

Book Reviews

H. JANKUHN. *Deutsche Agrargeschichte: Vor- und Frühgeschichte von Neolithikum bis zur Völkerverswanderungszeit*. With additional essays by Harold Jankuhn, E. May, and U. Willerding. Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, 1969. Pp. 300. DM 46.

This volume, which is one of a comprehensive series published by Messrs Ulmer on German agrarian history, treats of a considerably wider field than its title might suggest; it is, in effect, an economic, and to some extent a social, survey of German prehistory. This is probably necessary, since agrarian history must deal with all factors affecting agriculture as the economic basis of ancient societies; nevertheless sometimes the reader of this book begins to wonder whether a sense of proportion in relation to the central theme has been maintained. For instance, how far, *in pari materia*, is decorative metal work, as opposed to the technique of tools, a subject demanding extensive treatment in relation to "free Germany" in the Roman Iron Age? For the book's purpose, its existence is indicative of a certain standard of living arising out of surplus production and the attainment of a given technical level, and no more. In this matter, and in some others, one occasionally suspects that a fuller economic picture has been used to "pad out" the main subject when actual information is thin. But in a broader sense the method is sound and inevitable: agriculture is part of a wider whole, and must be seen as such.

In writing this account, indeed, Professor Jankuhn will have earned the thanks of many non-German prehistorians who need a compendious and reliable summary of central European prehistoric research in the post-war period. It is notable how high a percentage of the documentation is composed of citations dated in the last thirty years; as a work of summarization this is high scholastic achievement. Nevertheless Jankuhn exhibits an exemplary caution and humility; the entire text is studded with reservations and qualifications such as "it is not yet established," "one cannot yet say with certainty," "the reasons are not known in detail," and so on.

In opening, Jankuhn is careful to emphasize that the field of survey is geographically and historically hard to define; both 'German prehistory' and a 'prehistory of Germany' are, as terms, anachronistic: the linguistic and ethnic boundaries altered frequently, and the areas involved were often not homogeneously German. The author further confesses frankly to a lack of equipment in some of the specialist branches with which prehistory has become increasingly involved. But this has not deterred him in his endeavour: it explains the enlistment of several specialists who round off the survey with excursus on the origin and development of cultivated plants (Willerding), and on the earliest domesticated animals (May), further, on the linguistic evidence bearing on the early history of agriculture (Harald Jankuhn). It is this wide horizon that conditions the breadth of the book, and effectively places German prehistoric agriculture in the stream of human progress flowing (*absit* Adolf) from the East. And in his final observations the author notes with unconcealed wonder the swift spread of plant cultivation and the domestication of stock from the ancient Middle Eastern centres, and, further, the amazingly few agricultural innovations made in the prehistoric north European theatre itself in the prolonged initial stages. How far revised carbon-fourteen datings will alter notions of Middle East diffusion is another matter.

In the account, we behold the initial growth of Neolithic agriculture on the lighter but productive, clearable loess soils, and its extension on to the heavier soils with the introduction of iron tools and the greater humidity of the Hallstatt period. The plough is present from at least 2000 B.C. approximately. Recent palaeobotanical research indicates that the central European Bronze Age climate was not uniformly dry, compared with the subsequent period; the Middle Bronze Age appears as a comparatively moist but climatically fluctuating phase preceding the increased precipitation of the Early Iron Age.

It is the job of agrarian research relating to the prehistoric age to discover the interaction

between climate, soils, and other natural conditions, human movement, technical achievement, production, tenure, and social structure; also to gauge, from archaeological results, and other available sources, man's response to his needs and his conditions. Such enquiry must trace techniques through tools, plant and animal remains, settlements, installations, and fields. Jankuhn details what has been grown from period to period, the settlement form, and what is deducible concerning social organization. The latter investigation involves the tracing of production processes (e.g. mining, specialist craft-branches, and the manufacture of textiles) conducted by distinct social groups maintained by outside agricultural surplus; the development of trade, transport, and communications, the appearance of socially differentiated strata such as chieftains, nobles, and kings, and the evolution of the settlement pattern to a point where producers and traders are sufficiently numerous to create, with the peasants and the monopolizers, urban settlement.

On the whole, the little available evidence does not yet testify to common or pronounced social differentiations or outstanding personalities in Neolithic societies. On the other hand, Bronze Age evidence discloses a rigid social framework, specialized craftsmen, the beginning of winter feeding of cattle in byres in the face of climatic deterioration, the construction of fortified enclosures (such as those of the Lausitz culture), the increased variegation of cereals, and the appearance of legumes; the high representation of cattle and swine reflects a still predominantly forest environment.

In the Early Iron Age field-systems appear, for instance in Jutland, where, as long noted, while long strips are recorded among 'square' fields, the plots are nevertheless separated from one another by fieldways. Yet if we may judge from the account, the remains of prehistoric field-systems in north-central Europe cannot be compared in extent to similar traces in Britain, as they are limited to the north; one wonders how much is still to be found, for example, in France. In general, one would have liked a more exhaustive treatment of this subject in the present book, and its relative brevity is a deficiency. In this period fruit-growing

appears; in North Germany wheat retreats before barley, although oats do not progress (both notable phenomena in a deteriorating climate), and rye cultivation spreads in Central Europe. Manuring is now evidenced, but Jankuhn will not risk an opinion on crop rotations, although he thinks, surprisingly, that the "wilde Feldgraswirtschaft" is appropriate to known field-systems. He further states that the end of the pre-Roman period beheld the emergence of the frameplough with coulter and mouldboard: a slice-turning plough has been demonstrated by Haarnagel in Lower Saxony, but for parallel evidence in Britain, Karslake is cited—whereas subsequent study has shown that the pre-Roman appearance of the iron coulter in the island is unproven, and while the mouldboard plough is probable in the Roman period, its use in that time requires further confirmation.

It is notable that in the Hallstatt period young domestic animals amounted to only 31 per cent of the remains on three, large, analysed sites—a point worthy of attention among British specialists, who have in recent years concluded that "winter killing" was not prevalent in the British Early Iron Age. On the contemporary German sites the Ovicapridae seem to have comprised no more than 23 per cent of the livestock, so that open pasture was still, in probability, restricted.

