

Book Reviews

JULIET CLUTTON-BROCK, *Domesticated Animals — from early times*. Heinemann and British Museum (Natural History), 1981. 208 pp. Illus. £9.95.

I must admit at the outset that I find this a disappointing book. For a start the sub-title 'from early times' is misleading since the treatment in fact concentrates on domestication and pre-history, ending with most species at the Roman period, so the book will be of greater interest to biologists and archaeologists than to agricultural historians.

The book invites comparison with Zeuner's 560-page *History of Domesticated Animals* (1963), and indeed was spoken of before publication as a successor to that book. And just as Zeuner's treatment with its emphasis on pictorial evidence was already out of date at the time of publication, so the present account makes inadequate use of bone measurements and other more recent techniques such as those which study coat and skin remains. On the other hand one cannot expect considerable detail in only 200 pages, and the book is clearly aimed at an even wider readership than that which Zeuner addressed. In addition, the subject is now so vast that it is unlikely ever again to be covered at the level attempted by Zeuner in one book by a single author. Unlike that of Zeuner, the book of Dr Clutton-Brock is restricted to mammals, which is another way in which the title is misleading.

It is divided into sections, and the first one entitled 'Man-made animals', starts with two very good chapters: domestication as a biological process, followed by selective breeding and the definition of a breed, in which she rightly cautions against the use of Latin specific and sub-specific names with livestock. But it is unwise to place too much reliance on the blood types of modern livestock as a method of indicating breed origins since the blood type frequencies are likely to have changed in recent times owing to the over-riding influence of a few males.

Each domestic species is then covered in the order of domestication starting with the dog on which the author has specialized. The next chapter asks the question: 'Why bother to farm?' and comes up with the answer that agriculture, which is actually harder work than hunting, was forced on many by an expanding population which put increasing pressure on food supplies.

In dealing with sheep Dr Clutton-Brock is in error stating that the underwool grows only in winter, and it is misleading to say that the fleece of domestic sheep consists entirely of underwool, and that only the underwool moults. The outer coat is replaced by wool similar to that of the under coat, and of course where moulting occurs the entire fleece sheds.

Cattle come next, and she jumps on an anthropologist's 'band wagon' in giving credence to the idea that

lactose intolerance in non-pastoral peoples has a genetic basis, when there are several arguments favouring an environmental origin: (1) one does not have to be lactose-tolerant to consume milk products since cheese manufacture, fermentation and even boiling all destroy lactose, and pastoralists actually utilize such products as food rather than fresh milk; (2) the high proportion of lactose-tolerant individuals in modern dairying countries could result from the continued drinking of milk from infancy into adult life, and in countries such as China with few cows, there is little opportunity to acquire a taste for milk; (3) the lactose tolerance of peoples in northern Europe is not always associated with the milking of livestock, but helps to relieve vitamin D deficiency to which northern races are susceptible through lack of sunshine; and (4) finally, not only could these ideas be tested on nomadic pastoralists today, but a lactose-intolerant person has to drink an appreciable amount of fresh milk before an upset develops, and there is frequently little milk available.

In dealing with the pig Dr Clutton-Brock dismisses the taboos against the eating of pork as whims of human taste or religious scruples without considering recent ecological explanations, which point out that pigs do not adapt well to hot areas and that they compete with man for food to such an extent that they threaten the subsistence agriculture of an arid environment. Next comes the horse, the last of the five most common livestock animals to be domesticated, which has been changed least, not only because it is inherently less variable, but also because it (now) has only one use to man, for transport; the section ends with a chapter on asses, mules and hinnies.

Section II covers exploited captives, starting with the cat, which is placed in this section because, although fully domesticated, its breeding is rarely controlled by man. The remaining animals are elephants, camels, Asiatic cattle other than the Zebu breed (Yak and water buffalo) and the reindeer, which was one of the first animals to be semi-domesticated by man in Europe. Section III covers small mammals — the rabbit and ferret, rodents and carnivores. Section IV deals with the pre-Neolithic exploitation of ungulates for food, which would appear to be either out of the scope of a treatment of domestic animals, or better dealt with at the beginning.

The author, however, is more at home here than with farm animals, and the same applies to Section V covering experimental domestication and game ranching past and present. The conclusions are entitled 'The geography of domestication', and there are very useful appendices on nomenclature and climatic changes during the archaeological periods.

The five-page bibliography tends to be selective and omits such important items as *The Domestication and Exploitation of Plants and Animals* edited by P J Ucko and G W Dimbleby (1969).

Final verdict: excellent on the domestication process; rather thin on livestock history. Very well illustrated and good value for the price.

M L RYDER

C DELANO SMITH and M PARRY (eds), *Consequences of Climatic Change*. Department of Geography, Univ of Nottingham, Nottingham, 1981. 143 pp. 45 figs. 5 tables. £3.50.

This collection of papers is the outcome of a meeting of the Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers held at the University of Nottingham in July 1980.

In their introduction the editors point out that the papers attempt 'to seek to comprehend more fully the role of climatic change before proceeding to evaluate it in the context of the more orthodox factors of historical change', yet they seem to question the whole rationale of such investigations with an odd disclaimer in which they state: 'Nor should the title of this collection *Consequences of Climatic Change* be taken to imply an assumption on our part either that climates have changed significantly or that their consequences exist . . .'. Perhaps this reflects the divergence of opinion in this field; or it may be an attempt to be supremely impartial in a subject which remains very controversial. Fortunately this rather schizophrenic attitude does not seem to be shared by the other contributors.

Nine of the 13 papers are based on the study of primary historical sources, with the remainder being short statements of research in progress or more personal comments on wider issues. Geographically, northern and north-western European examples predominate with only 2 papers concerned with the Mediterranean area (C Delano Smith, 'Climate or Man? The evidence of sediments and early maps for the agents of environmental change in the post-medieval period'; W C Brice, 'Climatic Change and ethnic movements in the Early Iron Age') and one with North America (M P Lawson and C Stockton, 'The desert myth evaluated in the context of climatic change') disrupting the pattern. Temporally the papers range from the twelfth and eleventh centuries BC to the early nineteenth century with some concentration on medieval times and the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Recurring themes in the study of the climate change/human activity relationship such as the importance of different time scales of climate change (I Whyte, 'Human response to short- and long-term climatic fluctuations: the example of early Scotland'), the sensitivity of marginal land (A H Cowell,

'Marginal land and climate: a comment') and the abandonment of agricultural land and desertion of villages, ('M L Parry, Evaluating the impact of climatic change'; G Beresford, 'Climatic change and its effect upon the settlement and the desertion of medieval villages in Britain') are all aired again here, confirming, if nothing else, the complexity of such problems and the continued understandably slow progress towards their solution. One encouraging feature of the papers is the variety of approaches being followed in the research. These range from traditional concerns with documentary evidence such as weather diaries, tax records and a variety of private and official correspondence (A E J Ogilvie, 'Climate and economy in eighteenth-century Iceland'; J M Grove and A Battagel, 'Tax records as an index of Little Ice Age, environmental and economic deterioration from Sunnfjord Fogderi, Norway'; N Huckstep, 'Historical source materials and the reconstruction of past climates') to the more exotic, including step-functional analysis of tree-ring series (G H Dury, 'Climate and settlement in Late-medieval central England'), and the examination of raised peat bogs (K Barber, 'The stratigraphy and palynology of recent ombrotrophic peat: a source for the reconstruction of agricultural and climatic change').

Together these papers illustrate very well the diversity of opinions held by historians and historical geographers on the role of climatic change in human activity. The exact nature of that role has been evaluated in a variety of ways, but the consensus among the contributors seems to be that there is a place for climatic change alongside social or economic factors in the study of historical geography (B Proudfoot, 'Comments'). Providing, as it does, an indication of current progress in that field, this collection is a useful contribution to a debate which is clearly far from over.

DAVID KEMP

P SALWAY, *Roman Britain*. Vol IA of The Oxford History of England. Clarendon Press, 1981. 824 pp. 11 maps. £19.50.

The author of this very extensive work, when asked by the Oxford Press to write a successor to Collingwood and Myres' *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* (2nd edition, 1937), rightly replied that he could not write a successor to both; he has therefore produced an up-to-date review of Roman Britain only; as he himself says, Collingwood's contribution was, and is, a classic, and as such it remains, with Myres, on the list. The test of any book of this kind is — does it set us thinking? C E Stevens once said to me: 'Almost everything Collingwood said has

proved wrong, but it is a great book.' Salway's work is an important book; and it also sets us thinking. It is perhaps less a synthesis than a compilation, but its merit is its critical approach to every question. It is new not only in that it summarizes research carried out since 1937, and is thus an index of the enormous amount of new archaeological work achieved since then, but in that it endeavours to set Britain within the framework of the Roman Empire as a whole, relating many of the political and social events in the province to the broader movements over the Channel, so strengthening our grasp of their significance for Britain and adding a new dimension to our view. Some will consider excessive the space devoted to explaining the workings of the Empire and its political development over 4 centuries; but if that was necessary, it was because we are increasingly producing a generation of students whose preoccupation with techniques and ancillary scientific methods is turning them into archaeological technicians whose knowledge of the cultural background of the periods concerned is far too restricted.

The new methods and approaches to the problems of Roman Britain are much to the fore here; studies of pottery distribution and marketing, pollen analysis, the examination of hitherto unrecognized late strata by new digging skills, the study of the physical condition of the population by the medium of skeletal examination, the awareness of climatic change, archaeological air reconnaissance, and much more. As examples of the advantage of a broader view that applies knowledge of the Empire to British problems, we may cite the light thrown on Julius Classicianus by prosopography, and on the actions of the *primicerius notariorum* Paul, sent to Britain by Constantius II, when we become aware of his functions in the imperial bureaucracy. Claudius' decision to annex Britain is viewed by Salway in the light of the new emperor's political situation and the calculations which it evoked. On many of these problems, historical or archaeological, the author sets forth several points of view, nor does he always pronounce a decision; in fact his processes sometimes remind us of the careful skating among fresh eggs common to the new generation that fears to take a stand or of Mr Meredith's wise young man. But the amount of new material that Salway has had to collect, digest and select, is enormous. A more relevant criticism might be that his text ignores too easily the views of a former generation; a reaction against various older assessments does not mean that they were always wrong. But here Salway redeems himself by his cautious attitude to 'models', statistical studies and the like.

