

DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH FORESTRY.<sup>1</sup>

THE work on the development of British forestry by Mr. A. C. Forbes, Chief Forestry Inspector to the department of Agriculture for Ireland, will be welcomed by all interested in the question of afforestation



FIG. 1.—Two-storied Beech Wood, Chiltern Hills. From "The Development of British Forestry."

tion. The author deals with his subject in a lucid and convincing manner. To add to the interest of the book, a large number of excellent photographs illustrating the various types of tree-growth in different soils and localities has been included. These alone form a remarkable and instructive photographic survey of the forest conditions not only within the British Empire, but also to some extent on the Continent.

The opening chapter deals with the national aspects of forestry, and here Mr. Forbes has gone to the very foundation of the subject from historical and geographical points of view. The following chapter deals with the forest requirements of the United Kingdom. It is pointed out that, in comparison with other countries, we have the lowest percentage of total land-surface under woodland, with the highest consumption of imported wood per head of population. The writer calculates that, in addition to the three million acres already under trees, we should require to bring another four million acres or so under forests, giving a total of at least seven million acres, equal to about 10 per cent. of the land-surface. The timber production, forest laws, and forest area of other countries are carefully considered in forming an estimate of the requirements of the United Kingdom. Chapter iii. is on the relation of agriculture to forestry development, and here the author shows himself to be equally at

home in agriculture and forestry. This is a most valuable chapter, and shows how the area under trees may be extended without unduly disturbing the agricultural value and produce of the country. Chapters iv. and v. deal respectively with climate and tree-growth, and soil and surface conditions in the British Isles; while chapter vi., on the need for improved methods and practice in British forestry shows how vast improvement could be made in our existing woodlands by the adoption of more scientific and up-to-date methods. Chapter vii., on the economic value of the British forest flora, gives a very valuable and interesting account of the silvicultural characteristic of the trees generally cultivated in Britain. No one is better able to deal with the financial aspects of British forestry than Mr. Forbes, and chapter viii., which treats of this subject, should prove of the greatest interest to all planters.

The final chapter entitled "The State and Private Ownership of Woods" comes as a fitting termination to a work on the development of British forestry. It is here pointed out how the State, and the State alone, can bring about the much-needed improvement in afforestation of the country. The author, however, clearly points out that the cooperation of the individual is necessary if we are to achieve permanent and all-round improvements. In his own words:—"The cooperation of the individual is as necessary in national forestry as in the creation and development of industries, and the idea that the State can entirely take



FIG. 2.—Selection Felling in Chiltern Hills Beech Wood. From "The Development of British Forestry."

the place of the individual wood-owner is equally absurd as the idea that the latter can succeed without the assistance of the State."

All through this excellent book the author is moderate in his views and logical in his reasoning. Conclusions are arrived at only after very careful

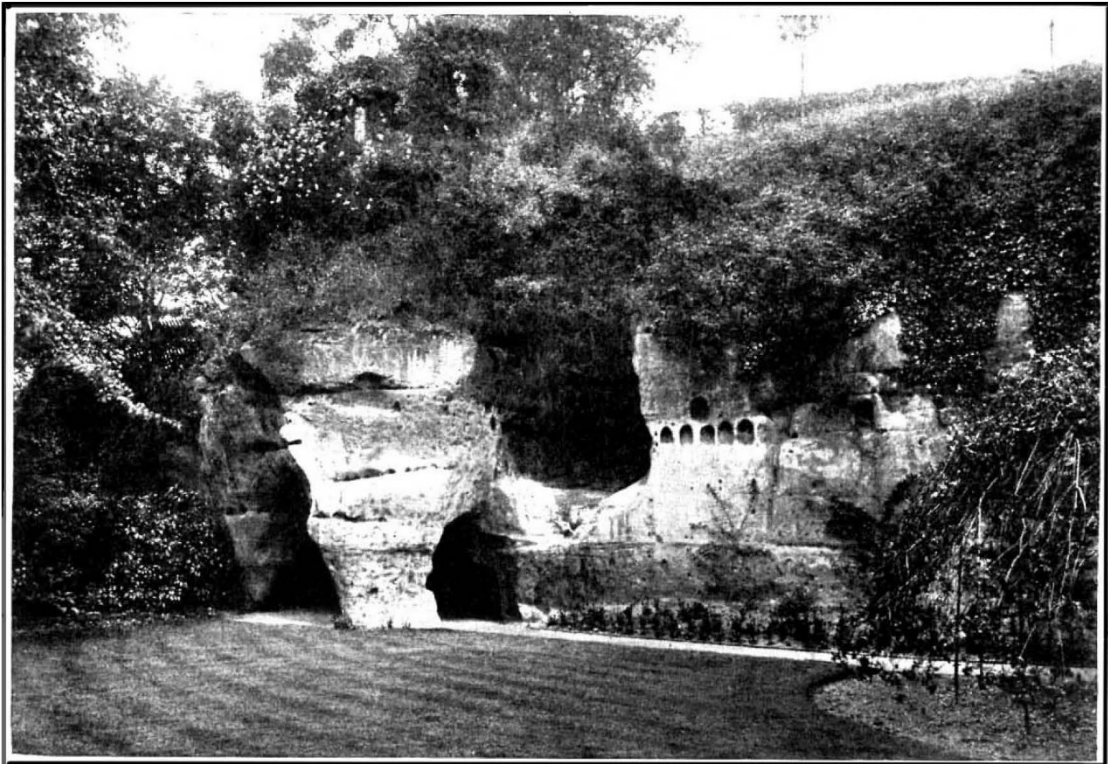
<sup>1</sup> "The Development of British Forestry." By A. C. Forbes. Pp. xi+274. (London: E. Arnold, 1910.) Price 10s. 6d. net.  
"English Woodlands and their Story." By H. Townley. Pp. xiii+309. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., n.d.) Price 15s. net.



