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others that have been made for the museums of the Vatican and of Florence. They are not of course, as the author fully recognizes, completely satisfactory, but they supply an admirable basis for introductory study. The author has selected the most characteristic scenes and has treated them in chronological order beginning with the Tomba Campana at Veii, and concluding with the Tomba del Tifone of Corneto. The several periods are carefully distinguished and the extent and character of the Greek influence in each of them are discussed with judgment and balance. Throughout there is an admirable self-restraint in the treatment of all hypothetical questions as to religion and custom; a broad sanity which is very welcome in a field where the temptations to fancifulness are numerous.

Modestly addressed in the first instance to University students at lecture-courses, this book deserves to be read and mastered by a far wider public.

D. RANDALL MACIVER.

THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC AGE IN BRITAIN. By D. A. E. GARROD.
Oxford University Press. 211 pages, illustrated. 12s. 6d.

The production of this book fulfils one of the many obligations still outstanding to British archaeology. It constitutes a summary of Upper Palaeolithic finds made in Britain from 1823 when Buckland first dug in Paviland Cave, Wales, until Mr Leslie Armstrong's excavations at Creswell Crags, Derbyshire, which are now in progress.

The subject matter is divided into three parts :—

- (1) Upper Palaeolithic Cave sites,
- (2) Open-air sites referable to the Upper Palaeolithic,
- (3) The Epi-palaeolithic period.

The summary and conclusions do not however do justice to the knowledge the author possesses on the subject. Students of archaeology have every reason to thank Miss Garrod for the pains she has taken in collecting the facts, whilst to those who wish to study in detail the Upper Palaeolithic period of Britain, the bibliography at the end of the volume is indispensable.

J. P. T. BURCHELL.

CARVED ORNAMENT FROM IRISH MONUMENTS. By H. S. CRAWFORD,
with a preface by R. A. S. MACALISTER. Published by the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dublin.

The student who is working on the reconstruction of any phase of the early history of the British Isles with the aid of archaeological material is much hampered by the lack of books in which the data bearing on a given problem are collected and systematized. Some day, we may hope, a School of British Archaeology will be founded and endowed, and one of its functions should be the systematic subject indexing of the vast and scattered literature of archaeology in Britain.

Much of the material existing in these islands is, however inadequately recorded, requiring close study in the field before it can be made available for students, and no better service can be done by any archaeologist to-day than by photographing, analysing and placing on record fully and scientifically such material. Irish sculpture of the early Christian period comes within this category, and Mr H. S. Crawford, who has examined the monuments in the field, and placed the results of his research on record in the book under review is to be congratulated on an admirable piece of work.

REVIEWS

Professor Macalister in his preface justly remarks that the richness of Irish ornament in *ms. illumination* was a familiar commonplace, but that the literary sources of information available to the student give little indication of the wealth of Ireland in the analogous sculptured art, and only analysis of the designs, panel by panel, could give the needed picture.

The full title, "The Handbook of Carved Ornament from Irish Monuments of the Christian period," exactly indicates its character. It illustrates and classifies the various types of design found on such monuments, which date from the ninth to the eleventh centuries. There are fifty-two half-tone plates, fifteen of which are of crosses or large fragments of crosses. The other plates show the range of the ornament found on the monuments. They are all photographs, either from the originals or, where the surface colour of the original is so varied as to make the elucidation of design with the aid of photography impossible, from good casts. A feature specially to be commended is the presentation of each design twice over—on the left hand page the untouched photograph, on the right the design restored as far as may be; we thus have "the present state of the carving and its original appearance as inferred from a careful study." The student has the best of both worlds; from the one illustration he can draw his own deductions, the other gives him the benefit of Mr Crawford's close and fruitful study of the art of the monuments. If in some cases it is apparent that the restoration gives more detail than can be read into the untouched photograph, the author has a perfectly sound answer ready; portions of the same design on parts of a given monument can be studied and utilized for a reconstruction, while the photograph only reproduces one limited portion of the design. The designs illustrated are classified into Abstract and Biomorphic, the former including spiral, star, interlaced and fret patterns, the latter animal, human and symbolic forms. The author's aims are strictly limited; no attempt is made to provide theories as to the origins of the patterns, and archaeological parallels are sparingly quoted.

