Notices of Books.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND, by Francis Bond, corrected edition, 1912 (B. T. Batsford; large 8vo., pp. xxii, 782, with 1,254 illustrations; price 31s. 6d. net).

This is the 1905 edition with the author's corrections of misprints and wrong references, but as far as I can judge there are few serious additions to the text. The work has well earned the praises which have been lavished upon it and has taken a foremost place amongst the works on Gothic Architecture.

The author tells us in his introduction that he has attempted "to introduce into the subject of English mediæval architecture that evolutionary method of treatment which has been so fertile of results in every branch of knowledge to which it has been applied. The book is an attempt not to classify but to work out processes of development." He throws over the traditional four periods of mediæval architecture—he dismisses them in a sentence—"the famous four periods are mere figments of the imagination," and in their place presents us with a series of treatises upon the various subjects of planning, the vault and its supports, abutment with its machinery of buttresses, pinnacles, and flying buttresses, roof drainage with its system of corbel tables, eaves, gutters, gargoyles, battlements, dripstones, and ground courses, and lighting with the developments of windows and window tracery.

There is no doubt the author's way of presenting his subject is far more interesting than the old way, and it is bound to influence for good the study of our Cathedral and Parish Churches. In the past the visitor to our Churches has noticed little else than the doors, the windows, the tombs, in fact those parts of the building which he can assign to one or other of the four traditional periods; but the plan, the vaulting scheme, the masonry, the abutment, etc., have had scant notice. But after a careful study of this book he will certainly wish to know more about the history of the Church, why this, why that, why a mixture of styles at all, what was built first, and what last, why built and added to: in a word he will wish to learn about, and not merely to date it.

Whereas before he spent only minutes in the Church, in future

he will be able to spend hours and every fresh visit will unfold new problems and reveal fresh treasures.

It will be seen that the author attempts to view his subject through the eyes of the old builders and master-masons, and endeavours to see their difficulties and to work out their problems. As he acknowledges, his conclusions may not be always right, and they may be open to much criticism, but he certainly has succeeded in making these stones live, and presenting English Gothic Architecture as a continuous development and as part of a history stretching far back into the past and linking itself to the History of the Great European School of Architectural Art.

The work is illustrated with over 1,000 illustrations. It is well printed. But the binding is not strong enough for a book of its size and weight.

G. W. SAUNDERS.

A SHORT CRITICAL HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE, by H. Heathcote Statham, F.R.I.B.A. (B. T. Batsford, 1912 ; 8vo., pp. xvi, 586 ; copiously illustrated ; price 10s. net).

In this book of nearly 600 pages the author has given a short and critical study of the progress of architectural art from the Ancient Pyramids and Temples of Egypt to the commercial "sky-scrapers" of the modern American city. Dealing with general characteristics rather than with details he has presented the history as a development—not as a mere collection of styles—as a great world-wide art to which all countries have contributed. He has emphasized relationships and likenesses rather than differences, and has endeavoured to answer the practical question, "Why," rather than the more popular and oft-repeated enquiry, "When." For this reason more prominence than usual has been given to those periods of Architectural History which present no complete and consistent style—periods of experiment in design and construction—because in these phases of its history we see architecture in the making.

The scheme of the work follows the main stream of architectural development *viâ* Egypt, Assyria, Persia, the great columnar styles of Greece and Rome, the domed styles of the Byzantine type to the Romanesque and Gothic styles of Western Europe, closing with a well written chapter on the Architecture of the Renaissance and of modern times.

The two great problems of Gothic Architecture are well expressed :—

> "When the problem is simply to place a rigid lintel or roof-beam on walls or columns, the solution is simple : if the walls and columns have sufficient mass to stand securely alone they will have sufficient to support the roof. But the

moment the arch with its outward pressure comes into play the conditions are changed and the substructure must have sufficient mass not only to carry weight but to resist oblique thrusts. And when it comes to roofing a building with so delicate a structure as a network of arched ribs and at the same time reducing the mass of wall as much as possible between the main points of support (in order to obtain more window space) we get to a condition of building in which stability depends entirely on a balance of pressures, and both the mass and the position of each pier in the wall must be carefully proportioned to the pressure it has to balance."

The difference between Romanesque and Gothic Architecture is also well expressed. The characteristics of Romanesque are solidity and mass of wall, pierced with windows necessarily as small as possible. In a Gothic building the walls turn round so as to stand at right angles to the building—they become buttresses—and the wall between them becomes merely a pierced screen of window tracery. The complicated subject of vaulting leaves little to be desired for lucidity, and is excellent in every way.

