REVIEWS

PLANT LIFE ON EAST ANGLIAN HEATHS. By E. Pickworth Farrow. Published by the Cambridge University Press. Price 7s. 6d.

This title hardly does justice to the book as it is far more comprehensive than a Botanical survey. Archaeology enters largely into its composition. The first plan is a map of E. Anglia showing our ancient Inland Sea as it was in pre-historic days, with a stretch of open water extending from what is now Brandon across to Peterborough. This sea is dealt with as a contributory factor towards the formation of the Breckland, or E. Anglian Heaths; of which the Author treats.

Very interesting explanations are given of Sand blasts and those moving sands which formerly caused so much damage by blocking rivers and burying houses and property, and how a constant battle is ever being fought between the Revolutionist Sand and the Pacificist Plant-life. The latter acting like oil on troubled water.

The chief delight of our Breckland lies in its variety. Its surface revels in contrasts, it is to one thing constant never. A patch of Brake, a stretch of sand, an oasis of green, a purple sea of Calluna and Heather, then more sand pierced with Carex. Trees are not wanting. They are visitors. Giants in Lilliput land.

This charming variety is noted and explained, being attributed to biotic influences, mainly rabbits, whose ferocious tendencies are unmasked.

The Author has been engaged for many yeafs experimenting on the various forms of plant life and the influences that occasion this erratic inconstant growth. Rabbits first eat off their favourite ood plants until the supply is exhausted, then perforce they must turn to less palatable pabulum, finally they must starve or migrate. Each change of diet leaves the ground fallow for possibly another kind of plant, the tendency being for the less succulent to predominate. Ling they love, Carex, no and yes, Brake and Erica tetralix, no, or with a very wry face.

Other experiments with fencing, watering and manuring are described together with such explanations as the methods by which certain plants buried under sand manage to survive.

The whole book centres round Plant life on the Breckland and a possibly exhaustive list of plants is to be found in its pages, all pleasantly introduced with sufficient explanation of their habitat.
This book provides the adagial "long felt want" of the Heath lover, be he botanist, archæologist, or just "man in the street."

Cavenham Heath in Suffolk is the locale of the work, the Breckland the general.

The above is but a glimpse at a few of the fascinating topics which are dwelt upon and illustrated by 23 Plates containing 46 photographs.

The explanation which is given of such an important word as the Breckland is hardly satisfying. In a footnote the Author states that the Breck is "So called because in the past, after the passing of enclosure acts, portions of ancient common were ploughed or broken up and were termed 'brecks' (breck—broken)."

Is it not very much earlier? Portions of it at least having been broken up and cultivated by the Celts and then allowed to lapse and run wild. The Anglo-Saxons found this land had been broken up and therefore called it Break land. Not however in a good sense, but in a bad. Because the result of breaking anything usually destroys it and renders it useless, valueless and bad. In their estimation it was broken and as useless as a broken pot. Broken things because they were useless were therefore bad and the word Breck or Brake conveyed the meaning of worthless and noxious. Brackish water was useless to drink, and stagnant water was also called brackish because it was bad water. Bracken was the product of worthless soil. A Brake was useless jungle. A Brach hound was used for hunting in the rough country. To Brake or vomit was caused by eating something bad or perhaps analogous to the Latin ilia rumpantur.

Varieties of this word Breck are as plentiful as they are confusing and as wide in application as they are different in meaning. Michael Drayton sings of Suffolk, as—

"Suffolk a sunne half risen from the brack."

H.A.H.


This book, written by a Life Member of our Society, and issued under the auspices of the Bodley Head, assures it of a welcome both as an embellishment to our shelves and a useful addition to Suffolk literature. It is a handsome volume, well illustrated and indexed and contains 262 pages of local matter.

Freckenham lies on the border of that mysterious inland Sea, so often overlooked by historians when dealing with the otherwise
puzzling problems of Suffolk's commercial prosperity, high intelligence and culture. A contributing cause was this sea, a waterway that kept her in touch with the outer world. The common conception of this Sea is to picture a sea of sedge and swamp of marsh and reeds and nothing more. This was the transition stage.

Before the alluvium of the present Fen was deposited our sea was a tidal salt water continuation of the Wash, extending some little way south of Mildenhall and as large as the whole county of Suffolk. Archaeologists who overlook this sea are puzzled by roads that vanish into nothingness, inaccessible settlements and objectless fortifications. The sea is the key.