It would be easy to point out some errors and not a few interpretations with which I personally disagree, but it is the agrarian historical aspect of the work that must engage us here, and to this I turn. Salway's

sketch of the prehistoric Iron Age, which formed the setting against which Roman Britain developed, is brief and vague. He has paid too little attention to the social and economic advances of the middle and late periods leading to the Roman conquest, and is too little sensible of the emergence of a new class nurtured by the introduction of coinage, the development of trade and new agricultural techniques. These are important because he later states his belief that 'over all, the farming techniques required for large-scale production were probably already here in Britain before the conquest'. Finds of grain show that the Early Iron Age was moving from exclusively summer crops to summer and winter crops, also towards an arable animal husbandry. But the central question is: did the Roman occupation introduce new factors into British agriculture? Salway cites J G Evans: 'the Romans brought with them no innovations in agricultural technology'. This is a serious charge which requires examination.

On the one hand we hear that the Butser Hill experiments have shown that between 1 and 2 acres were needed in the Early Iron Age to fill a storage pit; we do not hear what was the pit's capacity, but if its maximum was 10 bushels, we must suppose a yield of 5-10 bushels per acre, not counting wastage and fallow. We are further told that this requires a 'total domination of the landscape' — a supposition confirmed by air reconnaissance — which implies a proportionately large population of 4 to 6 million. (It is not clear from Salway's text, however, if fallow has been reckoned or how much open pasture was available.) Salway believes in a moderate increase of the population figure under Roman rule. His Fensland studies, however, indicate that fields were very small and the total arable area low, the emphasis being on livestock. From this he concludes that native Romano-British fields may not represent arable on any considerable scale. He is therefore faced with the question: what was the element which produced the grain surplus required for the upkeep of the Roman army and non-cultivators, a surplus whose existence is known from the fourth-century sources? Before discussing his solution, it were well to remark that it is easy to underestimate the productivity of ancient fields; recent work in western Samaria has shown numerous ancient holdings (3rd century BC — 2nd century AD) averaging 6 acres and many of lesser area. The acreage of the fields of fifth-century villages in north-west Germany did not exceed those of the Early Iron Age plots known in Britain. The cultivators of Samaria certainly incorporated wine and oil production into their branches, but the essential diet of cereals and legumes had somehow to be obtained. In Britain, indeed, there is evidence for the adoption of larger fields in some localities (Ditchley, Northborough near Deeping, Grimston Down, Dorset). If the results of landscape

analysis in Essex are to be accepted, (see *AHR* 29, pp 421 sq), many pre-Roman fields still surviving in Essex were considerably larger than those of the characteristic 'native' downland complexes. Reynolds at Butser Hill has found that the simple *ard*, if equipped with a metal tip, could plough heavy soils, which would mean higher yields. Mann has decided that the Piercebridge plough was fitted with coulter and earth-boards.

As factors making for higher production in Roman times Rivet has cited more intensive working, peaceful conditions, improved communications, and the requirements of the government, the army and the new towns. Salway adds that the civilian consumer paid better prices, and that the imperial estates were among the factors making for extended cultivation. (I would observe however, that imperial estates sometimes comprehended precisely the least developed parts of the country.) Other factors were better storage, conscious estate management and Roman professional literature. To these I would add several factors which Salway omits (and these are technological): improved corn-dryers, a number of new or improved agricultural implements (which now could reach the common farmer — I estimate at least 10 such), water mills and a number of new cultivated plants which the curious will find listed in Sir Harry Godwin's *History of the British Flora* (1956). In my contribution to the *Agrarian History of England and Wales*, I, ii, I have tried to demonstrate that certain grains, eg oats, were specific Roman developments. Much of the improvement of cultivation would have consisted of new combinations and rotations, probably the spread of nitrogenous crops and of roots (turnips, rape). Further, the development of well-digging meant the ability to winter cattle in the farmyard and hence increase the supply of organic manure. I have further drawn attention to certain features in Roman villas in Britain which correspond to the dictates of the Roman *Scriptores Rustici*. Salway cites my tentative estimate of 20 bushels per acre at Bignor villa on an especially fertile soil; in *Shakenoak* V I was able to quote 3 villas where accommodation for ox-teams could be interlocked with granary capacities; these suggested average yields of 22 bushels (Stroud), 13.8 bushels (North Warnborough), 13 bushels (Winter-ton), 10 bushels (Iwerne II) and 8 bushels (minimum — Pitney).

Salway rejects any sharp cleavage between town and country in Roman Britain, and sees the smaller towns as mainly agricultural and dependent on their rural environment. He believes in the presence of landed proprietors from other provinces (especially Gaul) in Britain, and suggests their investment of capital in agriculture may have been important, especially in the fourth century, which he describes as a period of 'spectacular prosperity'. It was cer-

tainly a time of large villas, dense population, and the export of grain surpluses and wool products. Salway, indeed, disproves satisfactorily the impossibility of bulk transport on land in this period, as claimed by some economic historians. He points to the probability that Christian landlords may have profited from the confiscated property of obstinate pagans. Urban decline may have been accelerated by the emperors' seizure of city revenues for the treasury, and many big landed proprietors may have been alienated by the vengefulness of Constantius II after the defeat of Magnentius. But of the state and predicament of the peasants, now forced into the colonate, he has less to say. After the expulsion of the official Roman government in 409, the villa magnates were probably reluctant to bear the cost of a residual military force, hence the employment of barbarian federates became inevitable (but these also needed to be paid). Coinage ceased to be used after about 420 and large-scale trade began to break down. On the other hand the earlier Saxons often settled on or near Roman sites; mutual assimilation took place in Wessex, and Salway inclines, with Hoskins, to see agricultural units as more permanent than has been supposed hitherto. (Here one might have mentioned the Essex research and its evidence for the continuity of field-systems.)

I must conclude with one or two strictures; (1) Salway suggests that the Romans persecuted Christians 'because they were long confused with some of the extreme Jewish terrorist groups'. There is no evidence of such terrorists in Rome or Asia Minor, where the first persecutions took place, and Asia was remarkable for the mutual interpenetration of Greek and Jewish cultures and for the non-participation of its Jewish communities in Jewish revolutionary activity.

(2) There is grave typographic confusion on p 113 (for which the author cannot be blamed), and I find evidence of hasty writing and style on pp 424-9. As this admirable book will almost certainly need a second impression in the near future, there is every hope that these blemishes will be removed.

(3) In his bibliography Salway devotes a not negligible section to works on the Romano-British countryside, but volume I, ii of the *Agrarian History of England and Wales* does not appear there. It is referred to in footnotes on pp 468, 619 and 626; the author cites me (anonymously) twice in reference to the Ditchley villa as cited by Professor Hoskins (who doubtless acknowledged his source). Evidently Mr Salway preferred *damnatio memoriae* to criticism, although he was so kind as to approve my enquiry into the economy of the villa of Bignor, printed in *Britannia*.

SHIMON APPLEBAUM

GLORIA AVELLA-WIDHALM, LISELOTTE LUTZ, ROSWITHA AND ULRICH MATTEJET (eds), *Lexikon des Mittelalters. Band 1, Lieferung 1-10*. Aachen, Bettelordens-

kirchen, 1977-80, lxii + 2108 cols, *Band 2, Lieferung 1-4*, Bettelwesen, Bordeaux, 1981. 448 cols. Artemis Verlag: München and Zürich.

This major lexicon, devoted to the Middle Ages (roughly AD 300-1500), will consist of 5 volumes and an index volume, each of 10 fascicules of 112 sides (current price DM35—per fascicule). It is of handy size (26 × 18 cm). Each volume contains about a million words. There are 92 editors and advisers, 7 from Britain and Ireland. Volume 1 has nearly a thousand contributors, and further scholars write in volume 2. It would be difficult to assemble a more complete set of experts, though the reviewer, knowing the renown of our medievalists, would have expected rather more from the British Isles. The print is very clear, and not too small, while the proofreading is all but immaculate. The area dealt with is the whole of Europe, including Russia and that part of the Arab world which imposed its influence upon Europe.

An early model for this publication was Pauly's *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertums-wissenschaft* (49 vols); but, wisely, as such a production would advance slowly and be immensely expensive, this has been kept within bounds. This was a wise decision, though, perhaps, here and there, a little more detail would have been welcome. On the scale chosen, however, the reviewer does not see how it could have been better produced.

The expert editors responsible for 'agriculture and rural settlement' are Professors Werner Rösener (Göttingen) and Adriaan Verhulst (Ghent).

The reviewer, while glancing with growing appreciation at the whole work, has studied intensively all the articles on agriculture, and those impinging on agriculture. These include the article on 'Bauer' (farmer) and further articles on subjects where 'Bauer' is part of the key word. From cross-references in these articles, and from other searches he has been able to glean the names of articles yet to appear. The editors, in the introduction, say that material culture is given an important emphasis. Agriculture is the most important side of medieval life, but, up to now, the lexicon does not give it space enough, even though the article on 'farmer', for instance, takes up 42 columns. This long article, informative and well-balanced as it is, is harmed by the multiplicity of its writers, none of whom has quite enough space to awaken further interest. On the other hand, the article on the rural house (13 cols), revealing the gaps in knowledge, is very stimulating, while Professor J C Russell's short article on rural population, with its strong reference to female infanticide, is quite exciting. A work of this sort demands maps and diagrams, but this volume has 17 only, one illustrating plough types. Agriculture, in particular, calls for abundant illustrations.