In the last centuries B.C., in Jutland and southward to Mecklenberg, heavier clay soils were taken into working, as a result of forest-clearance, and this process is accompanied by the emergence of leading social personalities whose presence is indicated by their richer burial furniture. Presumably higher production led to intensified trade in surpluses, to property accumulation and class-differentiation. Of importance in this connection is the evidence at the excavated settlement on the Feddersen Wierde near Bremerhaven, where the existence of a "lordly house," granaries, and craftsmen's workshops, contrasted with the absence of byres, has been interpreted to indicate the supplying of agricultural produce from farms in the vicinity. As to dwellings, British archaeologists interested in the origins of the aisled 'barn' house should note that in the Hallstatt C nucleated settlement on the

Goldberg between Stuttgart and Regensburg, houses with two rows of internal posts appear contemporarily with houses containing one axial row only; the latter type is later to be seen among timber outbuildings accompanying a Roman villa at Garsdorf near Erfurt.

Jankuhn devotes a few pages to agriculture in those areas directly ruled by Rome till the third century A.D., but since Roman agrarian history is not his main theme, we cannot expect an exhaustive study. Nevertheless, Roman agricultural techniques and agrarian patterns differed from province to province, and the archaeological evidence in Roman Germany offers excellent opportunities for research. Moreover, the problems of Roman social and economic influence in free Germany and of the survival of Roman techniques into the Middle Ages in the Rhineland and southern Germany, are of great importance. It is accordingly with regret that we read that "the subject of agricultural techniques is completely unexplored, particularly with regard to Roman tools, which have come down to us in great quantity, and some of which continued in use among the equipment of the early Middle Ages." This is not to say that we do not find here some interesting details on new Roman introductions in the sphere of grains, fruit, nuts, and livestock. It is also interesting to read that the native Germans do not appear to have crossed new Roman varieties of livestock with their own indigenous breeds.

Jankuhn has much to say of the impact of Roman trade on free Germany and something of the emergence of chiefs and kings in the social pattern. He deals at greater length with crafts and commerce in this era than with the agrarian picture, which beheld such late innovations as the two-hand scythe, but few other changes in technique; we may note the introduction of rye and the increase of oats. Attention should be drawn to the occupation of 'Celtic' fields near such north-German sites as Gristede (Kreis Ammerland) well into the fifth century A.D.; nothing is recorded for the late Roman period in this area to suggest that open-field strips were a north-European legacy to Britain, and such strip fields as are at present known are either delimited by fieldways or, in the Trier area, associated with Roman villas.

We miss in this work a discussion of possible summer and winter grains, and we should like to hear more of the relationships between harvesting implements, field management, and livestock on the one hand, and between livestock and arable on the other. And surely Tacitus' famous account of the German agrarian pattern was worth a word: or did Dopsch finish that discussion for good? But none of these criticisms can detract from the work's scholarly caution, its wide horizon, and the variegated fields of research which it reflects.

SHIMON APPLEBAUM

EKKEHARD WIEST, *Die Entwicklung des Nürnberger Gewerbes zwischen 1648 und 1806*.

Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, 1968. xvi + 212 pp. DM 48.

This book is not principally of agricultural interest as it deals with the industries of Nuremberg, but it is a very revealing illustration of the difficulties of studying towns, at any rate before the nineteenth century, without considering their rural environs as well. The influences exerted by agricultural communities around Nuremberg upon the local market is an underlying theme, but it rarely escapes to the surface. When it does, the reader with an eye for the country rather than the town, catches a glimpse of factors that seem suspiciously important to him in the general explanation of economic development, and yet they are not pursued. The case for studying towns within, and not isolated from, their rural environment seems overwhelming, and it may be useful to elaborate some of the facts of Nuremberg's history to support it.

Dr Wiest traces the industrial economy of Nuremberg in the aftermath of the Thirty Years' War and during the eighteenth century. By using official documents like the correspondence and ordinances of the town council and lawsuits, he is able to count the number of firms in existence at different periods, and to measure the changing importance of the different industries. He then weighs the influence of population changes, war, disease, and the commercial policies of European governments upon these changes. Although the percentage of population of Nuremberg engaged in industry re-

mained the same (about 9·5 per cent) between 1621 and 1791, the number of businesses declined. The population also declined from about 40,000 in 1622 to about 25,000 in 1806. In broad outline, then, the history of Nuremberg is the melancholy tale of a progressive and thriving industrial centre in the sixteenth century, hit by the adverse effects of war and trade restrictions in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, clutching in vain at yet more gild restrictions to save itself, and becoming in the end an economic backwater. In passing, however, it should be noted that John Ray who visited Nuremberg in 1673 did not see the town in this light. In his *Observations Topographical*, it struck him as "one of the best traded and most potent towns in Germany;" "rich, populous, and for bigness, I think, not inferior to the best in Germany;" and yet again, "the most stately and best built that we have seen in Germany."

The agricultural influences upon this story lurk in the background and only come to the forefront in brief and scattered sentences in the text. The timber industries, in this centre of toy-making, depended on the surrounding forests; they were the only industries (together with paper-making) which showed any consistent expansionist tendencies during the period. Leather working, as one might expect in a pastoral region, was another substantial employer of labour. The industries processing animal products were far more successful than any of the others in withstanding the crisis of the seventeenth century; they held second place behind the non-ferrous metal industries in the economy of the town in the seventeenth century and even overtook the latter, *circa* 1700. The textile industry suffered sharply from the effects of war, and never recovered, but again the responsibility of the country districts looms darkly in the background, for many weavers, we are told, moved out to live in the countryside. Other town merchants also relied on putting out work to country folk—tobacco manufacturers, for example. In all industries there was perpetual rivalry between town and rural workers. The latter was regarded as socially inferior and were handicapped at every turn—most strenuously by the gilds, less strenuously by the town council. What is not clear from all

this, however, is how the final balance sheet stood. Were the industrial workers in the countryside really worse off economically than their counterparts in the town? The answer is not a foregone conclusion. Because urban industries had a great future before them, it does not follow that their workpeople at all times enjoyed a better standard of life than their imitators in the surrounding countryside. There is much in this history of Nuremberg's economy to raise doubts on this score.

JOAN THIRSK

JOYCE GODBER, *History of Bedfordshire, 1066–1888*. Bedfordshire County Council, 1969. xiv + 592 pp. £3.

This is an outstanding book. Combined with L. R. Conisbee's *Bedfordshire Bibliography*, the county is in the *avant-garde* in this respect. Of course, the author, who was seconded for writing the book shortly before her retirement as County Archivist, had a remarkable double corpus of manuscript and printed material to draw upon—the oldest county record office in the country and the *Publications* of the Beds. Historical Record Society, of which the founder, editor, and chief contributor was Dr G. H. Fowler, so ably followed as editor by Miss Godber herself.

