

ANTIQUITY

overlooked the fact that this use had the priority, as for example in Canon Bright's *Early English Church* (1888), and himself defined and figured under this term a different form of cross to which Mr Collingwood now gives the name of 'disc-face', reserving that of 'wheel-head' for what Romilly Allen describes as a 'cross with connecting ring'.

It is in this latter sense that the author refers to the Isle of Man as possibly its place of origin, and his accompanying map shows its distribution radiating from the Island to all points of the compass. But it may have reached the Isle of Man from Candida Casa, originating like the Whithorn stone of S. Peter from the Chi-Rho monogram, as argued by Romilly Allen. In this connexion he speaks of the little slab at Maughold with the peculiar inscription in mixed majuscules and minuscules and of course no word-divisions; but there are difficulties in accepting his very ingenious reading. The inscription, enclosed within a circle completely filled by it, has unfortunately had some letters flaked away at the top; what remain however are quite legible. The Chi, preceded by a space that would allow of two letters, is followed by another giving room for four, after which are the letters NEITSPLIEPPSDEIINSUL [?], followed by a sign which might stand for ET and met by another word written from the opposite direction—ABPAT. It is a tantalizing puzzle which no doubt will be solved in time.

The connexion between Anglian art and that of the Scottish crosses is touched upon and the general spread of its influence throughout Britain and even on the Continent. Those who will have carefully read the book and considered the arguments and the facts so far presented, will by now have their minds prepared to receive with sympathy a proposition which at first might seem overbold, but is here very modestly set forth 'rather for the reader's consideration than in the hope of his immediate conviction', namely 'that all monumental art and craft in the north-west of Europe sprang from Northumbria'.

Long, patient and careful study have gone to the making of a work which will be welcomed by all interested in the history and early development of Christianity in our midst; providing a sure foundation for the correct dating of the whole series of early Christian monuments in the British Isles and leading to an understanding of the relation of scattered members and a view of the whole in a true perspective. The matter is well arranged and Mr Collingwood follows his own precept given in his 'outline of a Philosophy of Art', that is to say: 'the attempt to cover much ground in few words is an attempt always worth making', but only a master could succeed as he has done. His clear and unaffected style make pleasant reading, and interest is sustained throughout by unexpected quotations, apt comparisons, and illustrations enlivened by imagination. The index introduces a convenient feature in giving with the sites of the monuments their suggested dates. The type is appropriate and clear. The illustrations are plentiful and exceedingly good; with such excellent paper they are well shown on the page, avoiding the necessity for stiff plates with the ugliness of their white backs and the nuisance of their constant interruption of the reading. Altogether it is a beautiful and fascinating volume.

P. M. C. KERMODE.

EXCAVATIONS IN NEW FOREST ROMAN POTTERY SITES. By
HEYWOOD SUMNER, F.S.A. Chiswick Press. 1927. pp. 123. 12s. 6d.

Here is a book of which it is difficult to speak without appearing extravagant.

REVIEWS

Merely to open it is to be charmed by beautiful type, beautifully arranged on excellent paper ; to turn a few pages is to encounter illustrations as eloquent in their significance as they are tasteful in their execution ; and to read is to run grave danger of absolute bewitchment. Enter these enchanted woods, you who dare ; you shall find Mr Sumner pursuing his investigations in surroundings which he finds time to observe thus :—‘ Deer are inquisitive. They stand and gaze—then bound away—then stop to gaze once more, before finally deciding to avoid the intruder. Ponies ignore intrusion, they are bent on feed ; not so cattle, their curiosity is tiresome. Rabbits and squirrels seem to want to know, but fear knowledge. Owls hoot to each other all day long, wood-peckers yaffle to themselves. Such was my estimate of company in Old Sloden Wood ’.

To write like that is to betray a vivid imagination and a most delicate faculty of observation. To these add scholarship and you have a mind perfectly gifted for archaeological research. And Mr Sumner’s scholarship is as sound as his draughtsmanship. The result is a little book which bears on every page the marks of a classic. It is a reprint of two pamphlets some years old, with additions ; but its unity is secured by the perfect harmony which the author has imposed upon its various parts. Archaeological reports ought to be works of art, without ceasing to be works of science ; but this they very rarely achieve. When they do, their scientific value is not impaired, but actually enhanced in direct proportion to the intensity of the creative imagination which has worked upon the dry bones of archaeology.

One comment may perhaps be added. The Romano-British potter’s hut at Island Thorns (p. 103), if you add a sleeping-platform on the right, symmetrical with that on the left, and indulge in a stone-built hearth, with a chimney, where Mr Sumner found the fireplace, would be exactly like the huts built to this day by itinerant charcoal-burners and bark-peelers among the woods of High Furness. These huts are built to be lived in for a season ; after that, they undergo a slow decay, enviable haunts for children of the neighbourhood, until, collapsing, they leave mere hut-circles behind them. Mr Sumner has sketched in a single vivid sentence the life of ancient potters in such a hut. He has imagined the hut a snug, comfortable sort of place ; and, as usual, his imagination is right. *Experto crede.* R. G. COLLINGWOOD.

THE BEGINNING OF THINGS. *New Year’s Day*, by S. H. HOOKE. *Corn from Egypt*, by M. GOMPERTZ. *The Golden Age*, by H. J. MASSINGHAM. Gerald Howe. 1927. 2s. 6d. each.

These little books of 88 pages each, edited by Prof. Elliot Smith, may be expected to fall in with his views, but in these three out of a dozen, the views are not allowed to dominate, and the authors deal with matters impartially. The account of the calendar describes its gradual settlement in various countries. It is assumed that there is a difficulty in finding the length of the year, but anyone can do that easily by the count of days between like directions of the azimuth of the sunset at about the equinox. It is by no means certain, since the discoveries at Ur, that facts ‘ point clearly to the priority of Egyptian civilization ’. It is said that a calendar presupposes ‘ language, or script, a numeral system, mechanical means of measuring time, units of measurement and writing materials ’. This sounds formidable, but scarcely any of these items were used for the clog almanacs, notched on a piece of wood, which were the popular time keepers in the Middle Ages. Some notice should be taken of the