Cross-references show that there will be several hundred articles on agriculture and allied subjects. Excellent short articles deal with bees and bee-

keeping, beer and brewing, falconry, and plants and rural animals figuring in medieval life and art, eg pears, berries, eagles, aniseed, arnica, apples. Articles will follow on the manor, slavery, field systems, colonization, the rural commune, rural revolts, deserted settlements, irrigation, the horse, forestry, cottagers, mills, village types, Domesday Book, wine, fruit, food, dykes, mezzadria, to mention but a few. As one turns from article to article seeking to detect omissions, new cross-references pop up indicating that agricultural history is comprehensively covered. An article in this volume on the Beauchamps would be very helpful to seekers after information on the great landed nobility, and there are many such articles on distinguished families and persons. On the other hand, short articles on places, some rather oddly chosen, often say too little. In the article on the Anglo-Saxons, D M Wilson, unfortunately, dismisses agriculture in a few lines.

Readers with a modest knowledge of German will find the lexicon easy to read, though a few abbreviations need a little thought. The bibliographies are up to date and sufficient, but not overwhelming, though here and there omit books the reviewer still believed were standard.

This lexicon will be completed while libraries and specialists can still afford it. Owners, and those who can consult it will not only have all their queries answered, but, like the reviewer, will turn pages at random, always finding new jewels on the beach. While every reader will have his fads, the reader living on the western margins of Europe may, perhaps, feel that his area is a little too briefly treated, but will derive some compensation from finding the eastern margins so well covered.

D J DAVIS

JOHN S MOORE (ed), *Clifton and Westbury Probate Inventories 1609-1761*, Univ Bristol Dept Extra-Mural Studies, 1981. xlix + 247 pp. £6.50, £1 p & p (paperback, stapled), available from The Librarian, Extra-Mural Department, University of Bristol, 32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR.

The main part of this duplicated work consists of 247 probate inventories from the parishes of Clifton and Westbury covering the years 1609-1761. These places are now populous suburbs of Bristol, but until the end of the seventeenth century they were rural villages, mainly dependent upon farming; Westbury remained predominantly rural and agricultural throughout the eighteenth century, while Clifton grew rapidly, largely as a result of the immense, though comparatively short-lived popularity of the Hotwells Spa. Clifton also shared in the commercial prosperity of Bristol and the inventories reproduced in this volume provide interesting evidence for

expanding trades such as glass-making, lime-burning, cloth-working, and for all the occupations associated with the growing Spa such as innkeepers, vintners, butchers, tailors, shoemakers and even a fiddler and a looking-glass maker.

Mr Moore's introduction provides valuable information about the development of the two parishes, their agriculture and trades, the field systems, enclosures, conversion to pasture and consolidation of farms. Those unfamiliar with the area would have found a map or maps of great help in understanding this section, as well as a slightly longer description of the situation and topography of both parishes. The introduction includes useful analyses of the content of the inventories, the occupations represented and the houses which are listed, as well as excellent material on land-use and on population figures for the whole area, highlighting the spectacular growth of Clifton from less than 100 persons in 1608 to 320 in 1672, 1365 in 1770 and 4455 by 1801. There is also a very full glossary of terms found in the inventories and index of persons and places.

This is an interesting and unusually varied collection of inventories, ranging from those of the gentry of Clifton and attendants upon the Hotwells Spa through the farmers of Westbury to the fishermen, mariners and pilots along the river Avon at Shirehampton, where, during the eighteenth century, there was an abortive attempt to develop a port to challenge the monopoly of Bristol.

J H BETTEY

A KUSSMAUL, *Servants in Husbandry in Early Modern England*. CUP, 1981. xii + 231 pp. 27 tables. 28 figures. £19.50.

Although no intensive investigation of the subject has ever before been published, the role of English farm service has long been understood, at least in general terms. Few historians will be unaware that farm service was a transitional stage between childhood and married status; that it was contractual with engagements frequently arranged at statute fairs; that farm servants were particularly suited to tasks requiring continuous attention through the farming year; that from about the time of the Napoleonic Wars, so far as it was synonymous with living in, the system was in headlong decline; and that it survived and continued to flourish in the north-west and in Wales, in the relatively sparsely populated areas to which it was especially well adapted. The value of this study, which is based upon a Toronto doctoral thesis, lies firstly in its clarification of these issues; secondly in subjecting them, wherever possible, to measurement; and thirdly in knitting farm service into the fabric of the new social history based upon demography and the evolution of the family, by seeking answers to questions which, until recently,

could scarcely even have been framed. In this respect Dr Kusssmaul has profited immensely from her contacts with the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, and freely acknowledges her debt to the Group for access to data and their active encouragement.

Between one-third and one-half of hired labour in early modern agriculture was supplied by servants in husbandry, and a majority of youths were so employed. Farm service, it is shown, was suited to a social environment of nuclear families, comparatively high mortality, and a high age at marriage. Indeed it may be seen in one aspect as 'a form of *ex post facto* family planning', in that families were simply redefined by the transfer of adolescents (including females) so as to balance the interests of cottagers and small farmers with those of employers requiring labour on a larger scale. During the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, when population growth was considerable, farmers showed reluctance to commit themselves to maintaining servants in husbandry, though during the later seventeenth and much of the eighteenth centuries, as labour surpluses disappeared, servants became regarded as indispensable. As Timothy Nourse put it (in 1700) 'tis better to have Work wanting for our Servants than Servants for our Work'. Focusing chiefly on this period, Dr Kusssmaul uses an impressive range of records to illuminate rates of turnover, age at entry and exit and the extent of farm servants' mobility. These include settlement examinations, parish listings and militia lists, whilst she has also discovered some continuous farm records relating to labour turnover on farms at Tetney (Lincs) and Radley (Berks). She deploys the exceptional records of the Spalding Statute Sessions (which give names and addresses of previous and new employers) to calculate the length of journeys travelled by would-be employers and employees and distances between engagements; also to trace signs of non-randomness of movement which point to efforts to maintain contact with parents and kin. Farm servants were not usually capable of recording their individual experiences, but the journal, extremely rare of its kind, compiled by Joseph Mayett (Bucks Record Office) is used to great effect.

Dr Kusssmaul makes out a powerful case that the essential form of farm service was virtually static, even down to 1900 and beyond. What did change was its incidence, the decline being traced in detail from the censuses of 1831 and 1851. Long-run considerations underlying the farmers' increasing disenchantment with farm-servants are considered to have included, from the later eighteenth century, farm consolidation (larger farmers required fewer servants); loss of commons (promoting a more reliable supply of day-labour); changing practices (many of the new tasks were discontinuous); mount-

ing Poor Law expenditures; and the shift towards grain production encouraged by price movements prior to and the during the French Wars. Above all, rural population growth was conducive to the abandonment of farm service in the south and east. Dr Kussmaul contends that war-time labour shortages temporarily thwarted the wish of farmers to dispense with their servants though they often resorted to putting men on board-wages and other expedients likely to engender resentment. It was only after 1815 that a 'pent-up desire' to rid themselves of indoor servants was fully released as farm incomes became seriously threatened and a positive glut of labour developed. Thereafter, in the south, only a minority of 'constant men' enjoyed the security associated with farm service and the social distance between masters and men increased considerably. Although she does not labour the point, Dr Kussmaul's able analysis is highly pertinent to the emergence of contrasting patterns of rural social relationships in 'north' and 'south', so much remarked upon by later generations.

W A ARMSTRONG

P B MUNSCHÉ, *Gentlemen and Poachers: The English Game Laws, 1671-1831*. CUP, 1981. x + 255 pp. £18.50.

The Webbs and the Hammonds, the parents of conflicting approaches to history and to socialism, the icy intellectual and the warm-hearted emotional, could at least agree on one thing: a denunciation of the game laws as an instrument of blatant class selfishness which protected the pleasures of the rich at the expense of cruel and tyrannical oppression of the poor and propertyless. More recently poaching has become a happy hunting ground for nineteenth-century social historians, who are finding there evidence for the realities of rural social relationships and for the hollowness of gentry pretensions to have been protecting local communities from the depredations of the wicked outside commercial world. No one, however, has hitherto presented a scholarly, methodical, and factual account of the actual provisions of the game laws, and of their operation and enforcement over a long period of time. This Professor Munsche succeeds in doing in an admirable monograph that is a highly welcome contribution of hard evidence and hard-headed thinking to a topic over-supplied with emotion and over-reliant on the reiteration of a few well-worn and possibly untypical dramatic incidents and court cases. The cold douche, however, will not wash away the conviction that the pursuit and preservation of wild animals were a blot on the landscape, an instance of landowner privilege which was widely resented, generally unpopular, and never accepted by the bulk of society.

In one sense anti-game law and anti-gentry prejudices will rightly survive Munsche's book, if only for the reason that he interprets his subject in a narrow, if understandable, legalistic way. The game laws properly so-called provided that only those who owned land worth at least £100 a year, or long leaseholds worth £150 a year, were permitted to hunt and kill a specified list of wild animals, which included hares, partridges, pheasants, and moor fowl, but excluded wild duck, deer and rabbits. That did not mean, however, that every Englishman had the right to take any of the latter three if he could catch them. Far from it; these animals were not regarded as game by the law, but were given the higher legal status of ranking as the private property of the owner of the land upon which they might be found, with the consequence that their unpermitted capture counted as theft and attracted the punishments thought to be appropriate to stealing, on the particularly harsh scale eighteenth-century landowners applied to the protection of their own peculiar sporting property — imprisonment, transportation, or death for some variants of the methods or times of taking deer or rabbits. Before 1831, therefore, those who snared rabbits were thieves, not poachers, and prosecutions against them were not made under the game laws. The Game Reform Act of 1831 brought rabbits under the same law as hares, and winged game. Thereafter all these were in effect a form of property and their unlawful pursuit was a special kind of trespass incurring a fine of £2 or, in default, 2 months' imprisonment. The 1831 Act provides a logical terminus for Munsche's study; but it also means that he holds, under the strict letter of the law, that only post-1831 poachers might be rabbit-catchers and eaters. Since it is a fair presumption that before 1831, as well as after, the bulk of illicit hunting for the pot was for rabbits, their exclusion from a discussion of eighteenth-century poaching out of respect for a legal nicety will strike readers as an emasculation of the subject which, moreover, renders the attack on the sentimentalist school of historians a trifle hollow.