Mr. Callard divides his book into chromographs instead of the conventional chapters. A happy suggestion that the book is not a many headed hydra but is given body in the form of word painting.

Under these various chromographs he traces the history of Freckenham, in progressive stages, from before the dawn to modern days, colouring his pen with the tints and tones of bygone days. A colour-scheme that makes the dry bones live.

The Author's empirical suggestion that Freckenham Parish bounds touch the Icknield Way is allowable, as parts of this Way are still sub judice, there being many fragments of supposed Roman roads that do not seem to fit any accepted route.

Even the Romans could not run a road across our inland sea, and it seems possible that in order to cross it, they made or re-made a branch road off their main track, leading to quays at places such as Freckenham, which lay on the edge of the sea, linking them by ferry with corresponding quays on the opposite shore, convenient for other main roads such as Ermine Street.

As the Fen dried later hands would lengthen these roads across the Fen, leaving us to puzzle over a piece of Roman road without beginning and without end.

The Romans were assiduous in drainage work and during the 400 years of their occupation the whole face of our county must have been altered, and as land took the place of water the roads could be shortened and were re-shaped. The Romans themselves would find their early road plans disorganized and in need of remodelling. Having planned out a lie of land and begun to build a road they would later find it advantageous to abandon it for a better route revealed by the subsiding water. Our Suffolk Roman roads offer much to perplex the dogmatic adherent to the proverbial Roman road.

Other chromographs carry Freckenham history through the dynasties that succeeded the Roman rule, giving Parish events gathered from ancient documents, involving extensive research.
The dedication of the book is singularly pathetic. The Author lost three sons through the war, who had worked with him in compiling notes and material for this book.

The crude material was ready but needed amplification, unifying and revision. Bereaved of their assistance he felt impelled to complete their mutual work and to issue the book as an In Memoriam.

Unfortunately, owing to serious eye trouble, he could only superintend the work of revising MSS. and correcting proofs, and had to rely upon an amanuensis for detecting inaccuracies and slips.

To follow the trend of another man's ideas is difficult and as a natural consequence certain oversights and errors appear, but too obvious to mislead or too trivial to detract from the general interest and value of the book.

Suffolk lost so many of her sons in the war that she will understand and appreciate the aspiration of the Author to complete this work which was begun in happier hours.

H.A.H.

Through East Anglia. By Gordon Home. Published by Messrs. J. M. Dent & Sons. Price 2s. 6d.

This is a handy and compact little volume, which while describing visits that have been paid is evidently designed to be carried as a companion and guide by tourists.

To facilitate reference a railway map has been fixed within the cover, marked off in sections, each section corresponding with a chapter in the book. It is an ingenious idea but as most of our visitors come by car a road map might have been more useful.

The book is well illustrated with 16 half-tone plates as well as numerous sketches by the Author. It contains some 180 pages and a useful index.

The opening sentence of the book runs "That portion of England which lies between the estuary of the Thames and the Wash, commonly known as East Anglia," The Author may be correct as to "commonly known as E. Anglia," but Essex or East Saxons cannot also be East Anglians, and the Stour is the boundary line.

Suffolk is rather touchy on two points—her boundary and her epithet of Silly Suffolk. The Author having ruffled her on the former soothes her on the latter. For he states that foolish folk proclaimed their ignorance by mistaking the old English word "sele" for silly and hence "Silly Suffolk" became a proverb based on an error.

The Author means us well, but every Suffolk man knows that the two words are the same, but that time has changed both the meaning and the spelling. What we are uneasy about is whether the
epithet was applied when the word meant propitious or later when it meant foolish. Was it applied as when used of Our Lord, the silly Child Jesus, or of the Dead as Silly Souls or as Silly Sheep, or, and here lies the sting, later as Silly Ass. It goes without saying that the last is impossible.

Small books have their limitations and must cut their contents according to their covers or we would wish space had been found to give reasons for the assertion that Cardinal Wolsey was born in 1471 and was not the son of a butcher, but in the 40 pages devoted to Suffolk the writer performs wonderful feats of condensation. It is the book for a rambler, nothing tedious nor critical, just snapshots which those who wish can enlarge. A really useful book, as Suffolk has nothing of the sort, nothing that one can slip in the pocket containing interesting information on every district in Suffolk.