Somerset folk are likely to quarrel with the author's opinion that the sculptures of the West front of Wells Cathedral could not have been done by Englishmen, but are more likely the work of some sculptor of the early Italian School, brought over for the purpose.

We can readily say that it is the best attempt we have yet seen to treat so vast a subject in so limited a space. The illustrations and plans are excellent. A careful study of the book cannot but leave a clear idea of the relationship and chief characteristics of the great national schools of architecture, and at the same time will help the reader to understand the great problems met, and the way in which they were at last successfully overcome.

G. W. Saunders.

Military Architecture in England during the Middle Ages, by A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A. (Henry Frowde, 1912 ; large 8vo., pp. xxii, 384, plans and other illustrations ; price 7s. 6d. net).

This book is an attempt, and on the whole a successful attempt, to give a connected account of castles and walled towns as they were developed in this country in the middle ages. There was certainly room for such a book because Viollet le Duc's "Medieval Military Architecture," even in its English version, deals almost exclusively with French examples, whilst Harvey's "Castles

and Walled Towns" treats of the same subject on a different plan.

The main sections of the book are Early Earthworks and Roman Stations; the Saxon and Danish period; the English Castle after the Conquest, including the progress of attack and defence; the beginning of the stone Castle; the Keep of the Norman Castle; Cylindrical Keeps; the development of Domestic accommodation; Castles of the thirteenth century; and later developments in the fortification of both Castles and Towns. A valuable feature of the book is the number of well reproduced plans of castles, many of which are not readily accessible. On the other hand there is a remarkable paucity of plans of towns. The photographic illustrations are numerous and as a rule excellent, but the drawings, whilst well enough as pictures, are too often lacking in accuracy and in clearness of detail to have much value as archæological illustrations.

On controversial questions, such as mound and base-court strongholds, the author does not express any extreme views, but he clearly adopts the Norman origin of this type of castle, without attempting to deal with the difficulties which he admits exist in connection with it.

One could wish that the treatment had been somewhat more systematic, that the course of development had been more distinctly brought out, and that the author's style was clearer. The book, however, is valuable not only to the general reader, but also to the antiquary, because the author has brought together much descriptive matter and also much documentary evidence from various sources, and has compiled an extensive bibliography. Where necessary for comparison or illustration he has gone to foreign countries for examples. The treatment of castles is full and detailed, and various forms of fortified dwellings, monasteries, etc., are not neglected, but the treatment of walled towns is less adequate.

C. H. Bothamley.

Early Wars of Wessex, by Albany F. Major, edited by the late Rev. C. W. Whistler, M.R.C.S. (Cambridge University Press, 1913; 8vo., pp. xvi, 238, two maps and other illustrations; price 10s. 6d. net).

This is a book of great interest not only to dwellers in Wessex but to all who are concerned with the early history of the kingdom. The writers have endeavoured to trace, first of all the establishment of the Saxon kingdom and subsequently the wars with the Danes, especially the struggles of King Alfred; and to this end they have combined a study of the chronicles with a detailed investigation of the physical topography of the area

involved, the uplands and marshes, the forests and the fens, the roads and waterways, the bridges and the fords. Whether we accept all the conclusions or not, there will be general agreement that only in this way can such complicated and difficult problems be worked out. The work is divided into three books,—I. The Founding and Rise of Wessex, 495 to 822 A.D.; II. Wessex and the Danes; and III. The Wessex Campaigns of 876-8 A.D. It will be seen that Books II and III overlap; this necessarily leads to some repetition and in places the narrative is not easy to follow. The authors argue whole-heartedly for Edington in Somerset as the true site of the Ethandun where the Danes were so sorely defeated, and a case is certainly made out which, as a whole, will be difficult to controvert. The Polden ridge is regarded as the high land along which the Danes manœuvred whilst Alfred was collecting his war strength in the fens, and the fortified ridge-end at Downend, near Puriton, is taken as the site of the stronghold into which the Danes were driven after their defeat. Naturally there is reference also to other ancient camps which seem to have been used by one side or the other in the course of the campaigns, but it is interesting to observe that some of the largest cannot be definitely stated to have played any part in them. Many quotations from the chronicles are given and the book represents much patient labour and research. It is impossible in a short notice to attempt any detailed criticism, and some of Mr. Major's conclusions will probably not be accepted by other workers in the same field, but it will not be denied that the book brings together in a convenient form a great quantity of material not readily accessible, and places historians under a substantial debt to the authors. There is moreover a very full index, which in fact would be improved by judicious abbreviation, for many of the references are to mere passing allusions.