Within its terms of reference, however, this book makes a most convincing case for saying that social historians have been aiming at the wrong target in their denunciations of the game laws. The Act of 1671, which made the pursuit of game the exclusive privilege of the landed gentry, was admittedly a clear case of class legislation. Munsche argues that the motive for instituting this property qualification was the desire of the landed gentry for a symbolic and practical demonstration of their superiority over the moneyed interest of merchants, lawyers, and bankers whom they regarded as the core Commonwealth men who ought to be put in their place by being denied access to country sports. This is unconvincing. Even if it had been true that the moneyed

interest in the Restoration period were the political and social enemies of the landed interest, there was nothing to prevent the richest of them acquiring the necessary landed qualification, and the continual movement of money into land is well attested. Indeed, it could equally well be argued that the 1671 Act was designed to stimulate the purchase of land by sporting bankers, and thus to keep up the value of the land. In any case, those who would have smarted most directly from the disqualification would have been country residents close to the hares and birds, rather than townsmen, and there seems no good reason to doubt that the main object of the Act was to keep the lesser freeholders, copyholders and tenant farmers out of the way of gentlemen's sport; landless labourers, naturally enough, never had been permitted to take wild animals, which, equally naturally, had never stopped them. The attempt to explain the game laws as a key element in a gentry-bourgeois conflict should, therefore, be allowed to lapse along with other instances of over-subtle Marxist analysis.

The game laws remain as class legislation in the rural context. Once having established their superiority in law, Munsche makes it clear that the landed classes were not very serious about maintaining it in practice, since landowners frequently invited or encouraged non-qualified countryfolk — yeomen, tenant farmers, substantial local tradesmen and the like — to shoot game. This, of course, could be resented as a form of condescension; but the main resentment undoubtedly came from the landless and propertyless. It is nevertheless clear from this book that the actual enforcement of the game laws was neither particularly harsh nor particularly biased, in the context of general law enforcement in the eighteenth century. Daytime poachers were liable to a fine of £5, and to 3 months in prison if they could not pay; an impressive amount of evidence is produced to show that the majority of those prosecuted for poaching did in fact manage to pay their fines. Night-time poachers were more harshly treated from 1770 onwards, as elaborate and expensive game-preserving increased, making the hand-reared birds a more valuable form of property, and from 1816 armed poaching at night carried the penalty of transportation. The protection of game preserves by private armies of armed gamekeepers and the weapons of man-traps and spring guns did become more efficiently brutal from the late eighteenth century, but that was a matter of the private protection of private property, not of the law (although the fiendish devices were made illegal in 1827). Munsche explains poaching, its increase from about the 1770s, and the growing severity both of private measures against it and of the law on night poaching, almost entirely in terms of commercial poaching and especially of the activities of organized

poaching gangs supplying the black market in game in the large towns. This does very well for the supply of the London poulterers, whose selling of game was illegal until the Reform of 1831, and for satisfying the demand of the urban bourgeoisie for pheasants and partridges. But it does bring us back to the rabbits. They were blissfully unaware that they were not 'game', and those who took them for the pot were as likely to encounter gamekeepers, spring guns, and indeed the law (but not the game laws), as your genuine poacher. Until more work is done on the part which rabbits — or other wild animals — played in the diets of the poor and the labourers of the countryside it is unlikely that social historians will accept Professor Munsche's wholly commercial deflation of the game laws and poaching as the final word on the subject.

F M L THOMPSON

SAMUEL PYEATT MENEFFEE, *Wives for Sale: an ethnographic study of British popular divorce*. Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1981. ix + 336 pp. Maps. Illus. £15.

When in 1886 Hardy made the plot of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* hang on the consequences of a wife sale there were readers then, as since, who were outraged and found the story far-fetched. In fact, as Mr Menefee assures us, the practice of wife sale was widespread and, if not very common, was certainly still in use at the date at which Hardy set his story. Indeed, an appendix in his book lists as many as 386 cases of wife sale which he has been able to discover, stretching from 1553 right down to this century. The decline, in fact, apparently began only about 1850, and prior to that period the practice was geographically well scattered, though with a certain concentration in the years 1800-49 in London, the north Midlands and Yorkshire.

Wife sales were frequently connected with inns and markets, and particularly with Smithfield market, where the proceedings — the halter round the neck, the renting of a pen, employment of an auctioneer — bore some resemblances to the sales of livestock. The reasons for selling a wife were various, but seem to have been most commonly associated with adultery, often by the wife. But there were other reasons for the husband's decision to part with the wife — a liking for strong drink on her part, a tendency to bodily grossness, or being 'damned hard mouthed and headstrong'. The occupations of the purchasers were until the nineteenth century also various, though there are indications that they were often superior to those of the sellers, so that for the wife the sale meant a rise in social status — perhaps one reason for her accepting it. In the nineteenth century, however, the purchasers were very largely labourers or men of similar low status. The sums involved could rise to 50 gns and a fine horse, or

even 100 gns, but were usually much less, and might fall as low as a leg of mutton or a shilling and a pot of beer.

Magistrates generally preferred to ignore incidents that came to their knowledge as 'a custom preserved by the people' which it might prove dangerous to suppress, though the occasional riots to which they gave rise might call for the intervention of the constable in order to maintain the peace. Wife sales, evidently, were sufficiently rare and scandalous to attract the notice of the press, and yet were familiar enough to find a place in folklore, verse, drama, and literature.

Wives for Sale is intended primarily as an anthropological contribution to our knowledge of unofficial quasi-legal practices in an era before legal divorce was practicable or cheap, but it makes also an intriguing chapter in social history. Mr Menefee has extracted from somewhat limited documentary resources a surprising amount of valuable detail, and discusses it with knowledge and imagination.

G E MINGAY

PAMELA HORN, *A Georgian Parson and his Village: The story of David Davies (1742-1819)*. Beacon Publications, 11 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4BN, 1981. ii + 90 pp. Illus. £2.80 (pre-paid copies post free).

The name of David Davies is familiar to historians of farm workers and the Poor Law, even though many, perhaps, have never opened his short volume, *The Case of Labourers in Husbandry Stated and Considered*, published in 1795. Those who have studied his text and the details of the family budgets which he collected may well have wondered what kind of man he was, and how a village parson came to produce this 'simple, faithful and sincere picture of the facts', as the Hammonds described it. Pamela Horn's brief account of Davies answers these questions and, indeed, she has succeeded in discovering a great deal of his character and career.

His career was in fact quite unusual, for he spent some early years in the West Indies, first as a scholar, then a schoolmaster, and subsequently a plantation manager, before returning home at the end of the 1760s. There followed a period of service as a private tutor and secretary in landed families, after which he took Holy Orders and was presented to the living of Barkham in Berkshire. This was in 1782, in a period when there was growing concern with rural poverty and the poor law, a concern which led to Gilbert's Act, Speenhamland, Whitbread's minimum wages Bill, and Eden's great *State of the Poor*. Davies was caught up in this concern, not least perhaps because William Morton Pitt, the son of his patron, was an active supporter of the abolition of the slave trade (and had encouraged Davies to give evidence before

a Select Committee on the subject) and was also a keen advocate of Sunday Schools, Poor Law Reform, and schemes to create employment among the poor.

Davies began to collect the material for his book in 1787, obtaining additional data from friends such as Morton Pitt and the Revd Mr Romaine of Pangbourne. *The Case of Labourers in Husbandry* attracted considerable notice, receiving a 4-page review in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and encomiums from another clerical authority, the Revd John Howlett, and even the censorious William Marshall. Davies did not accept the argument that wages had to be kept low in order to force the poor to be industrious: this doctrine led men 'to despair; and despair drives them into all sorts of wickedness'. When a critic pointed out that, despite the hardships Davies described, the families managed to 'live on', he replied 'Yes, they *do* live on, to be sure; but *how* do they live?—By aids out of the poor rates; by Charity; by begging; by poaching; by pilfering; by wearing Rags instead of Clothes; by running in debt with petty Shopkeepers, &c. &c. To these admirable means they are forced to have recourse on account of the *policy* of keeping wages as low as possible.'

Pamela Horn's valuable study of Davies is supplemented by excerpts from his private papers showing details of his income and expenditure, and an account of the parish of Barkham itself. These are followed by some passages from his book, including family budgets, where Dr Horn has indicated the likely identity of the families themselves. In all, an interesting study and one made the more valuable by the great scarcity of Davies' original work. As a private venture in publishing it deserves to do well.

G E MINGAY

I G JONES, *Explorations and Explanations: Essays in the Social History of Victorian Wales*. Gomer Press, Llandysul, 1981. 338 pp. £9.75.

This important book assembles a number of essays written at different times by the author which concern themselves with the common theme of the character of social and political change in Wales between 1850 and 1870. Professor Jones claims that contemporaries were right in thinking that for all their relative quietness these were the two most creative decades of the century in terms of the political awakening of the Welsh people. It was during these years that the vital change in the mentality of the people was effected whereby the old deferential attitudes to landlord political hegemony were broken down, and the author's concern is to identify and explain the main agencies of this change whereby 'a people came to be politicised'.