The *Victoria History of Bedfordshire* was 'completed' in three volumes as far back as 1912: hence the need for something more up to date, assimilating the massive new evidence. This herculean task Miss Godber has achieved very successfully.

On early strip-cultivation and lot-meadows she gives useful facts, and the evidence of change-over from a two- to a three-course rotation in several parishes is clearly set out. The earliest, scattered references to windmills have been brought together—no less than four in the decade 1220–30. A short section on the Black Death and its aftermath is valuable. On the origin of pseudo-manors Miss Godber gives a good illustration: "The multiplication of manors continued. A fourteenth-century example comes from Wootton. Thomas de Stodley began by marrying an heiress, sometime before 1318. From this time till 1340, by about 30 transactions, he steadily added to his holding anything from a rood to a virgate, and

began to hold a court; hence, Stodleys manor."

Miss Godber is perhaps at her best in the chapter, 'Countryside and Manor, 1200-1400'. On manorial organization she is particularly helpful, while emphasizing the dangers of generalizing from the three well-documented Ramsey Abbey manors. But she holds her scholarship lightly, and her clear and sometimes colloquial style makes easy reading. The hoary problem of the size of the virgate is almost slickly introduced. Thus, quoting from jurors' information at a thirteenth-century inquisition taken by the Ramsey steward: "All agree that there are 4 virgates to a hide, at Barton they say that a virgate is 23-28 a.; at Cranfield they don't know, but they think it is 48 a. . ." Some senior school-pupils (and adults as well) will find medieval history the more lively when they read: "There were occasions for humour in the annual round. One was at Barton when hay was mown. A sheep was let loose 'in the meadow in the midst of them, and if they can take it they have it, and if it escapes they lose it for that year'." And the aside about millers ought to cheer the student (as it did the reviewer, grandson of a miller): "John Wodehyll was the miller, and seems to have been an awkward customer, for he was told to grind the tenants' corn properly or he would be fined 40d. (Millers, perhaps from their solitary occupation, tended to develop idiosyncrasies, like the miller in the song who cared for nobody.)" This chapter is in fact such a lucid account of medieval manors, free from abstract, dogmatic statement, and substituting illuminating detail, that I would like to see it reprinted in its own right, partly as narrative local history and partly as source material, for undergraduates—and indeed the general reader. Modest in most of her own statements, she has the courage to attempt a definition of the medieval manor: "a consolidated estate run at least in part by labour service, and under the jurisdiction of its lord."

Attention is drawn to the relatively early disappearance of copyhold tenure in small manors in Bedfordshire—which does not apply generally. In contrast, there is precisely dated evidence of the late survival of serfdom on monastic manors, of which (and of my early years at Bedford) I am often reminded by

photographs in my study of two Ramsey deeds of manumission dated 1457 and 1464.

There is the inevitable chapter on 'Georgian' enclosure including preliminary exchange, by persuasion, or tacit agreement; but here the otherwise rich sources lack early estate maps. The intermittent cattle plague of 1745-54 and the contribution of the Russells, Whitbreads, and other leading families to agricultural progress are among the many other aspects well dealt with.

My only criticism applies to the poor (almost non-existent) annotation of the magnificent series of photographs of original topographical pictures, mostly 'early nineteenth century'.

F. G. EMMISON

E. L. JONES and S. J. WOOLF (eds), *Agrarian Change and Economic Development*. Methuen, 1969. xi+172 pp. £2.

It would be fair to describe this work as the product of a very mixed 'plough team'. At first glance its eight contributors, ranging in interests from modern Mexico to eighteenth-century England, do not appear compatible. That this volume does not represent a false amalgam under a spurious title is a tribute to the quality of the papers it contains. Professor Jones and Dr Woolf in their thoughtful introduction provide a general discussion of agriculture's contribution to economic growth while considering the central position that must be played by the 'Western Model' of development. Yet the very success of the 'Western Model' may in fact have hampered its future imitation.

The six contributors provide case studies of development. Mr R. Zangheri provides a negative analysis of Italian agriculture. Emphasizing the role of agriculture in releasing labour to industry, he stresses the failure of Italy, particularly of the wealthy Po valley, to do this in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Professor R. P. Dore's reprinted paper examines some of the 'non-economic' restraints on growth in Japan 1870-1900. Two further studies by Mr R. Carr and Dr C. M. Elliott, discuss problems of growth in Mexico 1910-60 and the determinants of cropping changes in Africa, 1880-1914.

The two other essays, by Professor F. M. L. Thompson on land ownership and growth in eighteenth-century England, and Dr E. J. T. Collins on labour supply and demand in European agriculture, 1800–80, both cover central aspects of the 'Western Model'. Both are excellent but in different ways. Dr Collins demonstrates the vital relationship between industry and agriculture, showing the effect of the former in reducing the labour pool available for the harvest. The initial answer was to adopt "cheap, non-mechanical, labour-saving technologies"—before mechanization there came an intermediate stage in which scythe replaced sickle in the corn harvest. Professor Thompson, in contrast, has produced a stimulating survey of the landed system, stressing the evolution of 'middle class spending habits' among tenant farmers as a sumptuary stimulus to industrial growth.

This volume therefore includes some essays of interest to all agrarian historians and, one hopes, to development economists. One major theme stands out in aggregate—simplistic historical analogies cannot provide development models. The peculiarities of institution, structure, and technology provide as many contrasts as similarities in the six case studies. The examples of Mexico and Africa perhaps also suggest that development prospects for two-thirds of the world must be viewed pessimistically in the light of the 'Western Model'. Dr Elliott may be correct in suggesting the possibility that capital imports may have to play a greater role in future economic development than agricultural progress. It is a question that agrarian historians may help to answer.

J. A. CHARTRES

A. F. J. BROWN, *Essex at Work 1700–1815*.

Essex Record Office Publications, 49, 1969.

172 pp. £1.05.

This admirable Essex Record Office publication sets out to give an overall survey of the economic life of the county in the eighteenth century. It covers population, transport, agriculture, cloth, and minor trades, the development of urban centres, markets, shops, inns and their function as social and business centres, the living standards of the poor, schooling, and

medical provision. It is well written and readable, and Mr Brown illustrates his main themes with a wealth of local detail, and with case-studies of towns, family businesses, individuals, and traders, so that the general description never loses sight of the people in favour of the population.

