

The Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware) of Margidunum
By Dr. Felix Oswald. Pp. 124 (56 plates). (Nottingham: The University, 1948.) 15s.

THE Roman site at Margidunum (Castle Hill, near East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire) had a long history, beginning with its foundation in A.D. 48 as one of the earliest forts of the Claudian conquest, and continuing in occupation, first as a military site and later as a posting station, until the end of the fourth century. It covers an area of seven acres, and that part of it excavated by Dr. Felix Oswald has produced many interesting discoveries, including a valuable collection of pottery of all periods.

The Terra Sigillata, which is the subject of this new report, includes examples dating from the first to the fourth centuries. It is arranged in nine chronological periods, and it is useful to be able to follow the development of certain long-lived types through the years by means of the descriptive material and the accompanying illustrations, in a book of such small and convenient size. Thus we find a common type like the plate, Form 18, appearing in the first period (Claudian), becoming deeper and larger, and finally developing into the deep plate or bowl of Form 31 by period 7 (Antonine). In period 8 (third century) this increases in size, and in the last period it is found among the fourth-century imitation Sigillata in grey ware with a scarlet wash, decorated with an interior central circular zone of rouletting.

Among the decorated ware the hemispherical bowl, Form 37, as usual, predominates. Some very early examples make their appearance in period 3 (Nero-Vespasian and Vespasian), and include bowls by the potter Mommo with designs which are the same as those on the signed bowls of this potter identified at Pompeii. In period 5 (Trajan) there is the usual appearance of new styles of ornamentation, and among the fourth-century imitation Sigillata is a bowl of this shape with stamped decoration consisting of rows of oblong geometric motifs. A few fragments of Arretine ware found in the Claudian layers are survivals of the late Augustan age, and another interesting early find was a bowl of Form 24 with the red and yellow marbled glaze rarely found in Britain, Margidunum being the most northerly site where it occurs. Among other discoveries may be mentioned the inkpots, one of period 3, which Dr. Oswald suggests was probably for official use, and the other of period 4 (Hadrian-Antonine), with a cursive inscription by Casurius.

JOAN LIVERSIDGE

College Geography

By Prof. Daniel R. Bergsmark. Third edition, revised by Earl C. Case. Pp. x + 790. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1949.) 60 shillings.

THE scope of geography as taught in American schools has generally a strong regional outlook, with the United States underlined. This volume is a little unusual in that it bases the regional account of the world on climatic regions with relatively little attention to other physical factors except relief. Areas important chiefly for mineral wealth have to come outside this classification and be treated separately. The book is a third edition of "College Geography" published in 1932 and has been brought well up to date—a difficult task in these days of change and uncertainty. A new chapter has been added on Pacific islands where America has found

increased interests. There are abundant diagrams and illustrations and copious references to relevant publications, one of the best features of the book. Its accuracy, fullness and lack of bias make this a most useful book of its kind, but, of course, too expensive for schools in Great Britain.

Arctic Unfolding

Experiences and Observations during a Canadian Airborne Expedition in Northern Ungava, the Northwest Territories, and the Arctic Archipelago. By Prof. Nicholas Polunin. Pp. 248 + 33 plates. (London: Hutchinson and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1949.) 21s. net.

PROF. POLUNIN had already considerable experience of various parts of the Arctic when he got the chance to visit by air several parts of the Canadian Eastern Arctic. The expedition spent some days at various places, including Southampton Island, Chimo and Port Harrison in the Ungava Peninsula. The flights were mainly concerned with survey and resulted in changes in the map around Foxe Basin and the location of the elusive Spicer Islands. The author's main interests are botanical, and so there are detailed notes on the vegetation besides many floristic records. Birds, too, come in for notice. It was not a long expedition in time, although a wide extent of islands and seas was covered. Prof. Polunin has followed closely his diary, a method that results in vivid descriptions of scenery and incident, but tends to emphasize the monotony of the region and the repetition of detail. The book, however, is a useful addition to works on the Canadian Arctic. There are many but not outstanding photographs. One of several appendixes gives instructions as to what and how to collect. There is a useful bibliography.

Non-Ferrous Castings

By R. F. Hudson. Pp. x + 282 + xxiii. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1948.) 22s. net.

THE objects of this volume are set out with clearness and modesty in the author's preface. The main purpose of the book is to present "the scientific viewpoint to the practical man in a language he understands". Any endeavour to promote better understanding, and a consequent higher degree of co-operation, between the practical man and the metallurgist is to be admired, and as such the book is to be welcomed.

Naturally, a book of this size cannot cover exhaustively the whole subject of non-ferrous metal casting, and the author has restricted himself to the brass and bronze founding industry, of which he has, obviously, a first-hand knowledge and much practical experience. The first three chapters are devoted to a description of the incoming foundry materials, such as metals, fuels, refractories and sands. Much useful information is given; but efforts at simplification have led, in certain instances, to misleading statements. A eutectic, for example, is defined as "that part of the compound which solidifies last". Photomicrographs included in the first three plates lose value in that no magnification is stated. The second portion of the book deals with moulding, melting and gating practice for most of the standard copper- and nickel-base alloys and some special alloys. In these chapters much valuable information, drawn from practical experience and the results of research by national associations, is presented in logical sequence. The remaining chapters are devoted