

REVIEWS

rapid developments on different lines in various areas. Even in Europe different developments are not all quite similar!

A chapter on the evidence of human fossils follows, and then an account of the lower palaeolithic cultures which is exceedingly interesting. Here much geological evidence is brought forward. Two series of gravels are demonstrated, the older containing rough (Chellean) tools, the later, fine implements recalling our Acheulean. The author, by the way, disagrees with Codrington and considers the Victoria Falls coups-de-poing as of the same age as the gravels containing them. The existence of a Mousterian industry at Taungs in another gravel of slightly later date than those mentioned above is also stated. Taungs, however, is of course outside the area under review. Most of the upper palaeolithic industries are surface finds and they are not much discussed. The account of the Bushman art is largely descriptive, but the fact is noted that whereas further south a more developed art with complicated scenes is depicted, the more northern examples in southern Rhodesia are simpler without elaborate scenes. A careful study of the superposition of techniques in certain Bushman painted caves (as can be clearly seen in Miss Tongue's well-known book) reveals several distinct ages, for the sequence of the techniques is always the same. Comparisons with the Rhodesian Bushman drawings on these lines might lead to interesting results. The author agrees with the opinion that the Bushman culture is to be connected with the same basal culture which spread over Western Europe at the beginning of upper palaeolithic times. Like environment, etc., may produce similar, though unconnected, industries, as it produces, to a large extent, similar needs. But environment can have little influence in the formation of an art technique, and the Bushman art and that found in rock shelters of late palaeolithic date in eastern Spain are too similar for the fact to be a mere coincidence.

"The Stone Age in Rhodesia" fills a real gap. The author has collected many facts within his area: as he himself says it will be for a later generation of pre-historians to generalize when all the information from other districts has been similarly published.
M. C. BURKITT.

OUR EARLY ANCESTORS. By M. C. BURKITT, M.A., F.S.A., F.G.S. 8vo, pp. xii, 243. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1926. 10s. 6d.

Our increasing knowledge of details of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods has called for a concise and authoritative textbook on the subject, and for this reason the present volume is opportune. The author intends it to be an introductory textbook for the student without going into "any kind of detail," and it must be confessed that it admirably fulfills its purpose. It deals chiefly with the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and touches upon the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages. The absence of detail emphasizes the salient facts, and for the first time the student can readily grasp the relative chronology and connexion, and probable origin of the various Mesolithic cultures. The contemporary Azilian and Tardenoisean industries rose from the old Aurignacian stock, as can be seen at the Grotte des Enfants near Mentone where the Aurignacian culture, undisturbed by Magdalenian and Solutrean influences, developed independently into the true Azilio-Tardenoisean. The Asturian and Kitchen Midden cultures, although dissimilar and unrelated, were contemporary and later than the Azilio-Tardenoisean and Maglemosean—the Kitchen Midden being a development from the last. The Campignian is closely connected with the Kitchen Midden but is not allied to the Asturian. The author treats separately of the eastern, northern, western and Mediterranean areas of Neolithic Europe, and describes the characteristics of the peoples, pottery and implements

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of each. The infeasibility of the Egyptian theory of the origin of megalithic building is touched upon. As for the Carnac area, it is suggested that the culture there was derived from Crete by way of Spain, and that it was either of Chalcolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Mr. Burkitt devotes a chapter to Art, and shows the similarity of the engravings on the stones of Gavr'inis to those at Sess Kilgreen in Ireland, and the connexion between the stone at Clonfinlough and the Spanish art group III. The effects of climate on the development of culture are dealt with, and stress is rightly laid on the importance of accurate distribution maps. The book can be strongly recommended. It is not too abstruse for the amateur and the serious student will derive much benefit from it.

R. C. C. CLAY.

A CENTURY OF EXCAVATION IN THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS. By JAMES BAIKIE, F.R.A.S. 8vo, pp. 252; plates 32. London: The Religious Tract Society. 1926. 7s. 6d.

At the present day too many of the popular books on archaeology are written with the sole object of airing some crazy misconception. Dr Baikie however has written a popular book giving an outline of the work that has been done for archaeology in Egypt and incidentally he refutes such whimsical theories as that the Pyramids were astronomical observatories or standard measures. He champions the cause of true scientific research and recounts the harm that has befallen archaeology through the cupidity of selfish collectors and ruthless vandals. The book gives in a very readable form the story of the pioneers, hampered as they were by lack of knowledge and the interference of officialdom, and goes on to describe the Pyramids with their sad story of pillage in ancient times. It was the fear of such robbery that impelled the Pharaohs to make their tombs so massive and so intricate, cherishing the hope of a future life similar in detail to that which they enjoyed upon earth. There remain in the different pyramid fields about 70 pyramids of various sizes and forms and constructed with slightly differing degrees of mathematical precision. What is left of the great temples of Karnak, Luxor, Edfu, Dendera, and that of Queen Hatshapsut are witnesses to the skill of those master builders whose edifices were not only beautiful in themselves but also conformed to their surroundings. It was a good day for Egypt and science in general when the Egyptian Exploration Fund began work in 1893 at Der-el-Bahri. Thanks to its labours we have learnt much of the every-day life of the man in the street in ancient Egypt, and consequently more of its history—for history is the story of the ordinary man and not of that of potentates alone, and as Dr Baikie aptly remarks “broken potsherds may mean far more for the reconstruction of history than intact colossi.” It was from the 17th to the 18th Dynasty that the fashion of pyramid building flourished. The tombs of the kings at Abydos had all been previously rifled, but the exquisite bracelets of the Queen of Zer and the other few remaining pieces of jewellery indicate that life even in those times was highly organized. The tombs in the Valley of the Kings have long been known and Strabo mentions 40 of them. Belzoni's discovery of the sepulchre of Sety I was eclipsed by the finding of that of Tutankhamen in 1922 by Lord Carnarvon and Mr Howard Carter. Such wealth and magnificence of grave furniture belonging to a little-known and short-lived monarch makes us wonder what must have been found in some of the tombs of the greater kings by those who were the first to open them. Dr Baikie treats of the unequalled craftsmanship of the jewellers, the greatness of the monumental sculptors and the skill of the portrait sculptors. This book should be widely read; it is well written, and the enthusiasm of the author for his subject is evident in every page.

R. C. C. CLAY.