

Friends and Current Literature

PARTS I. to III. of Vol. I. of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* have been added to the Reference Library by the kind presentation of Dr. William Allen Sturge. These contain Dr. Sturge's addresses of fascinating interest on "The Chronology of the Stone Age" and kindred subjects. Passing briefly over the still unsolved Eolithic problem he deals with Palæolithic and Neolithic implements as only an expert can. His observations especially concern patination, the change which the surface of a flint has undergone "due to time or other causes" excluding "mere staining" and striation or scratching by glacial action of flint implements of both Palæolithic and Neolithic periods. He is led to the conclusion that glaciations occurred in each of these periods and prior to the coming of Palæolithic man, and that during the glaciation associated with Neolithic man there were "at least eight advances and recessions of the ice during the main glacial period." Dividing the Neolithic flints into classes Dr. Sturge shows that the scratches differ in number and quality and the patina in depth and intensity, marking a gradual decrease of severity of the recurrent glaciations that were separated from one another by intervals that must be "measured by a unit of ten thousand rather than of a thousand years." These drafts on the Bank of Time carry us back to a period from 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, before we come to the Cave periods and further back still to drift man flourishing from 700,000 to 1,000,000 years ago.

These conclusions tally remarkably with Croll's theory of glaciation based on the periods of varying ellipticity of the earth's orbit. The examination of the subject was carried thus far in 1909, but further investigations have shown that the date of the last glaciation based on this theory only is not justified by facts. Traces of minor recurrent glaciations are to be found during the later Neolithic period which have left their mark on East Anglian flints ending with one that corresponds with a glaciation of Sweden 15,000 years ago.

When Dr. Sturge published his paper on "Chronology" his attention was called to the work of Major-General Drayson, R.A., sometime assistant at Greenwich Observatory and for many years Professor at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Drayson "set himself the task" of finding formulæ for working out problems connected with the movements of the earth. He claimed that a wrong centre had been taken for the movement of precession by which the poles of the earth's axis revolve in the heavens in the course of thousands of years. He maintained that the pole of the ecliptic is not the centre of this movement but a point six degrees from the pole. Drayson worked out the precession period at about 31,700 years, his astronomical conclusions fitting in with Dr. Sturge's inductive conclusions "as a glove fits a hand," the common and "startling result" being this. "Fifteen thousand years ago the Arctic Circle was at Durham, and the Tropic of Cancer at Gibraltar," producing a "fight between sub-arctic and sub-tropical

conditions " which would be far beyond anything we experience to-day.

Space prevents our entering upon the intricate detailed explanation given by Dr. Sturge in support of these conclusions. Sufficient has perhaps been given to awaken a thirst for more knowledge of fascinating exploration of the mighty past. If Keith in his "Antiquity of Man," ably reviewed by Walter S. Rowntree in the issue of *The Friend* for 10th of December, 1915, provides a workable hypothesis for the descent of man on an anatomical basis, do not Dr. Sturge's conclusions provide us with those vast stretches of time needed to support the hypothesis? Each explorer who helps to clear up the difficulties of an evolution, which in some respects we may have accepted blindly, confers a lasting benefit on the hungry searcher after the whence, why and whither of human history and destiny.

ISAAC SHARP.

A book printed for private circulation has been kindly presented to the Reference Library by Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B., being *A Century of Greek Epigrams Done into English Verse*, by himself, Lady Fry and Agnes Fry. In his introduction dated August, 1915, Sir Edward Fry compares the Greek epigram to the snap-shot photograph "in its intimacy and directness"; leading us into sympathy with the every day life of ancient Greece with its cares and sorrows, its humours, or with its "questions on the deeper issues of life."

With Ptolemy the astronomer, contemplating the "mazy-circling stars," we may "quit this earth," "to taste ambrosia in the courts of God," or from an unknown author learn that he only is holy "whose soul is free from sin." The glory of Thermopylæ and Plataea whose heroes "dying, died not," is brought to our minds, and in imagination we may roam through old Mycenæ with its "Cyclopean vaults and treasuries of gold." Here, as in all times, the pathos of seafaring life and courage of the men that commit their fragile barks to the cruel sea, leaving perchance their bones to whiten in some lonely spot that "only the sea-bird knows," stir the poetic thought. The thoughts of life and death—change and decay—lead us "with old Khayyam" to the one certainty that we can "not add to life one hour the more." The "cool clear waters" of the fountain, the "clustering ivy-leaves," the ripening grain, the "warbler's song," "the shrill cicula's cry," "the dewy flowers of gold Persephone" speak to us of "Nature's pleasing theme." The "fierce madness" of love and its sweetness "when one cloak can shelter lovers twain," the power of "winged love" that snaps "the winged thunderbolt" or draws with a magnetic force has its place, whilst Art too is represented in the Niobe, once changed to stone, but brought to life again under the skilful hand of Praxiteles. Over these epigrams a pleasant hour or two, or moments now and then taken from the stress of life may brightly and usefully be spent.

ISAAC SHARP.

French Heroes at the Military Hospital, Arc-en-Barrois, France, by Wilson Crewdson, one of the orderlies at the hospital (privately printed 1916). This 16pp. 4to brochure, well printed and well illustrated, gives an account of the work and everyday life of the hospital staff and patients.

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The pages devoted to "instances of men who a few months since were leading very ordinary lives without any expectation of becoming heroes," are full of interest and bring before the reader a picture of suffering heroically borne.