Nonconformity played a crucial role in this political metamorphosis, and in Part 1 on 'Religion', which contains 2 essays of an empirical kind dealing respectively with the nature of denominationalism in a rural

setting (Caernarfonshire) and in an industrial one (Swansea and District), we are shown the overall pattern of denominationalism within Wales. It is stressed that the explanation for such a pattern is to be found in the nature of society itself.

Part 2 on 'Politics' comprises 3 essays which deal, again in an empirical fashion, with the social forces shaping political behaviour within the contrasting constituencies of Merioneth, Cardiganshire, and Merthyr Tydfil. The essay on Merioneth examines at the outset the socio-economic conditions of the area and the author claims that 'relations on a formal level were good' between landlord and tenant. Although no politics were present in that relationship at mid-century, tenants were nevertheless well-served in 'the politics of religion'. This is not to imply, Professor Jones contends, that tenants, even those of the more radical Independent congregations, were politically aware by the time of the election of 1859. Rather, 'the politics of religion' were confined to 'the local implications of the Catholicising tendencies of the Church of England'. The fear and suspicion surrounding this issue led to the first real challenge to the old political order and the author reveals the vital role played by the middle-class intellectual, religious and professional group within Bala in the late 1850s in arousing the electorate. With religion as its principal motivating force, this middle-class organization naturally linked up with the rural chapels, whose own *élite* comprised precisely that of the surrounding agricultural neighbourhoods. The author also points to economic grievances which heightened the tension, although in so doing he is not wholly consistent with previous assertions about 'good' landlords. The effective, if unsuccessful, Liberal challenge in 1859 led to evictions of tenants, and landlord coercion scotched Liberal chances in 1865. A number of factors are presented by the author to account for victory in 1868, one such being the entry into county politics of the Liberation Society. The Bala group played its part but now the real drive came from the new slate quarry community of Blaenau Ffestiniog.

The essay on Cardiganshire similarly analyses the socio-economic background and Professor Jones again sees relations between landlords and tenants as harmonious. Organized religion played little part in the 1865 election, he contends, for 'nonconformity in Cardiganshire was not at that stage a political movement'. In his view there was a need for people to be taught the political implications of their religion and, even more pressing, that they should be freed from the fear of gentry economic sanctions. Such landlord coercion appeared in 1868 when the Irish Church Question inevitably stirred tenants to follow their consciences and defy their landlords, heroism which may indeed have secured the Liberal candidate his victory. In his essay on Merthyr the

author argues that the election there in 1868 demonstrated not only the importance of nonconformity but also the strength of working-class industrial grievances in weaning the electorate away from the old allegiance to Henry Austin Bruce.

In Part 3, entitled 'Explanations', Professor Jones, taking a broader sweep, seeks to explain the tremendous strength of religious denominations in Wales and, in essays on 'The Liberation Society' and 'The Dynamics of Welsh Politics', how it was that in these middle decades nonconformity became the most vigorous force in Welsh political life.

These are all stimulating, pioneering essays founded upon a remarkable breadth of scholarship. There are, however a few points on which the reviewer would take issue with the author. First, he is to some extent uncritical of the role of nonconformity in society in so far as he neglects to consider its alleged lack of concern for the social problems bedeviling the industrial communities. Second, there was possibly more interference by the preachers in Cardiganshire at an earlier date (perhaps by the early 1850's) than Professor Jones allows in the way their congregations voted at elections. Finally, evictions in 1868 should not, perhaps, be viewed as a one-way process of Tory landlord intimidation. For it is feasible that such interfering conduct was matched by the 'systematic intimidation of the Dissenting Preachers', as Lord Cawdor's agent put it in 1869. These criticisms, however, in no way detract from one's admiration for this book.

DAVID W HOWELL

VIRGINIA BERRIDGE and GRIFFITH EDWARDS, *Opium and the People: Opiate Use in Nineteenth-Century England*. Allen Lane/St Martin's Press, 1981. xxx + 370 pp. 13 plates. 7 figures. £20.

To a great extent, opium was the aspirin of the nineteenth century. Cheap, readily available before 1868 from grocers' shops, it was widely used for a great variety of complaints. As Godfrey's Cordial or Dalby's Carminative it was used for quietening children, particularly when mothers took their babies with them to the workplace; as Dover's Powder it was for long prescribed for gout; and as Dr Collis Browne's Chlorodyne for diarrhoea and dysentery. There were many home-made preparations, too, including 'poppy-head tea' and 'sleepy beer', and in the English Fenlands the inhabitants commonly bought their opium pills as they did their groceries at the markets in such towns as Ely, March, King's Lynn, and Cambridge. The pill habit was concentrated in the Fenlands and died away as one moved out of the district, and it was no doubt related to the high incidence there of agues and rheumatic pains. Laudanum was sold in Holbeach at fourpence an oz, and a pennyworth, 30 grains, was the average daily

dose of addicts: a druggist in Ely sold an enormous 3 hundredweight of opium in a year. Men regularly dropped the pills in their beer, and opiates were also used for treating livestock — 1 Cambridgeshire child died from an accidental draught of opium intended for a calf.

Opium and the People, however, has a much wider remit than that of opium consumption in the Fens-lands. The book ranges over the import of opium and its cultivation — some was produced in Britain, and since it was a labour-intensive process it was recommended for Ireland, where labour cost less. There are chapters on the use of opium in literary circles and middle-class society; the growth of restrictions on its sale, and on the use made of other narcotics such as cannabis and cocaine. There is also a discussion of the extent to which among the working classes opium was an alternative, rather than a supplement, to alcohol; and some contemporaries wondered whether the success of the temperance movement would lead to greater consumption of opium. The authors' conclusion is that working people generally used the drug in self-medication for its pain-relieving and quietening effects rather than as a stimulant. Per capita consumption of opium, in fact, rose and fell in line with that of beer and spirits. The book comes up to date with a brief consideration of the recent growth and control of opium use; it is, however, its elaboration of the historical background and social context of opium which will fascinate historians of the nineteenth century.

G E MINGAY

AVNER OFFER, *Property and Politics 1870-1914: Land-ownership, Law, Ideology and Urban Development in England*. CUP, 1981. xviii + 445 pp. £27.50.

This is an ambitious and impressive book. Avner Offer begins by discussing the various interests involved in real property, not just the freehold landowners but also the entrepreneurs, the residential occupiers, the mortgagees, the lawyers and the State itself. In an analysis of the death duty returns for the period 1894-1914 he shows that only 30 per cent of all property was concentrated in the hands of the 'upper' class. By focusing on value rather than acreage he is able to bring out the importance of urban, and especially London, property, and the extent of middle-class propertied interests. 'About one third of all middle-class property was sunk in tenure', he writes, 'and a third of all tenure was mortgaged to a set of middle-class mortgagee rentiers.' Even in the most apparently squirearchical of rural counties the historian neglects the middle classes at his peril. By developing this theme in a national context Dr Offer sheds new light on the realities (or in some cases the political unrealities) of the Victorian and Edwardian land campaigns.

But there is a price to pay. Landlord-tenant relations and the role of aristocratic landowners are two subjects that Dr Offer excludes from his study. He concentrates instead on the urban land question, demonstrating the link between the financial difficulties of the cities and the demand for the taxation of land values. The climax of the book is a lively and perceptive account of the campaigns centred on Lloyd George's budgets of 1909 and 1914. When one is given so much it seems churlish to complain at what is left out. Yet it must be said that Dr Offer's relative unfamiliarity with the politics of the traditional landed interest occasionally results in distortions of perspective. He exaggerates the rural rating concessions of the Salisbury government, for instance, and does more than justice to Disraelian finance. From the agricultural point of view both these political initiatives can be seen as no more than half-hearted, and in Disraeli's case half-baked, responses to acute economic problems. In general Dr Offer is weakest when he looks back before 1870. He is often most stimulating when he looks forward beyond 1914, for the Lloyd George years opened a period of tenurial politics that has continued to the present day.

R J OLNEY

R H HUBSCHER, *L'Agriculture et la Société rurale dans le Pas-de-Calais du milieu du XIX^e siècle à 1914*. Mémoires de la Commission Départementale des Monuments Historiques du Pas-de-Calais, vol 1 1979 and vol 2 1980. 964 pp. Illus.

One consequence of the traditionally close links in France between the study of history and geography has been the considerable attention devoted to the development of agriculture within regional monographs written by geographers. Demangeon's classical study of Picardy, published in 1905, has been the progenitor of a long line of retrospective historical geographies which have focused upon the transformation of rural landscapes, economies and societies: those by Dion on the Loire valley, by Juillard on Alsace and by Livet on Provence were particularly good examples. Only relatively recently have French historians begun to cultivate more intensively the field of nineteenth-century regional history, yielding such bumper harvests as Garrier's study of the peasantry of Beaujolais and now Hubscher's of the farmers of Pas-de-Calais.

This latest monumental work, the product of 15 years' research, examines microscopically some 60 years of agricultural and social change in the northern *département* of Pas-de-Calais before 1914. Part 1 identifies the basic structures of rural life in the area of the middle of the nineteenth century: description of its physical geography lays the foundation for an account of its farming systems, property profiles,

and social classes which emphasizes their local diversity and their generally retarded development in 1850. Hubscher argues that the second half of the nineteenth century saw the transformation of these structures, a period of progress brought about by the spread of scientism and by the penetration of capitalism. Part 2 examines the catalytic roles played by groups (the agricultural societies) and by individuals (referred to by Hubscher as the 'captains of agriculture') in the diffusion of agricultural improvements of all kinds. Particular importance is attached to the agricultural competitions, field-trials and demonstrations organized by the societies and by the public authorities in providing private individuals with directly observable testimony of improvements which might be emulated. With knowledge about agricultural innovations diffusing more rapidly, their adoption became more probable when they were also seen to more profitable than traditional practices. Part 3 traces the progressive insertion of agriculture into the capitalist economy: it examines the changing patterns of prices of agricultural products, of the ways of transporting and of the means of marketing. Much of the stimulus to change is shown to have come from improved access to expanding demands — locally, nationally and internationally. Of particular interest, too, is Hubscher's attempt to identify both the places and the people within Pas-de-Calais which gained most from the transformation of its agriculture, for the benefits derived from the commercialization of agriculture were not evenly distributed either spatially or socially. Part 4 investigates the social adjustments which accompanied — to some extent either permitted or were necessitated by — economic developments: the geographical, occupational and social mobility of the rural population is examined together with changing family and household structures, daily and seasonal working patterns, living standards and the distribution of wealth.

