

Short Reviews.

Anthropology and Archæology.

Early Man: his Origin, Development and Culture.

Lectures delivered for the Royal Anthropological Institute. By G. Elliot Smith, Sir Arthur Keith, Dr. F. G. Parsons, M. C. Burkitt, Harold J. E. Peake, Dr. J. L. Myres. Pp. xii + 176 + 12 plates. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1931.) 8s. 6d. net.

IN 1929 the Royal Anthropological Institute inaugurated courses of open lectures of a popular character, of which the first series dealing with early man, delivered in the winter session 1929-30, is published in this volume. Of six lectures in all, three deal with the origin and descent of man from the point of view of the physical anthropologist, and three with aspects of the beginnings of culture. Of these latter, that by Mr. Miles Burkitt on "Most Primitive Art" is printed in abstract only, but compensation for the lack of a fuller development of his demonstration of the method of study by 'art groups' is forthcoming in the examples from French and Spanish caves and from South Africa, which have not been published previously.

On the physical side, Prof. Elliot Smith deals with the origin of man. Happily for his readers, while the volume was passing through the press, he was able to add to the lecture, as originally delivered, his conclusions on the place of Peking man in relation to other relics of early man, based on discoveries afterwards made at Chou Kou Tien. Sir Arthur Keith deals with the evolution of races in the past and in the present, and Dr. F. G. Parsons summarises the anthropological history of the modern Englishman, analysing the physical characters of different racial types that have gone to the make-up of that remarkable hybrid.

Of the remaining two lectures dealing with early culture, Mr. H. J. E. Peake on the beginnings of agriculture summarises the present position of research on the origin of cultivated grains, with special reference to wheat and barley, and discusses its bearing on the problem of the antiquity of civilisation in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The course of lectures closed with Prof. J. L. Myres's lecture on the discovery and early use of metals, which appears here in much extended form. Of two chapters, one deals with the 'precious' metals and the second with the 'useful' metals, with a wealth of illustration and commentary which ranges widely over the whole field of early culture and belief. The lecture is as delightful to read as it is informative.

Index of Potters' Stamps on Terra Sigillata "Samian Ware". By Dr. Felix Oswald. With a Supplement (to be consulted in conjunction with the Index) of Stamps obtained or recorded during the Period of printing the Index (with Corrections). Pp. xxiii + 428. (East Bridgford, Notts.: The Author, Margidunum, 1931.) 36s.

DR. FELIX OSWALD'S index to the potters' stamps on Terra Sigillata is an achievement in more senses than one. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining a

publisher for a work of so highly specialised a character and the expense of private publication, the author has himself set up and printed the whole on a hand press. It has been the work of his leisure over a period of three years. The result is a credit to his knowledge of typography; and students of Roman provincial cultures are doubly indebted to him for carrying to completion this laborious but indispensable task, by which he supplements and completes the study of sigillata ware published by him in collaboration with Dr. T. Davies Pryce eleven years ago.

With the supplementary list of marks which have accrued in the past three years while the main body of the work was being printed, Dr. Oswald has now brought the list of potters' stamps completely up to date; but he has also added to the stamps previously published in the lists in the corpus of inscriptions, which goes up to 1906 only, the place and period of the potter and the form of the vessel on which the stamps occur, particulars essential for the archæologist but omitted from these lists. The index itself is of highly specialised interest, but as Dr. Oswald indicates in his preface, an examination of the stamps yields much information broadly of interest to archæologists, such as the movements of trade from Gaulish and German factories, the origin and place of work of the potters, their partnerships and nationalities, and even, in some cases, their personal characteristics.

An Introduction to the Sociology of Islam. By Reuben Levy. (Published for Herbert Spencer's Trustees.) In 2 Volumes. Vol. 1. Pp. viii + 410. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1931.) 21s. net.

THIS volume is the first of a series to be published by the trustees of Herbert Spencer's will in continuation of his "Descriptive Sociology". Up to a point, Islam lends itself to the treatment which Spencer planned. Mohammedan communities have common characteristics based on their religion which make it possible to treat them as a unit. That unity, however, is no more than formal, and unless the treatment of the subject is to be allowed to expand to an almost inordinate length, local differences must be ignored, especially in outlying regions, such as Zanzibar and Malaya for example, where earlier custom and animistic belief have coloured practice. Mr. Levy has not passed over such differences entirely, but has been able to refer to them only in selected instances.

In his first volume now published, Mr. Levy, after an historical introduction which sketches the growth of Islam and its territorial extent at various periods of its history, analyses the effect of its religion on the life and organisation of society. He covers the grades of society, the status of the woman and the child, jurisprudence, and the caliphate and central government. The form of government in the independent Islamic provinces, ethics, philosophy, and science are being dealt with