Spiral patterns in particular have a long history behind them, and the revivification and development of this pagan motif in Christian times is one of the most interesting facts in the history of European ornament. The extraordinary elaboration of which the motif is capable is well seen on plate xviii. The remarkable power of forming intricate and symmetrical decoration possessed by the pagan Celts, but only brought to full fruition in Ireland under the influence of Christianity, is indeed apparent in every illustration in the book.

Students of Anglian and Scandinavian art will find much new material of familiar type in the Zoomorphic group of patterns, e.g., figs. 84, 89, 90, 94, 158; but there is also much which reveals the originality and ingenuity of the Irish craftsman. The curious variety of art motives which drifted into Ireland during the period under review is well illustrated by the symbolic designs, many of which are derived from the *Bestiaries*. The majority of the human forms are poorly rendered; a panel from the North Cross, Ahenny, is an interesting exception, representing a chariot and horsemen. It is probable that chariot warfare survived later in Ireland than any other part of Europe. The progress across Europe from east to west of this mode of warfare, and its suppression in favour of cavalry tactics as successive peoples (again from east to west) secured the much-desired larger breed of horse forms one of the most interesting features of the protohistoric period of Europe.

The strength of the *La Tène* art of the Early Iron Age lies in its power of abstract

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design ; its weakness in its delineation of human and animal forms. Precisely the same strength and weakness are shown in the art, seven hundred to a thousand years later, produced in the only Celtic-speaking area which did not come under Roman influence. This similarity suggests that the conquest of the island by Celtic speaking peoples from the continent represented a strong infusion of new blood and not merely the intrusion of warriors few in number, who became a dominant aristocracy. Space will not permit us further to discuss the problems suggested by the examination of this fascinating volume. No archaeologist engaged in comparative work in this country can afford to be without it, and the members of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland by whose subscriptions publication was made possible, are to be congratulated. Should a second edition be called for, the author should include a map of Ireland, showing the distribution of the monuments.

CYRIL FOX.

A CENTURY OF EXCAVATION IN PALESTINE. By PROFESSOR R. A. MACALISTER. London : The Religious Tract Society. 1926. 8vo, pp. 335 and 36 plates. 10s. 6d.

The author divides this book into five chapters—A sketch of the history of excavation in Palestine, excavation and topography, excavation and political history, excavation and cultural history, and excavation and religious history—with a useful bibliography at the end.

As long ago as A.D. 326 Queen Helena excavated in order to find the Holy Sepulchre, but it was not till about 1860 that modern excavation began, although from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries various travellers left us more or less useful accounts of their journeys. The Palestine Exploration Fund was inaugurated in 1865, and one of its first tasks was the great survey of Palestine by Conder and Kitchener. Later on work was carried out by American, French, German, Austrian and, since the war, Jewish societies. The author describes the formations of *tells*, or the mounds that conceal the remains of ancient cities, and the *khirbehs* or visible ruins dating as a rule from a period not earlier than the Roman. The pre-Jebusite or Canaanite culture was far superior in every way to the subsequent Hebrew—a culture that in spite of its literary attainments was deficient in inscriptions and artistic work in general. The Philistines however under a strong Aegean influence later raised the cultural status of the Jews. The former were the “ People of the Sea ” who were so decisively beaten by Ramessu III (1198–1167), and who on being driven back from the shores of Egypt settled on the seaboard of Palestine. “ It might almost be thought ” says Professor Macalister, “ in a superficial view of the excavations that the excavator and the historian were working in totally different fields ; ” for there have been no traces of the kings of Israel who loomed so large in the pages of the Old Testament. There is evidence of human habitation in Palestine during all the Palaeolithic periods with the exception of the Solutrean. The author does not agree with de Morgan’s theory that the Neolithic period was totally absent in western Asia. The Bronze Age which differed in many details with that found in Europe gave place to the Iron Age at about the time of David, or roughly 1000 B.C. Engravings on the crust of flint scrapers are sometimes found, but the tranchet is unknown except for the cache at Gezer, and arrowheads are usually of the leaf-shaped variety. The fact that one at least of the standing stones at Gezer is of a kind foreign to the neighbourhood recalls the Blue Stones at Stonehenge. Cupola or cup markings on stones are common to sites of all periods in Palestine, but as elsewhere their purpose is unknown. “ Its