C. H. Bothamley.

Churchwardens' Accounts from the 14th to the close of the 17th Century, by J. Charles Cox, LL.D., F.S.A. (Methuen and Co. [The Antiquary's Books], 1913; 8vo., pp. xviii, 366, illustrated; price 7s. 6d. net).

The County of Somerset is fortunate in possessing the oldest and in some respects the most interesting churchwardens' accounts in the kingdom; those namely of St. Michael, Bath, which extend with but few missing intervals from 1349 to 1575, and consist of 77 volumes, 67 of which are in Latin and 10 in English. It is impossible in a short notice to speak particularly of the numerous very interesting items contained in "The Accounts"

which have been edited with such real knowledge of the subject by Dr. Cox.

The editor points out (p. 98) that Housling bread was the smaller form of wafer used for the communion of the people; it was about the size of a penny.

Singing bread (so called, he says, from the chanting with which its manufacture used to be accompanied) was the larger or priest's wafer; it measured 3 inches in diameter.

The following two quotations are from the *New English Dictionary* :—

> Singing bread, *Obs.*
> The wafer used in the celebration of the mass.
>
> 1432-3, Will of E. Strete (Comm. Crt. London)
> Duo par de bakyng-irnes unum pro shosynlyng-bred [howseling bread] et aliud pro singyngbred.
>
> 1453, Test. Ebor. II. 190. Item j box of silver covered for syngyngbrede.

The writer can give another quotation bearing on the subject from his own MS. collections :—

> Thomas Fletcher *alias* Welsworth, clerk, of Glastonbury made his will 19th March, 1550, and bequeathed to Philip Crome "oon whafer yron" in the keeping of Henry Pridie of Mere. [*Wells District Probate Registry.*]

The general index is not a very full one, so that we cannot say whether any mention occurs of the "wedding door"; this is spoken of in Hampshire Churchwardens' Accounts, recently edited by the Rev. J. F. Williams, M.A.

At Andover, under date 1471, is the entry "Unto John Helyer for reparacon don at the weddyng dor, 6d."

Mr. Williams says that in his opinion this was the principal door of the church, in the porch of which the first portion of the marriage service used to take place.

We venture to give at length the following interesting passage (p. 296) :—

> "In 1566 it was provided (8 Eliz. *c.* 15), in an Act for the preservation of grain, that the Act as to rook nets be renewed. It was further provided that the churchwardens, with other six parishioners, should assess holders of land or tithes for the destruction of 'Noyfull Fowles and Vermyn' to provide a fund to reward every person bringing 'any Heades of old Crowes, Choughes, Pyes, or Rookes, for the heades of every three of them a penny, and for the Heades of everie syxe yong Crowes, etc., a penny, and for everie syxe Egges of anye of them unbroken a penny and lykewise for everye twelve Stares (starlings) Heades a penny.' Such heads and

eggs were to be brought before the wardens and assessors at least once a month, and a time of account was to be made in writing as to what money had been paid for them, and also for 'the Heades of such others ravenyng Byrdes and Vermin. For everie Heade of Martyn Hawkes,[1] Furskytte,[2] Moldekytte,[3] Busarde, Schagge,[4] Carmerat,[5] or Ryngtale (hen harrier) two pence ; and for every two Egges of them one penny ; for evry Iron (Heron) or Osprayes Head, fower pence ; for the Heade of everie Woodwall (Green Woodpecker), Pye, Jaye, Raven or Kyte, one penny ; for the Head of everie Byrde which is called the Kinges Fysshr, one penny ; for the Head of everie Bulfynche or other Byrde that devoureth the blowth of Fruite, one penny ; for the Heades of every Foxe or Gray, twelve pence ; and for the Head of everie Fitchere, Polcatte, Wesell, Stote, Fayre bade[6] or Wilde Catte, one penny ; for the Heades of everie Otter or Hedgehogges, two pence ; for the Heades of everie Moldewarpe or Wante one halfpenny.' The heads and eggs, after account had been taken of them, were to be burned, consumed, or cut in sunder before Churchwardens and Taxours."

After reading this Act one cannot but be thankful that any of these beautiful birds and beasts are left to us at all.

On Palm Sunday Dr. Cox tells us (p. 253) that the usual procession before Mass went outside the Church and round the churchyard bearing palms which had been previously blessed. The Holy Sacrament was carried beneath a canopy. On returning to the church by the south entrance, a station was made at the porch, where a scaffold was usually erected when the boys sang the *Gloria Laus*. From the porch roof or from the tower, it was customary to throw down flowers or cakes among the people.