Houghton Mifflin Company (Boston and New York) announce the spring publication of *Memorandum Written by William Rotch in the Eightieth Year of his Age*.

"This quaint manuscript, now for the first time printed, is an important contribution to our knowledge of a minor episode of the Revolutionary War. William Rotch was a Quaker who at the outbreak of the Revolution made a strenuous endeavor to keep the Island of Nantucket neutral. This full and picturesque narrative of this affair and of his journey later to England and France on a quasi-diplomatic mission is of fascinating interest." Limited edition of 450 copies, 400 for sale. Price \$3.50. ELLA K. BARNARD.

Volume 50 of the *Friends' Quarterly Examiner* appears under fresh auspices. Ernest E. Taylor, Bannisdale, Malton, Yorks, has assumed responsibility in the place of Sir George Newman. This welcome Quarterly has passed out of the hands of West, Newman & Co., after being a quarter of a century under the care of this firm of printers and publishers.

* "A change of scene is recorded in the diary when on 3rd August [1847] Henry [Fawcett] becomes the first pupil at Queenwood College. In its previous career this temple of learning had been Harmony Hall, built by Robert Owen for his last Socialist experiment. In 1847 it was opened as a school by Mr. Edmonson, a Quaker.² Special emphasis was given to scientific training and English literature. The school seems to have been very congenial to Harry and his intellect began to develop rapidly." *Life of Henry Fawcett* [1833-1884], by Winifred Holt, 1915.

Miss Margaret Ferrier Young, of Sandford, Dublin, has an article in the *Journal of the Archæological Society of the County of Kildare, and Surrounding Districts*, vol. viii. no. 3, Jan. 1916, on "Ballitore and its Inhabitants." There are several letters from Mary Leadbeater to the Keatinge family, of Narraghmore and later of Shrewsbury and London, 1811-1813, also a view of the Shackleton school at Ballitore, and portraits of Richard Shackleton (1726-1792) and of William and Mary Leadbeater.

The Westonian, of Second Month, prints two papers read at the Centennial Anniversary of Birmingham Monthly Meeting—"Past and

* = not in D.

² George Edmondson (1798-1863) was "originally, a bookbinder's apprentice; master of a boarding school at Broomhall; visited Russia as tutor to Daniel Wheeler's children, 1817; principal of Queenwood Hall, Hants; added agriculture to the curriculum; an early promoter of the College of Preceptors" (*D.N.B. Epitome*). Prospectuses of his schools at Tulketh Hall, near Preston (published Nov. 26th, 1841) and Queenwood College, near Stockbridge, Hants (opened 28 vii. 1847) are in D.

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Present," by Isaac Sharpless, " Friends and the Community," by Louella P. Hayes.

The Annual Monitor for 1916 (Gloucester : Bellows, 5½ by 3½, pp. 206, 1s. 6d.), has appeared, prepared by Joseph J. Gill, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. There are thirty-five memoirs and nineteen portraits. The average age at death rises still—in 1912-13 and in 1913-1914, it was sixty five years, in 1914-15 it was sixty-six and a half years. This applies to the membership in Great Britain and Ireland.

Several new publications in pamphlet form are to hand from the Yorkshire 1905 Committee (Robert Davis, 30, Leadhall Lane, Harrogate), including *Worship, Witness, and the Need of the World*, taken from T. R. Glover's Swarthmore Lecture—" The Nature and Purpose of a Christian Society "—1½d. post free.

* *French Nursery Songs* is the title of a small collection of pieces translated from French by Elizabeth Fox Howard, a London Friend (London : Curwen, pp. 50, two shillings).

International Relationships in the Light of Christianity contains the lectures given at the Interdenominational Summer School held at Swanwick, June—July, 1915 (London : Simpkin, 7½ by 5, pp. 195, half a crown net). The Quaker contributors are John W. Graham and J. St. George Heath, who write respectively on " Christianity against all War " and " Peace and the Education of a Citizen."

The " Theology and Philosophy " portion of *The Athenæum Subject Index to Periodicals*, 1915, has been received (London : The Athenæum, Chancery Lane, W.C. ; New York : B. F. Stevens & Brown, 12 by 9½, pp. 34, 1s. 6d. net). It is dated March 11th, 1916. There are numerous entries under " Friends, Society of," from the " Journal of F.H.S. " and other periodicals.

Information respecting the family of Bushell of Frodsham, a member of which was Edward Bushell (bapt. 1619/20, died 1694), a prominent member of the Jury in the noted trial of Penn and Meade in 1672, may be found in *Transactions Cong. Hist. Soc.* vi. 379 (1915).

A Souvenir has been issued of the Jubilee of the Friends' First-day School, Oldham, celebrated last autumn. It is a volume of 48 pages and numerous illustrations. There is a foreword by John W. Graham. The first portion deals with Oldham Meeting of Friends in the early days, and the later with the First-day School. In connection with the celebration there has been a reproduction (measuring 13½ in. by 15 in.) of a map of Meetings in the six Northern Counties first published by James Backhouse, of Darlington, in 1773. Special prices for remainders may be obtained from William Taylor, Hope Villas, Middleton, Lancs.

We have also received a copy of a paper read by William Taylor at a conference at Oldham in January, 1916, on *Co-operation of Friends' Meetings around Manchester*, accompanied by a map of Lancashire Q.M. in 1773.