The 90 pages dealing with Essex and the 40 with Norfolk have not been touched upon, being outside our Suffolk Society.

H.A.H.
GENERAL INDEX TO VOL. XVIII.

A
Ampton, Parsons and patrons of,
123
Ampton. See also Excursions, 1922, 72
Archaeology, General: Suffolk finds
(1923-24), 164, 253
Architecture: Circular towers, 25, 144
Architecture, Saxon, I
Architecture, Tudor. See Excursions (Woodbridge district), 157
Ashby Church. See Excursions, 1923, 160
Ashfield muster roll (1584), 209

B
Badwell Ash, Saxon finds at, 164, 253
Badwell muster roll (1584), 202
Bardwell family, 130
Bardwell muster roll (1584), 186
Barking Church. See Excursions, 1924, 249
Barnham muster roll (1584), 196
Barningham muster roll (1584), 198
Barton Hill tumulus, 161
Barton Mills, Finds at, 165
Baylham, Excursions to, 249
Beacon Hill, Barton Mills, 161
Bevan, Algernon Beckford (Memoir) 254
Bird, Rev. John, 141
Blackbourne Hundred: Muster rolls in 1584, 180
Boldero, Rev. John, 142
Botolph (St.) and Iken, 29
Boundaries: parish and county, 245
Brampoton, Danish fort at, 165
Brandeston, Bell at, 253
Brandeston, Danish fort at, 165
Brandon, Norse camp at, 165
Breckland. See Reviews, 255
Brantham, Burial urns found at, 165
Brettenham, Roman traces at, 219, 220
Bumpstead, Helion and Steeple (Essex), 246
Bungay, Excursion to, 242
Bungay, Finds at, 165
Bury Abbey and St. Botolph, 45
Bury St. Edmunds, Meeting at, 75

C
Calthorpe family, 135
Cavenham Heath. See Reviews, 255
Christopher (St.), Figure of, at Creeting St. Peter, 77.
Churches, Saxon, in Suffolk, 1
Clare. See Excursions, 1924, 241, 246
Cloveshoe disclosed, 77, 91
Coggeshall, Henry, 53
Collier, Bishop Jeremy, 140
Coney Weston muster roll (1584), 197
Corton Church. See Excursions, 1923, 159
Crackerode, Rev. Thos., 139
Creeting St. Peter, Wall-painting at, 77
Crisp, Frederick Arthur (Memoir), 164
Crofts family, 133
Culford muster roll (1584), 201

D
Denham, Danish fort at, 165
Domesday Book, Suffolk churches in, 6
Duleep Singh, H.H. Prince Frederick; Gift to Thetford, 252

E
Earthwork at Frostenden, Danish, 167
East Bergholt, Font found at, 165
East Bergholt. See also Reviews, 163
Easton Broad, 176
Eld, Rev. Francis John (Memoir), 79
Elmswell muster roll (1584), 206
Essex and Suffolk border, 244
Euston muster roll (1584), 208
Excursions—
1922: Livermere, Ampton, Wordwell, West Stow and Hengrave, 72; Bury St. Ed-
munds, 75
1923: Haughley, 156; Woodbridge district, 157; Laven-
ham, 158; Lowestoft district (Corton, Hopton, Ashby, Somerleyton, St. Olave’s Priory, Herringfleet and Fritton), 159
1924: Ipswich (Ancient House, St. Nicholas' and St. Peter's churches, Northgate St.), 247; Essex border (Haverhill, Kedington, Clare), 241; Bungay, 242; Bayham and district (Bayham, Nettlestead, Offton, Barking church, Whitton Lodge, Mock Beggar's Hall), Norfolk border (Palgrave, Wortham, Redgrave, Thelnetham), 242

F

Fakenham Magna muster roll (1584) 204
Felsham, Roman traces at, 219
Freckenham, Manor of. See Reviews, 256
Frostenden, the seaport of, 167

G

Gipping, Danish fort at, 165
Godmundesley, The Witan of, 111
Grundisburgh Hall. See Excursions, 1923, 157

