

tribes, the central Andean peoples, and so on, in which he attempts to do for whole tribes and areas what the authors of Section 1 of this volume did for individual cultural features. He notes that sociopolitical and religious patterns suggest groupings which often differ from those indicated by purely cultural elements, and regards the former as the more significant. He ends the section with a brief history of the South American cultures.

This great Handbook is now nearing completion, and the extent of our debt to the editor and all concerned with its preparation is becoming apparent, though the effort involved strains the imagination. One volume remains to be published, and it is expected to deal with such important subjects as language, physical anthropology and early man.

G. H. S. BUSHNELL

STUDIES IN GREEK ARCHÆOLOGY

Annual of the British School at Athens
No. 44, 1949. Pp. viii+339+42 plates. (London: British School at Athens, 1949.) 63s. net.

THIS volume reflects fairly truly the current interests of British students of Greek archaeology. The emphasis is on the early Iron Age, from the eleventh to the fifth century B.C., and particularly on its pottery, which is not only unusually varied and so (when properly classified) of the greatest help to excavators for dating their deposits, but also has a fashionable æsthetic appeal for the present generation of classical dilettanti.

The first contribution is a long report by J. K. Brock and G. M. Young on their excavation before the Second World War in the Aegean island of Siphnos. Excavation in Greece and elsewhere is often undertaken lightheartedly or for prestige rather than for knowledge, and the result is that evidence which may be unique is destroyed or suppressed. But here, though the early site had been badly disturbed by later occupation and some of the finds disappeared during the War, the excavators have done, and reported, their work conscientiously and well. The Aegean islands are one of the least understood areas of the early Iron Age in Greece, so that the choice of Siphnos was welcome. Though Brock has not and does not pretend to have solved the main problems of that area, he has made much more evidence available towards their solution. The individual finds are mostly unspectacular; noteworthy are a unique glass bowl of the Roman period with figures cleverly engraved on the outside so that they appear to be in relief, and parts of some large terracotta statuettes of the early seventh century B.C., which are made and decorated much as if they were pots—further evidence that sculpture proper did not begin among the Greeks until the middle of the seventh century.

The pottery of Corinth is already well classified: R. J. Hopper, in a long learned paper, dots and crosses some *v*'s and *t*'s. The most distinguished item is G. S. Kirk's explanation of the puzzling pictures of ships that are painted on some early Greek pots, especially those of Athens in the eighth century B.C. Kirk, who started with much knowledge of ships and none of archaeology, decided not to rely on others and in a few weeks learned enough about early Greek art to distinguish for himself between pictorial convention and the representation of fact. The occasional stray from another field of archaeology is the contribution by V. Milojeic, who

re-examines the Neolithic cultures of Serbia and concludes that they owe much to influences from the south-east: the older view, now being widely abandoned, was that the influences passed in the opposite direction.

There are also short papers by Sir John Myres on a Minoan sealstone with an unusually long inscription in the undeciphered hieroglyphic script; by S. Benton on some pottery from Ithaca which she reclassifies as Early Iron instead of Late Bronze Age; and by R. M. Cook on the distribution of the pottery of Chios in the early sixth century B.C. O. A. W. Dilke adds three notes to his structural study of the Greek theatre. A. R. Burn writes light-heartedly about Mt. Helicon and how its geological structure has influenced history. A. M. Woodward proffers a scholarly note on the 'labyrinth' at Gortyn and its visitors in the fifteenth century A.D.

The volume is well printed and bound, and has fifty figures in the text besides its forty-two full-page plates; for those who are interested in its contents, it is good value for its price.

R. M. COOK

SUGAR THROUGHOUT THE AGES

The History of Sugar

By Noel Deerr. Vol. 1. Pp. xiv+258+20 plates. 50s. net. Vol. 2. Pp. xiv+259-636. 55s. net. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1949-50.)

THE author of this comprehensive two-volume work on the history of sugar and the sugar cane is well known for his life-long connexion with this important crop and also as the author of "Cane Sugar", which has long been a standard work on the cultivation of sugar cane and the production of cane sugar.

In the first volume, introductory chapters deal with sugar as food for early man and the importance of honey in the Old World before the use of sugar became general, honey being known to have been of considerable importance to the ancient Egyptians and to some European peoples. The probable origin of sugar cane and its early distribution in other countries is discussed at some length. Separate chapters are then devoted to what is known of the early cultivation of sugar cane in such countries as China and the Far East, India, Persia, the Mediterranean countries; in the Portuguese, Spanish, British, Dutch, French and Danish colonies; and in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands.

The opening chapters of the second volume deal with the subject of slavery, which was so intimately associated with the early days of the plantation sugar industry in several countries. The author states in his preface: "I had not at first planned to do more than touch on the margins of slavery. As material accumulated it became evident that to write a history of sugar without at the same time treating of slavery was like trying to produce Hamlet with the part of Laertes omitted." These chapters, like those that follow on indentured Asiatic labour for sugar plantations, which has since led to racial problems in South Africa and elsewhere, should be of interest to the student of sociology as well as to those interested in the sugar industry and its early history.

Other chapters in the second volume are devoted to trade in sugar, refining, invention and research, beet and beet sugar, sorghum, maize, maple, skirret, locust bean and the mannas.

An interesting feature of the book is the number and varied nature of the illustrations. Many of these,