite modern times their object and origin was veiled.

The book contains 25 plates and 74 text-figures. The print is good, the illustrations clear and well produced by the Cambridge University Press, and, last but not least, it contains an excellent index.

H.A.H.

"THE LIFE AND WORKS OF THOMAS LUPSET, WITH A CRITICAL TEXT OF THE ORIGINAL TREATISES AND THE LETTERS," by John Archer Gee, Ph.D. of Yale University, 1928, is a publication of peculiar interest to members of the Institute, who study the life and times of Cardinal Wolsey. The author has herein given a full and faithful account of the life-work of one, who was employed to act as tutor to Thomas Winter, the reputed son of the Cardinal. The various allusions to this relationship leaves the reader in doubt as to whether this parental tie existed in the flesh, or by adoption, especially when it is a well-known fact that the Wulcy and Winter families were neighbours in the parish of St. Nicholas, Ipswich. Lupset, who speaks well of his pupil, Thomas Winter, shews by his writings that the youthful Dean of Wells at least made some effort to use to advantage the Cardinal's patronage and support.

Of greater interest to Ipswich readers will be the information the book contains of the tutelage of Edmund Withypole whom Lupset addresses as "my withipol." Dr. Gee enables Ipswichians to read an excellently edited edition of Lupset's, "An Exhortation to Yonge Men" written to his friend and pupil the founder of Christchurch House, Ipswich, Suffolk.

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