consideration based on personal study and experience. The volume contains many tables of statistics, and is also provided with an excellent index.

"English Woodlands and their Story," by Mr. Houghton Townley, is an interestingly written and well-illustrated work. The book is written more for the forest-lover and student of nature than for the technical forester, but it may be warmly recommended to all interested in any way with trees and forests. The history, traditions, and associations of the old English woodlands and forests are set forth in a most fascinating manner. The laws of olden times, when forests were principally used for the chase, are interestingly described, as well as all matters of historical interest connected with the various forests of England. Nothing could be more interesting than the perusal of this work, which is written in a most

The chalk formation, traceable from the north of Ireland to the Crimea, and from the south of Sweden to Bordeaux, a distance of about 11,140 geographical miles in one direction, and 840 in the other, with its characteristic cavities and the facility of supplementing them by artificial means, naturally provided habitations for prehistoric man; while in other places tufa, volcanic breccia, and sandstone took its place. Palæolithic man shows his artistic powers not only by graving representations of the men and fauna of the period on ivory and bone, but in the wall-paintings of shelters like those at Les Combarelles and Font-de-Gaume he provides a veritable picture gallery. In a cave recently explored have been discovered actual pieces of sculpture of extinct beasts in the round. The preservation of these frescoes and sculptures is due to the fact that the caves have



The Ruined Monastery in the Rocks, Nottingham Park. From "Cliff Castles and Cave Dwellings of Europe."

readable fashion, and, though not intended as a text-book on forestry, its perusal cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to all foresters and those connected with the management of woodlands, as well as all forest-lovers and students of nature.

#### THE TROGLODYTES OF EUROPE.<sup>1</sup>

IN his excursions into the byways of archæology and primitive culture Mr. Baring-Gould is always interesting and instructive, and in his present book, dealing with the cave-dwelling troglodytes and the cliff castles of Europe, he has found a subject hitherto little explored and well suited to his powers. The moral of the book, though it is nowhere clearly defined, is the essential unity of human culture, man always adapting to his use the material which his environment supplies.

<sup>1</sup> "Cliff Castles and Cave Dwellings of Europe." By S. Baring-Gould. Pp. 324. (London: Seeley and Co., Ltd., 1911). Price 12s. 6d. net.

been sealed up from time immemorial, and subjected to no invasion by man or beast or to any change of air or temperature; further, the primitive lamps fed with melted fat could not produce smoke sufficient to discolour ceiling or wall. The genuineness of these paintings is assured by the circumstance that some are partially glazed over and some half obliterated by stalagmitic deposits. This prehistoric savage type of life survives among modern cave-dwellers in Cornwall and in the strange family of troglodytes described by Sir A. Mitchell, who discovered their dwelling in a state of wretched squalor on the shore of Wick Bay. Among subterranean dwellings the wonderful labyrinthine town ascribed to Og, king of Bashan, at Edrei, in the Hauran, is perhaps the most remarkable example. The best parallel to it in Europe is that strange French town, Trôo, on the river Le Loir, which traverses the fertile upland plain of Beauce, and falls into La Loire at Angers. Here the whole height is like a sponge, perforated