

accounts known to me of reptiles and fish as general laboratory animals. It is refreshing to see turtles listed among laboratory animals, even though the word is found to include tortoises. There is also an apt reminder that turtles go back to the Triassic age, have changed little in the 175,000,000 years of their history, and may not be very adaptable to laboratory conditions.

No doubt a second edition of this book will be called for in the near future. If Dr. Farris then finds it possible to include a chapter on general matters affecting the animal house, especially the training of laboratory technicians, to even up the writing of his contributors, and to include something on the less-used species, then he will have produced a very good book indeed.

A. S. PARKES

## A CLASSIC OF CAMBRIDGE ARCHÆOLOGY

### The Archæology of the Cambridge Region

A Topographical Study of the Bronze, Early Iron, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Ages, with an Introductory Note on the Neolithic Age. By Dr. Cyril Fox. Re-issued with Appendix IV. Pp. xxv+360+A24. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1948.) 37s. 6d. net.

THE reprinting of a standard work after a quarter of a century is a tribute of which any author might feel proud, more especially when his subject is one developing so rapidly as prehistoric archaeology. The main reason for the vitality of this book is the abiding interest of its main theme—the changing pattern of human settlement of a definite region from the New Stone to the Anglo-Saxon Age. An additional and local reason why the book is so much used in Cambridge teaching is that so large a proportion of the material evidence is housed in the University Museum of Archæology and Anthropology, which has recently been further enriched by the accession of the Braybrooke (Neville) collection from Audley End. Far beyond Cambridge, though, the book has long been recognized as an outstanding essay in archaeological method, the message of which is still very far from being exhausted.

Inevitably the book has proved a special spur to research within its own region, and this has inevitably rendered it in some respects out of date. All the greater welcome must be accorded, therefore, to the inclusion, as an appendix to the present reprint, of Sir Cyril Fred Fox's "Reflections" contributed to the *Cambridge Historical Journal* (9, No. 1; 1947), in which generous references are made to the work of his successors.

The effect of the introduction of the modern scientific method of pollen analysis on our appreciation of the early settlement of the region is particularly interesting to note. Writing in 1923, it was almost inevitable that Fox should have interpreted the restriction of early settlement to the lighter, better-drained soils in terms of the absence of forest, since no means were available at that time for testing the long-accepted dogma of the incompatibility of forests and early man. Ironically enough, it was in the northern part of the Cambridge region that the Fenland Research Committee first succeeded in establishing a systematic correlation between the history of vegetation and that of human settlement in the post-glacial period of England; and it was by studying the muds of Hockham Mere that Dr. H.

Godwin was able to demonstrate the forested character of the Breckland itself and the initiation of clearance by the earliest neolithic occupants of the area.

Yet, though as Sir Cyril concedes in his "Reflections" we no longer link the settlement of lighter soils with the absence of forest cover, the demonstration that these were, in fact, occupied before those more difficult to cultivate remains one of his great achievements. 'Fox's theorem', as it has sometimes been termed, has been found to apply to many regions in lowland Britain, and the gradual change in land-occupation implied by the shift to heavier soils has led to a great advance in our understanding of the economic life of the prehistoric and early historic past.

In conclusion it is perhaps worth underlining Sir Cyril's wry comment in his "Reflections" that, despite the influence exerted by his book on other students, "it remains true that in important respects . . . *The Archæology of the Cambridge Region* has had, in twenty-five years, no successor". The availability of revolutionary new techniques of scientific research, which makes it practicable to study successive phases of early settlement in their real as distinct from their hypothetical or even legendary setting, only underlines the challenge. The co-ordination of human and natural history is of the utmost value at the highest levels of education—and one is thinking here as much of university teaching staffs as of undergraduates and of research as well as of formal teaching. A particularly fine example of what can be done is described in Dr. Therkel Mathiassen's description in his "Studier over Vestjyllands Oldtidsbebyggelse" (Copenhagen, 1948: English summary) of a survey of some 1,260 sq. km. of north-west Jutland organized by the National Museum of Denmark between 1942 and 1945 (for a review, see *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.*, 196; 1950).

British archaeology has in the past been too much preoccupied with pursuing the Continental affinities of 'cultures' and all too little concerned with the character of settlement and mode of life of continuing generations of our early forbears in the several regions of Britain. Sir Cyril Fox and his followers at Cambridge have pointed the way, and signs are not lacking that some of the newer university centres in particular are preparing to answer Sir Cyril's challenge.

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## COSMIC RAYS

### Cosmic Rays

By Prof. Louis Leprince-Ringuet. Translated from the French by Fay Ajzenberg. (Prentice-Hall Physics Series.) Pp. xii+290. (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc.; London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1950.) 30s. net.

IN 1939 work on cosmic rays was accessible only in original papers, but there is now a number of books on the subject ranging from frankly popular accounts through introductory text-books for students, to summarizing handbooks which are tools of the research worker. It is rather difficult to place this book in relation to these categories.

Prof. L. Leprince-Ringuet, who is a distinguished French worker in cosmic rays, wrote the book in 1945, and it has recently been revised and translated for an American public. It now includes work done in 1950 and is therefore about as up to date as publishing conditions allow. No major discovery has, in fact, been missed—the book deals with the discovery of cosmic-ray particles about a thousand times as