Amongst such a mass of material, a reviewer can only comment on selected themes. Mr Brown sets the Essex cloth trade firmly in its general context. He deals with sources of wool and outlets for cloth, the effects of wars and slumps, and 'industrial' relationships. Within this context, he demonstrates the fluctuations of the trade and its organization in a series of fascinating studies of local families and businesses. He shows that, despite the monopolistic control of the clothiers over the whole process from purchase of wool to cartage of cloth, families like the Savilles of Bocking continued to depend on outworkers for spinning and weaving, and employed hundreds of men and women in cottage industry throughout the eighteenth century. Despite the readiness of such men to accept technical innovations, and even travel north to inspect and purchase new machinery, they were not ready to diversify production and their sole dependence on bay-making seems to have been the main reason why the trade was virtually dead by 1800. The cloth towns, headed by Colchester, declined during the century unless they were able to re-establish themselves as market centres. Mr Brown shows that even men like John Windle of Braintree, whose family had been in the cloth trade since the early seventeenth century, had considerable farming interests as well in 1720, and as farming became more productive, and more respectable after 1700, clothiers tended to move on to the land.

The main concentration, in the chapter on agriculture, is on the activities and influence of the gentry, who were in touch with both the agricultural theorists in London and the innovators of Norfolk. Their achievements in the improvement of stock-breeding, the introduction of new crops, and the four-course rotation, new machinery, hollow draining, and the widespread reclamation of saltings and woodland are all chronicled. So, to some extent, is the way their ideas percolated through to at

least the most substantial farmers, certainly after the formation of the Essex Agricultural Society in 1793. There is, for instance, a nice account of a group of fifty prosperous farmers meeting in 1801, to watch trials and decide on the merits of single and double ploughs. There is also a fascinating account of the way local smiths and craftsmen caught the interest in machinery, and were encouraged to invent new implements themselves. But Mr Brown admits defeat when he considers how far the new attitudes towards crops, stock, and machinery spread down through farming society. It is an important point, for farmers and farm-workers made up nearly half the heads of families in Essex in 1723. Here, inventories could surely have helped him. Mr Brown suspects that Essex farming reached a high peak of improvement and profit between 1770 and 1815, and gives some evidence on eighteenth-century engrossing which may indicate that the smaller farmer was able to afford improvement. The accounts of a farmer of eighty acres at Thorpe in the 1760's give a rare glimpse into the doings of one of these smaller men, and shows that he made most of his money by selling cereals straight to London. The proximity to the London market seems to have been the main incentive to economic progress throughout; hops, market gardening, specialities like caraway, and even onion and carrot seeds were grown by the mid-century, although cereals seem to have been the main exports. Both the milling and malting trades increased in importance because they catered for the London trade, and often had their own wharves for direct shipment. Dairying and fattening were also important, but the exact regional distribution and fluctuating importance of pasture against arable farming is not made entirely clear. The expansion in the tanning industry after 1750 suggests that cattle were increasing in numbers, although, in general, Mr Brown placed more emphasis on cereals.

The increasing volume of trade with London led to road improvements, a massive development of goods carriage and public transport, and, above all, the growth of the sea-carrying trade. Farm produce went out by sea, manure, chalk, coal, and manufactured goods came in. Agricultural expansion meant that Chelms-

ford, which had never been a textile town, profited from and improved its position as a market and social centre, and other market and port towns prospered similarly.

Mr Brown's conclusion that the population of Essex, after a period of stagnation in the first half of the century, rose steeply in the last part of the century, fits nicely with his deduction that agricultural prosperity was at its height from the 1770's onward. The population of agricultural areas rose steadily, as opposed to the old centres of the cloth industry, which shrank. He also makes a rare attempt to tackle a comparison of the rate of immigration into, and emigration out of, Essex by an examination of settlement certificates. This is a tedious and exacting job which will have to be done by other local historians if population movements within this country are to be better understood. He reinforces this by a comparison of surnames at different dates in a selection of villages, and shows a high degree of mobility, which was naturally greatest amongst farm workers. Improvement in agriculture meant full-employment for the latter, but the population rise of the late eighteenth century meant that the purchasing power of wages did not rise. The plight of the agricultural labourer is sympathetically described, together with details of income, outgoings and poor relief, which was often unexpectedly humane, providing for an adequate diet and medical care.

There is one main criticism of this useful and readable book. In such a general survey, it is obviously impossible to give full references, and probably reasons of economy absolutely forbade this. The reader is often very frustrated by this. For instance, the thumb-nail sketches of half a dozen cloth-making towns which appear on pages ten to fourteen are unsupported by a single reference. A pronounced increase in population between 1780 and 1801 is deduced from a comparison of the 1801 census with 'another survey' of 1778, but there is no reference to the provenance of this 1778 survey. Such examples can be multiplied. A good index helps, but it is a pity that an excellent piece of work, for which we must be grateful, should have been marred by a technical deficiency of this kind.

MARGARET SPUFFORD

HARALD WINKEL, *Die Ablösungskapitalien aus der Bauernbefreiung in West- und Süddeutschland. Höhe und Verwendung bei Standes- und Grundherren*. Band XIX, Quellen und Forschungen zur Agrargeschichte, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, 1968. 176 pp. DM 38.

Winkel's *Habilitationsschrift* investigates a possible source of capital for Germany's nascent industry during the period of its accelerated growth between 1820 and 1870. The likely source may have been the many sums flowing towards the princes and nobility during the slow processes by which the countryman purchased his freedom from forms of ancient obligation.

The diversity of bonds between prince and peasant that had to be absolved are well illustrated in this study which is mainly concerned with the noble houses, but excludes the church and charitable organizations, in south-west Germany. In particular it examines Baden and Württemberg and neighbouring areas. Many of these obligations were commuted on a twenty or twenty-five years' purchase. The nobility surviving the Napoleonic period were chronically in debt. Much of these unique gains were used to extinguish debts to a small group of great bankers whose names recur in this treatise. Much had to be invested safely as a security for debts or new purchases of land. Indeed, land purchase, to round off estates, or to add new estates, especially in Austria and Prussia where the ownership of land gave the entrée into a new and wider court society, was a favoured way of employing the money. The purchase of land forced up land prices but gave the landowners greater estates to manage and land management was their profession or hobby.

Rothschild, often their bankers, favoured state loans within Germany, within Europe and, later, all over the world. This again was not greatly profitable in the long run. Railways both locally in Germany and abroad attracted more money and at first often paid between 6 and 20 per cent.

