

discoveries made in the earlier part of the century, merely sketching their later developments. We do not blame the author for omitting many discoveries of importance, but it is a great pity that he did not realise that the present selection gives a somewhat one-sided view of scientific aims and methods.

Having said so much about a weak point in the book, it would be unfair not to dwell on several useful features. The specialist working in one branch of science is very apt to forget what he ever learnt about other directions of scientific progress. In these days, over-specialisation and over-elaboration are being carried to greater excess every year. Even the subdivision of the Royal Society's Proceedings into two series has completely destroyed their former all-round character. A book like the present, taken up and read in a leisure hour, will recall to the specialist many interesting points in the history of different branches of science of which he would otherwise never think. If there is one class of specialist who is more likely than others to benefit by reading the book, that is the mathematician himself, and next to him, possibly, the physicist. These, in particular, will be brought into contact with ideas quite different from those with which they are commonly associated, and it may be hoped that the mathematician will learn a lesson, and be less prone to hide his light under a bushel, when he finds how his genius is unappreciated by the writers of popular treatises.

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ANCIENT AND MODERN LEICESTER.

Glimpses of Ancient Leicester in Six Periods. By Mrs. T. Fielding Johnson. Second edition, with supplementary notes. Pp. xv+439. (Leicester: Clarke and Satchell, London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1907.)

THIS book was first published in 1892 as a "History of Leicester from the Earliest Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century." The present edition has been enlarged considerably by a supplement, in which more recent developments have been dealt with. The author belongs to a Leicester family which has taken a leading part in the public life of the town for several generations. Local histories are wont to be rather dull, but in this case, thanks to a lucid and lively style, the writer has succeeded in producing a volume of more than usual attraction for the general reader.

Leicester appears to have been an important Roman settlement, of which the chief remains are a part of the old rampart, now called the "Jewry Wall"; some fine examples of tessellated pavements; and a milestone with an inscription to the Emperor Hadrian, said to be the oldest stone inscription in Britain. During Saxon times the Church of St. Nicholas was built on the site of a Roman temple. This church "still includes in the north wall of its nave portions of the identical walls of the original Saxon church, showing a quantity of material taken from the Jewry Wall and other ruined Roman buildings near the spot." "Under the Norman and Plantagenet kings, Leicester reached its highest point

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of importance as a mediæval borough," under its greatest earl, Simon de Montfort. Several buildings of this period are in existence; amongst them may be mentioned the Newark Gateway and the Old Town Hall. Memorials of the sixteenth century may still be seen in the Abbey and the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

The supplement gives an interesting account of the development of the place from a market town with a population of 17,000 at the end of the eighteenth century into an industrial centre of nearly a quarter of a million people.

In this connection reference should be made to the excellent description of the rise and progress of the present important knitting and hosiery trade. A great impulse was given to the prosperity of the town by the opening of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. This was the second railway in the country, and was built by George Stephenson in 1832. Some of the original rails and other specimens of early railway work are preserved in the town museum.

This useful institution owes its origin to the Literary and Philosophical Society, through which it gained the nucleus of its present valuable collection. The scientific activity of the town has always centred round this society, which was founded in 1835.

The attention of the reader of Mrs. Fielding Johnson's book will be attracted to the names of several of her townsmen who have attained distinction in scientific pursuits, amongst whom may be mentioned Russel Wallace, the naturalist Bates, and another, not so well known, Mr. Ludlam, who assisted Dollond in the production of achromatic lenses for his telescopes.

The history of the educational institutions of the town receives adequate treatment. Secondary education is mainly in the hands of the Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth Grammar Schools, and Alderman Newton's School, the latter an eighteenth-century foundation. During last century a working men's college and a mechanics' institute were started. The former does useful work still, whilst the latter has developed into a fine technical school.

A special interest attaches to the new edition of this attractive work in view of the forthcoming visit of the British Association to Leicester, and intending visitors would find in it a pleasanter account of their place of meeting than the pages of an ordinary guide-book can afford. The book is admirably illustrated, and is provided with an index. R. E. T.

A NEW LIFE OF HUXLEY.

Thomas H. Huxley. By J. R. Ainsworth Davis. (English Men of Science Series.) Pp. xi+288. (London: J. M. Dent and Co., 1907.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

MR. DAVIS has produced in small compass an account of the life and work of Huxley that is at once readable and stimulating. It was inevitable that he should draw largely upon Mr. Leonard Huxley's biography of his illustrious father, but the materials have been skilfully employed, and the book