This is an admirable work which illuminates one of the most advanced districts of French agriculture during the late-nineteenth century. Hubscher draws upon an astonishingly wide range of unpublished sources, benefiting from the fact that because significant agricultural improvement came later to France than to England it was better documented there than it would seem to have been here, judging by the absence of studies of agriculture in an English county comparable in breadth and depth to this scholarly examination of agriculture in a French *département*. Hubscher demonstrates that the economy of Pas-de-Calais was transformed more rapidly than its society was adjusted; and one imagines that its landscape was modified even more slowly. One of the strengths of Hubscher's analysis of agricultural change and progress is his awareness of the need simultaneously to identify inertia and even

retrenchment. But one of the weaknesses of his study is that he tends to play down the crisis in agriculture at the end of the century and to neglect the cloak of protection thrown by the government around the farmers of Pas-de-Calais (and elsewhere in France); another is that his reconstruction of rural society ignores the battle waged in villages, hamlets and farmsteads between Church and State, between Right and Left, for the minds of its populace. Weber's 'peasants into Frenchmen' thesis is acknowledged by Hubscher, but not interrogated in Pas-de-Calais. Even after such a magnificent harvest as Hubscher has brought home, gleaners would not go unrewarded.

ALAN R H BAKER

GILBERT C FITE, *American Farmers: the new minority*. Bloomington, Indiana, Indiana UP, 1981. ix + 265 pp. £11.70.

Professor Fite's South Dakota farming background makes him especially sympathetic to farmers, for many of whom 'life was frightfully hard', especially before the Second World War. Though in the late nineteenth century and early years of this century farmers had already lost their primacy in the American economy, nevertheless it was only in the 1940s that the modern industrialization of agriculture developed so rapidly as, within a single generation, to transform farmers into a tiny minority of society. In 1940 some 30.5 million people lived on some 6 million farms, not many fewer people than in 1920, when they represented 30 per cent of the population. Today farmers make up less than 3 per cent of the population — 'one of the most fundamental changes in all of American history . . . A farmer with modern equipment in 1980 could farm 5 to 8 times as much land as his father had farmed, and do it easier and better.' The book traces the course of this change since the 1920s, and the political, social and economic factors involved in it, discussing the revolution in technology, the role of agriculture during the Second World War and the Korean conflict, and the effect of government policies and agribusiness on the family farm. Despite the huge sums spent on farm support programmes, average farm incomes have continued to fall substantially below those of the non-farm population. The voices of the farmers, reported in detail in one of the chapters, complain about this and much more, while still seeing themselves as a 'respected minority', 'one of the most important minority groups in the world'.

It is uncertain, remarks Professor Fite in conclusion, whether the decline in farmers will make America a worse or better place: it is only certain that it will be different. Many Americans feel that with the passing of the old rural community something basic and meaningful is being lost: they struggle to

reconcile modern agriculture with emotions and traditions that go back to the preindustrial farming of the past.

G E MINGAY

L GAÁL and P GUNST, *Animal Husbandry in Hungary in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1977. 411 pp. \$25.

To deal with the subject adequately, the authors had to discuss the social, economic, and political aspects of life in Hungary over a very long period. This gives the book wide interest, catering for economic and social historians as well as agricultural specialists.

It has been developed from a detailed examination of statistics and reads as if it had been based upon a thesis. It completely lacks the more romantic approach of popular accounts of social history. Many points are diligently developed from relevant data, and the literature review must have involved a great deal of work. However, the book is rather long in relation to its content, is somewhat repetitive of specific detail, and unfortunately the translation is not completely fluent. It is not, therefore, easy fireside reading. It will, however, be of undoubted interest to some students in several disciplines.

The first chapter deals with sweeping social, economic and political changes covering the 400 years to the First World War.

Changes in Hungary were similar to those in other countries, including Britain, even if the timing was different; the break-up of the manorial system, a 'golden hoof' period, the development of grain growing, industrialization, the development of internal transport and greater foreign trade. The authors illustrate the effect of political control, both national and international, on trade, the stimulating effect which lucrative, or necessary, export markets have on agricultural development and the essential role of government and other co-operative or representative organizations in such development. The break-up of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the comparative disadvantage of the 'new' Hungary after 1920 posed greater difficulties than those faced in many Western European Countries. All this is discussed in detail in chapters 5, 6 and 7.

The authors then deal with the separate species of livestock, and show how breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs changed in type and number. Hungarian red spotted cattle clearly owe much to the Swiss Simmenthal while European, and particularly British, type pigs have materially replaced the Mangalica breed.

The story illustrates the important participation of the state in development through animal health control and also through legislation governing pricing. It is interesting to note the reference to price

control of milk in the early 1930s — a time when the Milk Marketing Board was being established in Britain.

It is not until the chapter on forage production and feeding that one feels that animal production practice is really being discussed. This begins with a brief description of winter feeding of livestock in manorial times. Despite the backward nature of livestock production reference is made to fermentation storage of fodder in the last century and to ensilage in the 1920s. It is interesting to note that in Britain, where scientists can produce grass silage of predicted digestibility and protein content to order, farmers still conserve half their winter fodder from grass as hay and not silage. There are many factors affecting the uptake of new ideas.

Some of the author's criticisms of the large farms for not speedily seeing the advantage of the new breeds may be justified but at the time the same conservatism was evident in Britain, where established ideals of excellence based upon appearance instead of performance were common. It was not until after the Second World War that population genetics theory was applied to animal breeding. Much of this theory was developed in North America and Britain. Its application, particularly in pig breeding, has been very dramatic in the UK following work in poultry in the USA, but perhaps the postgraduate schools in the USA have done most to spread the technology world wide.

Because there is less commercial return to individuals from cattle and sheep breeding (genetic improvement as distinct from reproduction) there has been less progress with these two species.

In general it seems that economic forces are most likely to cause change. The authors concentrate on price, but it is not clear how demand related to price. Obviously, political control over, and stimulation of, exports was very important. However, the early export from Hungary of poultry products was entirely the work of private enterprise.

The situation in Hungary prior to the Second World War was drastic and there was some recuperation first during, then after the War, when the large estates were abolished and self interest stimulated the increased number of land holders to produce more. The final chapter, however, gives a rather sad account of inept political measures, and collective farms and state farms replaced the large estates. Reading between the lines indicates that only when government control became less restrictive did the co-operative farms begin to function. Although the book ends at 1970 it is clear that progress has continued to take place. Given that co-operative farm members were guided with tact, the large farms in Hungary were well placed to exploit modern technology. That life in Hungary is now thought to be as relaxed as in any East European

country indicates that progress along these lines has indeed been made.

JOHN DUCKWORTH

T A CROWLEY (ed), *Proceedings, Annual Agricultural History of Ontario Seminar*. 1st meeting 1976, iii + 76 pp, \$4; 2nd, 1977, iii + 123 pp, illus, \$4; 3rd, 1978, ii + 92 pp, illus, no price stated. Published by and available from: Office of Continuing Education, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada.

In 1976 the University of Guelph hosted the first of what has become an annual series of one-day seminars on the agricultural history of Ontario. The papers presented at the first three of these seminars have been published: all three 8½ × 11 inch in size; the first two in typescript, held with a plastic ring binder; the third is printed on folio, stapled through the spine.

The seven papers in 1976 include a detailed study of mid-nineteenth-century rural demography (D Gagan), a highly-generalized summary of the principal field-crops grown in the province from first settlement to the present day (B E Twamley), and a rather dry assessment of changes in nineteenth-century agricultural education (F A Partridge). In 1977 there were six papers (this is considerably the shortest volume, using a much larger and widely-spaced type than in 1976). There are two applications of basic geographical theory: C F J Whebell studying the effect of transport changes on the countryside, and F Dahms looking at the change from local rural service-centre to what he calls a modern 'dispersed city'. Also included is a basic study of archival materials (A Ross), and an entertaining account of the reading habits of the Ontario farmer in 1917 (J J Talman). Maps appear in the 1977 Proceedings. By 1978 there are also photographs (not always as clear as could be desired). In this volume are a study of library resources (J Moldenhauer); two examinations of the rural landscape (O Scott, mainly roads, and C O'Neal, barns), and an examination of the growth and decline of the Ontario cheese industry (E Haslett); in all, six papers.

The 19 contributions cover a wide range of topics, with no unifying theme other than agricultural history and Ontario — and the former is pretty widely interpreted, to allow a paper on the development of the telephone system. There is also a wide range of backgrounds among the contributors; academics from history, geography, engineering, plant and animal science, and landscape architecture; librarians and archivists; government employees from Agriculture and Food, Natural Resources and other ministries.

There is naturally variation in the quality, usefulness and readability of the papers presented; though the small scale of the seminar leads to less dress than is usual in most conferences. These Proceedings are a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in the agricultural history of this part of Canada.

ROBERT S DILLEY

G W COOKE (ed), *Agricultural Research 1931-1981 — A history of the Agricultural Research Council and a review of developments in agricultural science during the last 50 years*. Agricultural Research Council, London, 1981. ix + 367 pp. Illus. £23.

This book is a reminder that the recent past is also history, and that agricultural science is developing a history of its own. Agricultural science is one of those branches of science that has only recently been applied to a long-standing craft, so that modern agriculture has been described as a marriage of practice and science. This causes difficulties in following the stages of integration, such as those that I encountered when asked to give a university course covering the history of agriculture and the history of biology.