Did none of this money flow to industry? Some will have gone indirectly through state loans. Much went into the small industry in the local territories of the nobles, but this industry

had no future and consisted of small brick-works, mines, and textile factories. Some nobles, however, had land in Silesia (Hohenlohe-Öttingen) devoted to mining, but only the house of Fugger-Glött, with its ancient links with the industries of Augsburg, spent much of its gains upon industry. Even these nobles turned first to extinguishing long-standing debt before they ventured into industry.

This studied policy of the nobility, at least in south-west Germany, was the cause of their impoverishment. The proceeds of liberation of the peasant, as cash in the princes' pockets, did not enable them to pay their share in fostering Germany's industrial ascendancy. This Winkel proves conclusively in his study of the accounts of about twenty noble houses. He shows in detail that their carefully considered policy predisposed them almost absolutely against investment in industry. It is a difficult book to read, though quite straightforward, and serves as a good introduction to much German legal, economic, and agricultural terminology, and it includes an excellent bibliography.

D. J. DAVIS

ELIZABETH CRITTALL (ed.), *The Victoria History of Wiltshire*. Vol. ix, *Kingsbridge Hundred*. Oxford University Press for the Institute of Historical Research, 1970. xx+220 pp. £8.50.

Kingsbridge hundred lies in north Wiltshire and the eleven parishes which comprise it extend over a varied terrain. The northernmost lie on the narrow ridge of corallian limestone which rises out of the clay vale of White Horse and are, from east to west, the borough of Swindon, Lydiard Tregoze, the borough of Wootton Bassett, Tockenham, and Lynham. To the south of them are the remaining parishes, shaped as long narrow strips with part of their lands lying in the clay vale and part extending up the chalk scarp of the Wiltshire downs. From east to west they are Wanborough, Liddington, Chiseldon, Draycot Foliat, Clyffe Pypard, and Hilmarton.

Much of the volume is taken up with the histories of the boroughs of Swindon and Wootton Bassett, but there is also plenty of information of interest to the agricultural his-

torian, albeit scattered about and intermixed between the various sections in the usual *V.C.H.* manner.

Most of the parishes lie on claylands and form part of the traditional 'cheese' region of Wiltshire. It is not easy to work out the agricultural development of the area as a whole from the individual parish histories partly because they are not related to each other, in the editor's general introduction, and partly because the pattern of settlement in this area was unusually complicated. It was a scatter of hamlets and isolated farmsteads and some parishes, such as Clyffe Pypard and Hilmarton, had four or five townships within them. Many of these townships had their own field systems, while confusion was further increased by the prevalence of detached portions of parishes at some distance from their centres. The absence of a good topographical map of the area does not ease the reader's task even though there are a number of good parish maps c. 1773.

Generally, the area was one which specialized in beef and cheese production from an early date and in which commonfield systems for corn production were never well developed or were early enclosed. There are only five parliamentary enclosure awards for four parishes—two relating to Chiseldon. The earliest was Badbury (in Chiseldon) in 1749. Liddington, Wanborough, and Chiseldon, lying contiguously, followed between 1777 and 1780, and the tithings of Thornhill and Broad Town (in Clyffe Pypard) were the last in 1822. In all cases there was much enclosure by private agreement prior to the parliamentary award, and this method seems to have been particularly prevalent in the seventeenth century when at least six townships were enclosed, including Wootton Bassett, parts of Swindon, Lynham, Tockenham, and Draycot Foliat. Clyffe Pypard and Hilmarton followed in the first half of the eighteenth century, while the last township to be enclosed was West Swindon some time before 1842.

Generalization about the course of enclosure is difficult in view of the absence of comprehensive acreage figures, and one hopes that in future *V.C.H.* editors will take to heart the suggestion made by Mr Emery, reviewing *Bloxham Hundred*, Oxfordshire in Volume XIX

of this *Review* about the importance of expressing enclosures as *percentages* of parish areas at different dates and not leaving the burdensome mathematics to the reader. The general picture in Kingsbridge hundred seems to have been that while only one of the eleven parishes was completely enclosed before 1600 (Lydiard Tregoze), by 1700 five parishes were completely enclosed and most of the rest partly so. By 1750 the enclosed total had risen to seven parishes and probably comprised over three-quarters of the land. Thus, by the time that parliamentary enclosure began in earnest in the 1770s only mopping up operations were needed in this area.

On the related issue of farm sizes, of great interest to the agricultural historian, there is again a mass of information but also scattered and difficult to use for comparative purposes. Inevitably, the nature of the sources makes systematic presentation difficult, but a more comprehensive analysis of related sources such as enclosure awards and tithe surveys (nearly always c. 1840) could provide some benchmarks.

As regards agricultural improvements there is again much information of which only a few examples can be given here. At Liddington in 1641 the tenants and freeholders "were allowed to choose 8 men to arrange exchanges of arable and pasture between tenants, so that they might be able to inclose land as they wished" (p. 71). Also at Liddington the common field arable was reorganized to facilitate more complex rotations. By 1776 the four common fields of 1618 had been increased to six by sub-division (p. 70). Another interesting example of the development of diversified rotations on open fields relates to west Swindon, where in 1798 the crop distribution on 19 furlongs was as follows: barley 57 acres; fallow 23 acres, including 7 acres on which sheep were penned; hops and broad clover 19 acres; cinquefoil 18 acres, beans 11 acres, oats 9 acres; vetches and clover grass 8 acres; and peas 5 acres. Wheat was also grown but in a separate enclosure of 25 acres known as the New Inclosure (p. 125). In this distribution fallow had been reduced to 15.3 per cent of the total and the acreage of fodder crops raised almost to equality with that of cereals (61

acres to 66 acres respectively). Finally, there is an example of the spread of mechanization, a subject which is not generally well covered in the volume. In 1825 Thomas Brown, a member of a well-known Wiltshire farming family, was pioneering the use of steam-ploughing on the 770 acre farm which he rented at Chiseldon.

Like all *V.C.H.* volumes, this one is excellently produced and contains a mass of painstaking scholarship. It also has some superb photographs, maps, and plans (especially of Swindon). One only wishes the format allowed a more readable and meaningful picture of the communities under discussion to emerge.

MICHAEL HAVINDEN

B. JENNINGS (ed.), *A History of Harrogate and Knaresborough*. Advertiser Press, Huddersfield, 1970. 492 pp. 49 plates, 16 maps, 2 figs. Foreword by Asa Briggs. £3.