At the church of Weston-in-Gordano in North Somerset, there still exists such a gallery in the porch, and there are traces of galleries in several of the neighbouring churches.

The book is enriched with no less than fourteen plates, six of these being photographs of various accounts. The Additional MSS. in the British Museum supply four of them :—

1. Wardens' Balance Sheet, Arlington, 1463-4.
2. Church Expenses of Wardens of Stratton, 1521.

1. I cannot find this in N.E.D.
2. Fuz-kite, the ringtailed kite (N.E.D.)
3. I cannot find this in N.E.D.
4. Shag, a cormorant, especially the crested cormorant (N.E.D.)
5. Evidently a variant of cormorant.
6. Bad, Badde, *obs. rare*, a cat (N.E.D.)

3. Church Receipts of Wardens of Stratton, 1534.
4. Wardens' Accounts, Sidbury, Inventory, 1648.

There are also numerous illustrations in the text including Blessing of Palms from the Sarum Processional (p. 257). We again thank the learned editor for giving us so much valuable information about times long past and enabling us to construct for ourselves a picture of the Good Old Days of "Merrie England."

F. W. Weaver.

The First Twelve Centuries of British Story, by J. W. Jeudwine, LL.B. (Longmans, Green & Co., 1912; 8vo., pp. lx, 436, with maps and plans; price 12s. 6d. net).

This work covers the same period as Sir J. H. Ramsay's "Foundations of England," 2 vols., 1898, and has the preliminary advantage of telling the story in one volume. The author points out with reason that he has approached the subject from a point of view hitherto little considered. Shortly it comes to this: Historians generally develop the story by the influences which came from the south to this land, firstly as the extreme outpost on the north-west of the Roman Empire, and secondly as the unwilling recipient of the new civilisation of Europe brought by the Normans. Mr. Jeudwine regards England as the southern limit of the sphere of influence of the Northmen, which comprised not only Scandinavia and Denmark, but also every island in the North Atlantic down to the eastern coast of Ireland. No less was the empire of Canute, and a continuance of kings of the calibre of Sweyn and his son would have altered the whole history of northern Europe. The Northmen held the East in fee before Venice, and discovered America before Columbus; and much of the greatness of Britain is due to the Scandinavian element in the population. The reader will be introduced to many authorities not usually consulted; incidentally he will see the risk of trusting too exclusively to narratives which were written many years after the events described, by men whose views were limited by the cloister and the abbey lands. Under such circumstances exaggeration was inevitable, for it is perfectly evident that the perpetual tale of the harrying, burning and devastation of the land invites the farmer's criticism on the statements in the sermon that no constitution could stand it. There are several reproductions of maps showing the world as known in those times; one wonders how travellers ever found the way to their destination. The book should certainly be studied for the pre-Norman period of English history.

PREHISTORIC TIMES, Seventh edition, by the late Rt. Hon. Lord Avebury, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. (Williams & Norgate, 1913; 8vo., pp. viii, 624, copiously illustrated; price 10s. 6d. net).

Having taken a small part in assisting Lord Avebury in the production of the seventh edition of this standard text-book on prehistoric man and modern savages, the writer of this notice has some little acquaintance of the marked superiority of the seventh edition as compared with the sixth edition issued in 1900. Only a month or two before the author's lamented death on May 28, 1913, at the age of 79 years, the sixth edition was subjected to a very thorough revision; several additions dealing with recent discoveries and theories, as for instance the examination of the great "temple" from which Sir John Lubbock took his title, have been made, and portions which seemed no longer essential have been cut out. The illustrations, which consisted of 243 figures in the 1900 edition have now been increased to 283; and in addition there are three coloured plates of animal paintings on the roof of the Cave of Altamira, Spain, after drawings by M. H. Breuil.

The first edition of *Prehistoric Times* was issued in 1865, and this was followed in 1870 by *The Origin of Civilization and the Primitive Condition of Man*, soon after the publication of which Sir John Lubbock became President of the Anthropological Institute (1871-3). Later he served as President of the Society of Antiquaries (1904-8).

It has been said that some of the later editions of *Prehistoric Times* suffered somewhat from a need of remodelling to bring them up to the demands of the day, and although the latest edition mentions the recent discovery of the Piltdown skull and the work on Bronze Age Pottery by the Hon. John Abercromby, its chief value remains as a useful summary of the researches of archæologists and anthropologists in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Sir John Lubbock will ever be remembered as the originator of the terms "Palæolithic" and "Neolithic," as applied to the Stone Age stages of culture, and these names have met with general acceptance.

H. ST. G. G.