In the preface to the present volume Lord Portchester, Chairman of the ARC, outlines the immense increase in agricultural production since the nineteen-thirties when two-thirds of Britain's food requirements were imported, whereas today only half our requirements, and two-thirds of the temperate foodstuffs are produced on less land. The tacit aim of the book is to indicate the contribution to this change of the Agricultural Research Council which was founded by Government in 1931.

It is written by a group of scientists who are therefore not historians, but not all are members of the Agricultural Research Service. Specialists cover different topics in separate chapters, but the first five chapters occupying nearly one-third of the volume take the form of 'A personal historical account' of British agricultural research, and the Agricultural Research Council by Sir William Henderson, a former secretary to the Council. Although his first chapter covers the period from 1700 to 1931, most of it is taken up with the establishment of research institutes towards the end of this period, only two being set up before 1900. One was Rothamsted Experimental Station, which was founded in 1843, and the book jacket has a recent colour photograph of wheat that has been grown continually on one field there since that date. The other institute is the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Laboratory at Weybridge, Surrey, which was established in 1894. Topics covered in his subsequent chapters include the establishment of the ARC, post-war expansion, and the changes resulting from the Rothschild Report. It is a pity that no sources are given for the

considerable amount of information in this section since they could have provided useful leads for the agricultural historian.

All other chapters have a limited number of key references to give further reading on the subjects covered, which are as follows: plant breeding, crop production, horticulture, soils and fertilizers, agricultural engineering (in which it is recorded that 667,000 horses have been replaced by 344,000 tractors since 1931), statistics and computing, animal nutrition, diseases of farm animals, animal breeding, animal husbandry, grassland research, milk and milk products (in which the reader is reminded that the market for liquid milk is largely a product of the twentieth century).

Such a division of subjects means that other topics are likely to have been omitted, and a perusal of the moderately good index plus a search of the text shows that this has happened. These chapters are reviews of scientific advances and do not claim to be historical accounts. As such, they tend to concentrate on recent rather than earlier research, but each one highlights one or more major discovery in biology which led to research in the agricultural field.

The last 20 pages comprise a series of appendices starting with a facsimile of the Charter of the Agricultural Research Council dated 1931 and continuing with lists of Council Members, Officers, Assessors, Scientific advisers, and Directors of Institutes since the ARC was established.

This book will be useful not only to agricultural historians who may lack the sources for an excursion into the history of agricultural science, but also to scientists who frequently regard the past as irrelevant. It indicates how little has been written on the subject which is identified as a research field also for historians of science, suggesting (if one does not already exist) a new sub-division — the history of agricultural science.

M I RYDER

declares the intention that the new periodical should have a style of its own with the printing of material from the Orkney archives and of important articles from local newspapers.

The current issue fully bears out the editor's novel approach: the articles are written to scrupulous scholarly standards and are of wide range both in time and in topic; indeed it contains an article on the burning contemporary issue of uranium prospecting — a contribution which fills out its polemical theme with a balanced analysis of the play of vested and political interests over a wider scene. Agricultural historians may reasonably expect much that is of interest to them. For was not Orkney the scene of an agricultural transformation as dramatic as any in the United Kingdom? In this case, we have an account of the process of dividing the commons. Of relatively recent occurrence, this change seems to stand out clearly in the records. The peculiarities of Orcadian law and custom as well as obvious relevance to the wider processes of agricultural change give the article importance; it is, in any case, clear, readable and solidly based and is accompanied by particularly attractive illustrations drawn from eighteenth-century maps. The scholarly modern account of the division is strengthened by an eye-witness description — depending it is true on a memory running back some 70 years — which adds some vivid detail. It is a good example, perhaps, of the new style claimed by the editor.

All the articles are distinguished by the way in which local events and changes are related to, and compared with, developments and influences in the outer world; the periodical certainly escapes any taint of parochialism. Altogether, it is to be welcomed as a magazine which attends to readability and fine illustration as well as to scholarly respectability and which sweeps over horizons well beyond the islands on which its interest focuses.

MALCOLM GRAY

WILLIAM P L THOMPSON (ed), *Orkney Heritage*. Vol 1. Orkney Heritage Society, Kirkwall, 1981. 130 pp. 12 illus. £2.90.

Orkney well deserves a historical magazine of her own. For all the highly distinctive history of the islands and for all the distinguished efforts of local scholars, they remain, it is safe to say, *terra incognita* for the majority of Scottish historians. Yet, as we might expect of an area with an educated population of high local pride, accounts of local provenance have not been lacking and there have been predecessors of this first, and highly promising, issue of a new periodical, starting what is hoped will be an annual series; the Orkney antiquarian societies have published their proceedings over fairly extended periods since 1922, but the editor of *Orkney Heritage*

Landscape History. *Journal of the Society for Landscape Studies*. Volume 1, 1979. iii + 89 pp. £7 with membership of the Society (Membership Secretary: P R Hough, 41 Alexandra Road, Penn, Wolverhampton WB4 5VA).

The Society for Landscape Studies was formed to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to the subject; it hopes to attract archaeologists, botanists, economists, geographers, geologists, local historians, and toponymists. The Society's areas of interest are stated to be boundaries, field systems, settlement patterns, and industrial development, with emphasis on field work and documentary research. *Landscape History* is the first of what is intended to be an annual series of volumes. The copy is in typescript; but although the right-hand margins are not justified the

use of high quality paper makes for easy readability. The volume is generously illustrated with maps, diagrams and some photographs.

In keeping with the aims of the Society, the 9 papers are wide-ranging in interest; none is very long. Three deal in a general way with some basic data-source for British landscape studies. James Pickering shows how aerial photography can aid the archaeologist; Richard Smith looks at the use of environmental data, mostly through palynology; Oliver Rackham examines the kinds of documentary evidence useful to the historical ecologist. There is nothing here not done more thoroughly elsewhere, but these papers may serve as introductions for those unfamiliar with the data-sources of other disciplines. Four papers look at specific cases of landscape reconstruction. Three of these focus on mediaeval West Yorkshire: D J H Michelmore tracing tenurial and territorial divisions; Margaret L Faull using place-names, and Stephen A Moorhouse employing a range of familiar documentary sources — court rolls, charters and the like. C J Bond carries out a similar study for the Oxford-Berkshire area, using monastic records.

The final two papers fit rather uneasily with the rest. Sölve Göransson adopts a metrological approach to regular settlements in Sweden; while J C Nwafor offers some brief and broad generalizations

on landscape studies in West Africa, with specific examples from Nigeria. Future volumes might find it preferable to concentrate on the British landscape. An inter-disciplinary journal has enough difficulty in maintaining a sense of unity of purpose, without becoming international as well. Moreover, since contributors are coming from different disciplines, *Landscape History* would do well to follow the example of the *AHR* and provide brief introductions to the authors.

New journals can always expect to have problems. It is difficult for them to attract top-quality papers, their authors preferring outlets with established reputations. This is especially so with interdisciplinary journals, which may not circulate widely in any one traditional discipline. The papers assembled here range from the superficial to the interesting; enough to satisfy most students of the British landscape. It is a pity that the cost is so high: more than membership in the BAHS, with two journals a year; much more than the also-new *Canadian Papers in Rural History* (*AHR* 28, 1980, pp 137–8), which has more pages, is set in print, and is bound in hard covers. The idea behind the Society and *Landscape History* is one to be encouraged. It is to be hoped that they will not price themselves out of an audience.

ROBERT S DILLEY

Shorter Notices

NIGEL HARVEY, *Trees, Woods and Forests*. Shire Publications, Princes Risborough, 1981. 32 pp. 95p.

This is a valuable addition to a series of booklets that are useful in preparing lectures or filling gaps in knowledge left by more general agrarian histories. It is also a further title in the series contributed by Nigel Harvey — following booklets on *Old Farm Buildings*, *Farms and Farming* and *Fields, Hedges and Ditches*. In the short space of 32 pages are packed 42 photographs of woodland scenes, illustrations from medieval manuscripts and transcripts of maps, all concisely and lucidly captioned, together with a highly informative summary of the history of British woodlands from the wildwood, through medieval clearing for agriculture and building, through early modern exploitation for industry and shipbuilding towards an era of planting when new species were introduced and forests began to be scientifically managed to the most recent period dominated by increasing demand for softwood and contraction in the market for hardwoods. The account is a marvel of compression. It can be read in half an hour and the reader is tempted to pursue more detailed studies by an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to further readings. The author follows closely in the footsteps of Oliver Rackham and revisits woods in eastern England made familiar by Rackham's studies. On the other hand, large and ancient woods in the west of England and in the north country are somewhat neglected. Significantly, the booklet contains no map showing the extent of woodland in Britain at present or at any time in the past. The account directs the attention of local historians to a wealth of sources that will throw light on woodland history.

HUGH PRINCE

CHRISTOPHER DYER, *Warwickshire Farming 1349–c.1520: Preparations for Agricultural Revolution*. Dugdale Society Occasional Papers, no 27, 1981. iv + 41 pp. No price given.

This erudite, elegant and lucid work is amongst the best of its kind. Agricultural historians will find it indispensable. Dr Dyer's treatment of such matters as arable cultivation and pastoral husbandry is generally excellent and what he has to say on a wide variety of topics, including sub-tenancies, field systems and the regulation of wages, is of great interest. He deals well with the changes in the sizes of holdings, but misunderstands yardlands and acres (p 5). All yardlands varied in size, not only Warwickshire ones, but little purpose is served by calculating their maximum, minimum and median dimensions in

acres, for these themselves were just as variable. Yardlands and acres were not units of superficial measure at all. Unfortunately, too, Dr Dyer falls into the trap of taking all leys to be temporary ones (p 12), and without any show of evidence that they were. He is on much firmer ground, however, when he points to convertible husbandry at Baddesley Clinton in 1465 (p 29), and his discovery of up-and-down husbandry in Hampton Lucy as early as 1375–86 (pp 13–14) puts us all greatly in his debt. We hope Dr Dyer will cast his net again, and the wider the better. Meanwhile we remain grateful for this paper and heartily recommend it to all and sundry.