This volume is the result of research conducted between 1961 and 1969 by two university tutorial classes under the direction of its editor. In a very brief foreword, Professor Asa Briggs expressed the hope that the book "will provide a model for other tutorial classes in other parts of the country": this hope has been fulfilled. The result is a local history which is a credit to both Mr Jennings and his students.

It is an unpretentious local history "designed to appeal to the general reader interested in the development of Harrogate and Knaresborough." But it contains much of interest to agrarian historians. Four chapters explicitly concern agriculture and the landscape, and the one on the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is based on extensive use of probate inventories. Two others provide a useful account of the Knaresborough linen industry, which was developed in part on locally grown flax. As a whole the book covers the general urban history of two communities which were largely by-passed by the industrial revolution and which developed ultimately as resort towns.

Both were ancient farming communities lying contiguous to an extensive area of forest. The region lay 'waste' at the time of Domesday but later saw an extensive but slow assart-

ing movement. The same heavy clay soils which hampered the extension of tillage probably favoured reversion to grass after the middle of the fourteenth century. In their later history, the two settlements pursued the mixed-farming characteristics of such soils, with craft industries, particularly textiles, playing an increasingly important role. There is also a useful account of enclosures.

This is a competent local history, the result of classes designed to educate through research. It has the admitted weaknesses of a 'federal' book, lacking perhaps the continuity and uniformity that a single author would have given. Sadly, "to avoid distraction" the over-abbreviated footnotes were placed at the back of the book (p. 17). But it is generally well produced for its price and size, although there are rather more printing errors than one would wish. As the history of two towns, the one, Harrogate, rising eventually to eclipse its medieval superior, Knaresborough, it will be of interest both to the denizens of these towns and to historians concerned with the area. Agrarian historians, particularly those interested in the "dual economy" and the linen industry, will find it perhaps of more general utility.

J. A. CHARTRES

G. R. HAWKE, *Railways and Economic Growth in England and Wales, 1840-1870*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1970. xiv+421 pp. £6.

Professor Hawke's book is the first in which a problem in British economic history has been given the cliometric treatment worked out by the Fishlow-Fogel ("the new economic history") school. It has generally been assumed, largely on the strength of qualitative evidence, that the coming of the railways brought substantial savings in practically all spheres of economic life. Professor Hawke makes an ambitious attempt to quantify these savings for the middle years of the nineteenth century, and the general result of his statistical inquiries and manipulations is to deflate considerably the claims made for the railways. Of particular interest to agricultural historians are chapters iv and v on (a) inter-county wheat flows and (b) livestock flows and meat supplies. Professor Hawke finds that the social saving on the carriage of wheat, both home-produced and

imported, by rail, as opposed to other forms of transport, was small, i.e. between 0.03 per cent and 0.08 per cent of United Kingdom national income in 1865. With regard to livestock and meat consumption the savings were slightly more substantial, somewhere between 0.05 per cent and 0.31 per cent of the national income. The railways probably halved the real cost of transporting livestock, although in relation to total national income the saving was not very significant. The speed of railway transport, however, made possible the growth of the trade in dead meat, particularly to the London area, although this was only in its early stages by 1865-70. The growth of the dead meat trade eventually meant much greater freedom of choice for the consumer and an improvement in public health as suburban and country abattoirs gradually replaced those deep in the crowded cities. Professor Hawke concludes that the transport savings did little to stimulate home production of wheat and meat, but the handling of imports was certainly facilitated. For the record, there is a substantial error on page 190, where the export price of coal in 1865 is given as £9.4 per ton; 9.4s. would be nearer the mark.

W. H. CHALONER

HOPE L. BOURNE, *A Little History of Exmoor*. Dent, 1969. xi+180 pp. £2; VICTOR BONHAM-CARTER (ed.), *The Exmoor Review*, no. 10, 1969. 108 pp. Maps and plates, 25p., including supplement, *Access on Exmoor*.

Miss Bourne's outline history of Exmoor from the earliest times to the present day has benefited by her long residence as a farmer on the moor. Nine of her charming drawings illustrate the text, but if a second edition is printed a map should be provided since it is essential for a study of this kind. The central event in Exmoor's history was the disafforestation, sale, and enclosure of the moor by the Crown in 1815. Doubtless with the blockade and high corn prices of the war years the reclamation of Exmoor for farming seemed a desirable proposition, but the subsequent struggles of the Knight family—who purchased about 10,000 acres of the heart of the moor—confirmed what the locals had always known about Exmoor's agricultural limitations. Eventually

some worthwhile stock farms were created, but the loss of valuable common grazing rights weakened the position of old-established farms around the moor's edge. In social terms the price seems much higher when Exmoor's limited area of open moorland is compared with that of Dartmoor, where a similar—but little known—scheme was frustrated.

Miss Bourne's touch is light, but she has a deep knowledge of Exmoor, and her history should stimulate further interest in this fascinating area.

The Exmoor Society can be proud of the 1969 edition of their journal the *Exmoor Review*, edited by Victor Bonham-Carter. Including a free supplement, *Access on Exmoor*, the *Review* is divided into nine sections: agriculture and amenity, access, man and the moor, mining, wild life and tame, history, book reviews, and poems. Geoffrey Sinclair's article 'Fair play and fair pay in National Parks' is of special interest since it explores the central problem of the Parks—how to integrate farming with amenity. The maintenance of open moorland depends on traditional hill-farming methods, particularly controlled grazing. Without this the land reverts to woody scrub. The problem is that traditional grazing methods are becoming uneconomic and the Ministry of Agriculture is financing schemes to plough up and enclose moorland; but under the 1968 Countryside Act the Minister of Housing may pay compensation to farmers for not ploughing amenity land. Mr Sinclair suggests that with better cooperation public money might be used to bolster traditional methods with the clear understanding that this was being done for amenity reasons.

The 1969 *Exmoor Review* is an excellent bargain at 25p.

MICHAEL HAVINDEN

J. R. SMITH, *Foulness: A History of an Essex Island Parish*. Essex Record Office Publications, no. 55, Chelmsford, 1970. 61 pp. 42p.

Throughout the Middle Ages the Essex coastal marshlands provided such rich grazing for sheep that islands such as Foulness, Wallasea, and Canvey were divided between mainland manors and parishes. Essex marshland sheep

were prized for their dairy produce, especially cheese, and although the amount of arable land was increased in the seventeenth century it was not until the mid-eighteenth century that sheep farming became of less importance. During the next hundred years, such was the conversion to arable farming that by 1847 there were 4,544 acres of arable to only 738 acres of pasture.