H

Haughley Castle. See Excursions, 1923, 156
Haverhill. See Excursions, 1924, 241
Heigham, Clement, 134
Hengrave Hall. See Excursions, 1922, 74
Hepworth and its rectors, 66
Hepworth muster roll (1584), 191
Hinderclay muster roll (1584), 190
Hitcham, Roman traces at, 220
Honington muster roll (1584), 200
Hopton muster roll (1584), 187
Hopton old church. See Excursions, 1923, 159
Hunton muster roll (1584), 204

I

Iken, St. Botolph and, 29
Ingham muster roll (1584), 210
Ipswich, Excursion to, 247
Ixxworth muster roll (1584), 184
Ixxworth Thorpe muster roll (1584), 192

K

Kedington, 244
Kedington. See also Excursion, 1924, 241
Knettishall Heath, Finds at (1924), 253
Knettishall muster roll (1584), 194
Langham muster roll (1584), 193

L

Lavenham. See Excursions, 1923, 158
Lavenham, The Springs of. See Reviews, 162
Livermere. See Excursions, 1922, 72
Livermere Parva muster roll (1584), 210
Lothingland, Excursion to, 159
Lowestoft china, 251

M

Map of Suffolk coast in 13th century, 70
Mendlesham, Finds at, 165
Mildenham. See Clovesho, 91
Mock Beggar's Hall. See Excursions, 1924, 251
Mural paintings: Creeting St. Peter, 77
Muster rolls of territorials in Tudor times (1584), 180

N

Nettlestead. See Excursions, 1924, 249
Norton muster roll (1584), 199

O

Oakley parva: site of St. Peter's church, 165
Obituary—
Bevan, Algernon Beckford, 254
Crisp, Frederick Arthur, 164
Eld, Rev. Francis John, 79
Offton church. See Excursions, 1924, 250
Onehouse, Earthwork at, 253
Orford, Henry Coggeshall of, 53

P

Palgrave. See Excursions, 1924, 243
Peddar Way in Suffolk, Part of the, 211
Pedigrees: Bardwell, 130
Coggeshall, facing 64
Wren, facing 52
Playford Hall. See Excursions, 1923, 157
"Plowers, The" 239
Priest, Rev. H., 140

R
Redgrave. See Excursions, 1924, 243
Report for 1922, I., xiii.
1923, II., xiii
1924, III.
Reviews:
East Bergholt in Suffolk, 163
Manor of Freckenham, 256
Notes on the church and village of Wenhaston, 161
Plant life on East Anglian heaths, 255
The Springs of Lavenham, 162
Through East Anglia, 258
Reydon, Flints found at, 253
Rickinghall Inferior muster roll (1584), 190
Roman roads: Peddar Way, 211
Rogerson, Rev. Thos., 141
Round Towers, 25, 144
Rushmere, Celt found at, 253

S
St. Olave’s Priory. See Excursions, 1923, 160
Sapiston muster roll (1584), 192
Saxon architecture remaining in Suffolk, 1
Seckford Hall. See Excursions, 1923, 158
Somerleyton. See Excursions, 1923, 160
Sporle, Rev. Richard, 67
Springs of Lavenham. See Reviews, 162

Stafford, Rev. Robt., 137
Stansfield, Urn found at, 166
Stanton muster roll (1584), 194
Stowlangtoft muster roll (1584), 202
Suffolk coast in 13th Century, 70
Suffolk "finds," 1923-24, 164, 253
Suffolk in 7th Century, 51
Symbolism at Wordwell Church, 72

T
Thelnetham. See Excursions, 1924, 1924, 243
Thelnetham muster roll (1584), 188
Thetford Museum, 252
Thorndon before the Conquest, 222
Thorndon, Finds at (1924), 253
Towers, Circular, 25, 144
Troston muster roll (1584), 205

W
Walberswick, Old ford at, 253
Walberswick: "The Plowers," 239
Walsham muster roll (1584), 181
Wattisfield muster roll (1584), 183
Wentworth family, 250
Wentworth, Wm., 134
Wenham. See Reviews, 161
West Stow. See Excursions, 1922, 73
West Stow muster roll (1584), 197
Wickham Skeith, Finds at, 166
Wire Farm. See Excursions, 1923, 157
Woodbridge district. See Excursions, 1922, 1923, 157
Wordwell Church. See Excursions, 1922, 72
Wordwell muster roll (1584), 205
Wortham. See Excursions, 1924, 243
Wren pedigree, facing 52.