The author relies on manorial and literary evidence and has not examined the probate inventories. The best part of the book is that which identifies and dates all of the thirteen large marshes or wicks which were "inned" from the sea between the early fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries. An intricate system of banks and ditches secured and drained 1,632 acres of inned saltings, which eventually became highly fertile arable land. Unfortunately, the topographer who wishes to explore these defences is barred by the even better security now provided by the Army.

The book has eight photographs and four useful maps, with much interesting miscellaneous information such as the fact that the numerous female descendants of the Dutch settlers of the seventeenth century were still wearing Dutch costume as their normal attire until the First World War. As with all the publications of the Essex Record Office, this booklet is good value for its price. The publishers' sense of timing is superb!

DAVID HEY

A. E. BROWN (ed.), *The Growth of Leicester*.

Leicester University Press, 1970. 92 pp. 50p. This is the text of ten talks on the history of Leicester from Roman times to the present day, originally given on BBC Radio Leicester in 1969. Eight authors co-operated to survey the history of the town in a valuable series of public lectures given to a wider audience than conventional means would allow.

Many lectures are necessarily topographical in their approach, covering such topics as the Castle, the New Walk, and the Garden Suburb, and they carefully relate local landmarks to historical development. All but three, in consequence, are illustrated by well-chosen maps. Each is placed in its more general context by Professor Simmons's introduction. Together

they represent a general guide of high standard to the long history of the town.

Intended for the layman, they are not without interest for historians, although none would really command the attention of specialists. One paper, by Professor Everitt, 'Leicester and its markets: the seventeenth century' is of the most direct interest to agricultural historians, and, like most of the others, appends some useful suggestions for further reading. This "brief life" of one of our most important provincial towns sets a high standard for similar ventures in the future. Publication may secure for this series the wider readership it deserves.

J. A. CHARTRES

W. J. HUGHES (ed.), *Fowler Steam Road Vehicles. Catalogues and working instructions*. David & Charles Reprints, Newton Abbot, 1970.

Illus. xvii + 135 pp. £1.75.

This book is a reprint of three catalogues produced in the late 1920's or early '30's by the engineering firm of John Fowler and Co. of Leeds. John Fowler, of course, is best known for his important work in steam ploughing and his invention of the "mole" drainage plough. Also reproduced is a manual of working instructions for Fowler steam vehicles. The book is obviously aimed primarily at the traction-engine enthusiast, although the historian can extract some useful raw material with little difficulty.

It is a pity that, as with so many reprints, the opportunity of including a worthwhile introductory section was not grasped. Mr Hughes's (very) short introduction gives merely the barest facts of the firm's history. The historian, and particularly the agricultural historian, will be disappointed at the absence of any real addition to our knowledge of one of the many important engineering firms which had their origins in the early mechanization phase of British agriculture. The three catalogues, interesting, although not uniquely so, abound in technical tit-bits for the mechanically minded but at many points they overlap and contain much repetitive information. They are a trade literature of the last period of steam traction, as the numerous derogatory references to the internal combustion engine indicate; but to

those whose memories do not stretch that far back, they do reveal the amount and variety of work still being done by steam power in the '20's despite the increasing competition of the petrol engine. There is a section on agricultural engines with a few (some rather small) photographic illustrations but unfortunately little detail is given of the implements used in

conjunction with such engines. For the light that it throws on Fowler and Co.'s importance in agricultural and engineering history the book is a disappointment. But the steam-loving fraternity, within whose field this fits more easily, may welcome it as a useful addition to the source material of their subject.

DAVID GRACE

Shorter Notices

FRANK E. HUGGETT, *A Day in the Life of a Victorian Farm Worker*. Allen and Unwin, 1972. 88 pp. £2.15 hardback; 95p paperback.

This well-illustrated little book is intended primarily for those interested in developing local history, particularly as a study in schools. Its simple fictional reconstruction of a typical day in the life of a farm worker and his family a hundred years ago is based on secondary sources and archives. A final chapter sets the family's life in the more varied national scene.

JOHN FIELD, *English Field Names: a Dictionary*. David & Charles, 1972. xxx+291 pp. £5.75.

English field names exist in great variety, and this useful reference work contains several thousand names arranged in dictionary form with locations, meanings, and derivations. In his introduction the author considers the origins of names and relates their development to agrarian changes over past centuries. Perhaps such choice examples as "Break Back," "Gibbet Copse," "Smoothing Iron Field," and "Woe Furlong" will encourage readers to dip further into this volume and find encouragement there to study the field names of their home districts.

MARGARET GELLING, *The Place Names of Berkshire, Part I*. C.U.P., 1973. xxi+287 pp. £6. This volume appears as the forty-ninth in the series produced by the English Place-Name Society. Its publication aptly celebrates the

Society's fiftieth anniversary and is produced to the very high standards of detailed scholarship associated with its work. When the two further volumes on Berkshire appear, a total of twenty-three counties will have been surveyed. The present book covers county, district, road, dyke and river names, together with the place names and field names of ten hundreds in the south and east of the county.

ROBERT DE ZOUCHE HALL (ed.), *A Bibliography on Vernacular Architecture*. David & Charles, 1972. 191 pp. £3.95.

The publication of this bibliography is the fruit of many years of research and represents the achievement of one of the first objectives of the Vernacular Architecture Group. Their work now makes it possible to study regional building characteristics more fully than ever before. In each section of the book references are listed by regions, and the coverage includes Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. While the book as a whole will form a valuable source of reference for agrarian history, particular interest will be found in the sections dealing with regional and local studies, rural houses, farmsteads, and farm buildings. Also useful is the list of works relating to wills, inventories, building accounts, the hearth and window taxes, and other documentary sources.

GEOFFREY P. WEST, *Rabies in Animals and Man*. David & Charles, 1972. 168 pp. £2.75.

Although primarily concerned with providing a comprehensive introductory survey of the

subject, including present-day control measures and an outline of current treatment and research, this interesting little volume also offers some brief historical background. The discussion extends to rabies in farm livestock and the material is world wide in scope. There is a useful bibliography.

REX C. RUSSELL, *The Enclosures of Holton le Clay 1763-1766, Waltham 1769-1771, and Tetney 1774-1779*. Waltham branch W.E.A., 1972. Available from Rex C. Russell, 11 Priestgate, Barton-on-Humber, Lincs. DN18 5ET. 21 pp. 7 maps.

This pamphlet forms another useful addition to the series on Lincolnshire enclosures which Rex C. Russell has produced over the last ten years or so. The clearly drawn maps and simple tables make it a valuable tool for teaching purposes, and the three enclosures discussed will bring out the varied problems of the subject. It is to be hoped that Mr Russell may be persuaded to follow up one or more of his villages in greater depth, studying estate and parish records where available, and over a longer time period so as to reveal more of the background of the enclosure and its ultimate effects on landownership and occupation, size of farms, local employment, and other matters of interest to the specialist.

DAVID HEY, *The Rural Metalworkers of the Sheffield Region*. Leicester U.P.: Department of English Local History Occasional Papers, 2nd ser., no. 5, 1972. 60 pp. £1.

In this valuable addition to the Occasional Papers published by the Leicester Department of English Local History, Dr Hey provides a greatly expanded version of his article which appeared in volume xvii of this REVIEW. His concern is a detailed examination of an area of dual occupations, where part-time farmers of the Sheffield region engaged in the growing metalworking trades, especially cutlery, nailing, and the making of agricultural implements. The result is a revealing study of a corner of the industrializing England of the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. It is to be hoped that Dr Hey will go on to tell us more about the process of transition by which the local economy became trans-

formed and part-time farming ceased to be a fundamental part of the way of life.

P. D. KING, *Law and Society in the Visigothic Kingdom*. C.U.P., 1972. xiv+318 pp. £6.60.

At its fullest extent the kingdom of the Visigoths embraced Portugal and part of southern France as well as Spain. Dr King's study is based on the rich collection of legal records relating to the later seventh century from which he provides a great deal of information about the working of the kingdom and the day-to-day life of the inhabitants. His chapters deal in turn with the monarchy, government, church, social structure, and the family, and his discussion of the economy includes some valuable pages on landholding and the agriculture of the period.

J. L. ALTHOLZ, *Victorian England, 1837-1901*. C.U.P., 1971. xi+100 pp. £1.75.

This book is one of a series of reasonably priced bibliographical handbooks published for the Conference on British Studies, an American-based organization, under the general editorship of Professor J. J. Hecht. It contains exactly 2,500 entries of selected books and articles, most of them published before 1 January 1968. In spite of its title, the handbook contains items on Wales, Scotland, and Ireland; Victorian literature *per se* is omitted; so is imperial history. The fourteen sections into which the volume is divided range from bibliographies and catalogues through institutional history down to religious history, the fine arts, and "intellectual history". Agricultural historians will naturally turn to the section on agricultural history, which is disappointingly brief. It contains 61 items only, as compared with 331 for economic history and 213 for social history. When one considers the importance of agriculture in Victorian England this is somewhat surprising. For example, the only biography listed in the agricultural section is Miss Ashby's *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe* (1961). Joseph Arch's autobiography (1st edition, 1898, latest abridged edition, 1966) does not appear. Omissions from other sections are Jane E. Norton, *Guide to the National and Provincial Directories of*

England and Wales . . . before 1856 (1950) and *Men of the Time*, 1st edition, 1852, which became *Men and Women of the Time* for the 13th edition in 1891, when it contained 2,450 biographical entries, mainly British. Nevertheless, the handbook should prove of great value to all students of the Victorian era.

W. H. CHALONER

C. R. HART, *The Early Charters of Essex*. Occasional Papers in English Local History: First Series, no. 10, revised edition. Leicester University Press, 1971. 55 pp., £1.

Dr Hart has revised his original handlist of Essex charters which appeared in two volumes as nos. 10 and 11 in the Leicester Local History Series. The revisions are mainly on points of detail with more precise dating. The texts printed in the first edition are here inserted as they occur in the catalogue instead of being collected in the appendices. They have been augmented by some Latin abstracts of wills, which are welcome. Three studies, one on the St Paul's estates in Essex which is a substantial essay of value, have been omitted. Dr Hart promises to reprint them in a volume of essays called somewhat unfortunately *Danelaw Studies*, since it has been shown that the localities in which they lay were never part of the Danelaw. Their reappearance will certainly be welcome, however, especially if Dr Hart has second thoughts in one or two places. So far as the authenticity of the charters is concerned Dr Hart has retained his system of stars: it would have been more useful, I suspect, if he had given the numbers assigned to the charters in Professor Sawyer's *Handlist*. The main use of the handlist will lie in its comments on the people involved in the documents and above all in the many topographical references.

ERIC JOHN

STANLEY FREESE, *Windmills and Millwrighting*. David & Charles, 1971. xviii+168 pp. 35 plates. £2.50.

First published in 1957, this reprint of what has been described as "the pre-eminent treatise on technical aspects of windmills and their operation" is very welcome and ought to find its way on to the shelves of many historians

and industrial archaeologists. Although not primarily a work of historical study, this book provides all the necessary technical background to the history of windmilling and at the same time describes in great detail all the processes involved in the running and maintenance of mills. It is a vital work of reference for anyone concerned with the study and, especially, the restoration of these structures, although pleasantly devoid of much confusing technical jargon. A very full glossary of milling terminology is included which makes the text easily understood. There is also an excellent selection of very clear photographic illustrations of windmills, their parts, and their restoration. For this new edition the author has made some revisions in the text but this is basically a straight, well-produced reprint of what is the standard work in its field.

DAVID GRACE

GEORGE EWART EVANS and DAVID THOMSON, *The Leaping Hare*. Faber & Faber, 1972. 262 pp. £3.50.

We know very little about the historical ecology of the hare, or indeed of many other mammals. How abundant and widely distributed were hares in the past, how did changes in land use and management affect them, how did man regard the animals, and why did he seek to preserve or to destroy them? Most of our information will be obtained from documentary sources, but this book usefully emphasizes the value of oral evidence—the recollections of countrymen with an intimate knowledge of local wildlife, land use, and folklore. The authors rightly stress the need to study the behavioural and feeding patterns of the hare in order to assess the impact of man on the habitat. Without this data, the significance of such changes as the clearing of the wood and introduction of clover and turnips cannot be assessed. A large proportion of this volume is devoted to the place of the hare in mythology, as a symbol of fertility, and as a witch and trickster. In order to understand the man-hare relationship, the authors discuss the place and functions of animals in man's outlook on life and his conception of the real and spiritual worlds.

JOHN SHEAIL