ERIC KERRIDGE

LIONEL M MUNBY (ed), *Life and Death in Kings Langley, Wills and Inventories 1498–1659*, Kings Langley Local History and Museum Society, 1981. xxxiv + 166 pp. £9 + £1 postage from Kings Langley Library, The Nap, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8ET.

This well-produced book is the second to emerge from a long-established Extra-Mural course on local history at Kings Langley conducted by Lionel Munby. The first was a general history of Kings Langley published in 1963; this second volume consists of 124 wills and 54 inventories covering the years 1498 to 1659, all that survive for Kings Langley during the period. Both the tutor and the members of the group are to be congratulated on the results of their work and on the enterprising way in which they have published it. Lionel Munby's introduction provides a useful discussion and analysis of the contents of the wills and inventories, including the changing religious attitudes which the wills reveal, interesting material on the web of kinship and inheritance, and on crafts, farming, houses, furnishings, and wealth. This section could well have been longer and provided even more background material about the place and the people, although some additional information about testators from the parish registers has been included as a footnote to some of the wills, and there is a useful glossary of terms. Unfortunately the number of surviving inventories is too small for any firm conclusions about farming, although there is some evidence concerning crops and livestock, and of money-lending by farmers.

This is a good example of local initiative in publishing and of the sort of work which can be done by a local history society or an Extra-Mural group under the guidance of an enthusiastic tutor.

J H BETTEY

J B HARLEY, *The Ordnance Survey and Land-Use Mapping*. Historical Geography Research Series 2, 1979. v + 58 pp. Illus. No price stated. (Copies from Geo Abstracts Ltd, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.)

This little booklet provides a critical examination of what the author believes to be an under-used source for studies of the later nineteenth-century farmscape: namely the 1:2500 maps of the Ordnance Survey and the associated Books of Reference. Attention is concentrated on those published parish maps which were accompanied by books tabulating each parcel with its acreage and state of cultivation. The limitations of the data are freely admitted. Only about one-quarter of the country was covered, the individual surveys were spread over a quarter of a century (1850s and 1880s), the criteria for land-use varied and were often rather vague, and the accuracy with which the data were recorded is unknown. However, Harley argues that the Books of Reference do provide useful supplementary information which can be cross-checked with other sources (such as Tithe surveys), and that they act as a guide to the data recorded on the maps. Changes in the contents of the Books of Reference are illustrated. The methods used to collect land-use and cadastral data are examined. An attempt is made to assess the accuracy of the land-use information and to give the precise meaning of the terms used. Altogether this is a handy introduction to, and guide through, a series of documents which may provide useful information to anyone interested in the mid-Victorian countryside.

ROBERT S DILLEY

RAYMOND CROTTY, *Cattle, Economics and Development*. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Slough, 1980. 253 pp. £15.

This book aims to identify and explain the principles of pastoral resource exploitation and is intended for a broad readership both in interests and disciplines.

In an attempt to simplify a complex subject, pastoralism is used in a limited sense, applying only to cattle and buffaloes, and explicitly excludes other grazing species. The historical aspects of pastoralism are dealt with fairly summarily in some 18 pages and deal *inter alia* with what the author describes as Capitalist Crop Production and Capitalist Pastoralism. The historical content is therefore slight, individual in tone and eclectic.

The major part of the book consists of a mathematical model, purporting to represent the decision-making processes of cattle owners, which in turn suggests a typology of 6 cattle production systems based on 2 types of grazing tenure and 3 end products; milk, milk and calves, and calves. The author then devotes a chapter to each of these 6

types, the form of each chapter being a case study based on type and country. The final chapter discusses man's misuse of pastoral resources and advances suggestions for a more rational exploitation of them.

The author set out with the intention of writing a work that was 'speculative in thrust' and pastoralism has not been the subject of such treatment in the past. Whether it is a subject able to stand on its own, as it were, removed from agricultural and other problems, is debatable.

PETER NEWBOUND

W B STEPHENS, *Sources for English Local History*. CUP, 2nd edn, 1981. xv + 342 pp. £25 (hardback); £8.95 (paperback).

The first edition of this book appeared in 1973 and it has become established as a standard work of reference for historians in general as well as for those for whom it is immediately intended, the teachers and students of local history, archivists and librarians. It does not set out to be a comprehensive guide to record offices and libraries but it does provide a great many references to catalogues of manuscripts and printed sources as well as details of numerous secondary works. Eight of the 9 chapters deal with particular fields of interest, population and social structures, local government, poor relief, industry, trade and communications, agriculture, education, religion, and houses, housing and health. The author has used the new edition to incorporate recent writing on source materials, to provide new material on such topics as family history and oral history, and to add the new chapter on houses, housing and health. The information on the location of records, libraries and depositories has been brought up to date. The book is an invaluable guide for all those beginning work in local history or seeking to widen the range of their studies.

G E MINGAY

CLARENCE GOHDES, *Scuppernong: North Carolina's Grape and its Wines*. Durham, North Carolina, Duke UP, 1982. xi + 115 pp. Illus. \$14.95.

The Scuppernong, named after a river in North Carolina where it was first grown, is the oldest native wine grape of importance in North America. Because of it, North Carolina was in 1840 the leading wine producer in the nation, though destined not to hold this title for long. In 1904 a sparkling Scuppernong won the blue ribbon for champagnes in the international competition held at St Louis. The winning producer was Paul Garrett, who began his career as America's leading vintner in the state. Professor Gohdes' book traces the development of the wine industry based on the grape and its place in American wine production as a whole. There are

interesting side glances — at rival beverages produced in the region ('Old Nick' rye whiskey, said to be valuable for saving doctors' bills for coughs, chills, malaria, and weak lungs, and such alcoholic pick-me-ups as Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, Baker's Stomach Bitters and Hooker's Wigwam Tonic), at the growth of the Anti-Saloon movement, the Prohibition era itself, and since. This attractive little study has something in it for historians of agriculture, of business, of American society — and for wine buffs, of course.

G E MINGAY

GARY E HANSEN (ed), *Agricultural and Rural Development in Indonesia*. Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 1981. xiv + 312 pp. Copies obtainable from Bowker Publ Co, Erasmus House, Epping, Essex CM16 4BU. £11.

This volume consists of an introductory survey and 15 other essays on a variety of aspects of agricultural development in Indonesia. Among the topics covered by specialist writers are agricultural taxation, the green revolution, employment and income distribution, migration, the household economy, and resource management. There is some specifically

historical material in the chapter on 'Agricultural Evolution in Java' by William L Collier, but the bulk of the discussions concern very recent developments and the latest research findings. Some of the latter, however, possess a special relevance for historians interested in peasant life under conditions of land shortage and rural underemployment. This state of affairs gives rise to a multiplicity of occupations in which the cultivation of rice — the staple food crop — plays only a minor part: the remainder of the rural worker's time is spent in producing other foods but also in various forms of non-agricultural work — common labouring, tile making, factory work, and acting as local market official, bicycle repairer, barber, clerk, telephone operator, school teacher, hospital orderly. In one village investigated the adult males spent only 78 out of the 180 available working days doing work of any kind. But another enquiry found rural workers spending an average of 6¼ hours in productive activities, though again with a relatively small proportion of the time spent in cultivating the staple crops. Although this book is essentially for the development specialist, there are many insights of this kind for the historically orientated eye.

G E MINGAY

Books Received

- ANGELO MASSAFRA (ed), *Problemi di storia delle campagne meridionali nell'età moderna e contemporanea*. Dedalo libri. Bari, Italy.
- BARRY COWARD, *The Stuart Age*, Longmans, 1980. 493 pp, inc index and bibliography. £7.50 paperback.
- J E C PETERS, *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*. Princes Risborough, Shire Publ, 1981. 80 pp. Illus. £1.50.
- H H COLLINS, *The Village of Ratcliffe on Soar: An account of times past in a small Nottinghamshire Village*. H H Collins, Vikings, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottingham, 1979. 108 pp. Illus. £1.50 (postage 30p).
- E ESTYN EVANS, *The Personality of Ireland, Habitat: Heritage and History*. Blackstaff Press, 1981. 144 pp. Figs. Plates. £3.95 paperback.
- Thirteenth Report of the Keeper of the Manuscripts*, October 1978 — September 1980. University of Nottingham, Manuscripts Department. 31 pp.
- Pinner Local History Society, *A Pinner Miscellany*. 36 pp. 9 maps. 3 diagrams. £1.20 (postage 35p).
- Pinner Local History Society, *Map of Tudor Pinner*. Folded 95p post free, or in tube £1.25 including post and packing.
- DAVID HEY, *Buildings of Britain 1550-1750, Yorkshire*. Moorland Publishing Company, Derbyshire, 1981. 165 pp. Illus. £8.95.
- A L MORTON, *When the People Arose*, a pamphlet commissioned by the Communist Party to mark the 600th anniversary of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. Central Books Ltd, 37 Grays Inn Road, London WC1. 36 pp. Illus. 50p.
- R A PREECE, *Patterns of Development Control in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Beauty*, Research Paper 27, 1981. University of Oxford, School of Geography. 36 pp. 7 tables. 10 figs.
- CAROL M TRAVAGLINI, *Il dibattito sull'agricoltura romana nel secolo XIX (1815-1870)*. Università Degli Studi, Rome 1981. 268 pp.
- RENATO ZANGHERI, *La Proprietà Fondiaria in Emilia-Romagna*, Zanichelli, Bologna, 1981. 222 pp. Tables.
- Estudis D'Historia Agraria, 3. Centre d'Estudis Historics Internacionals*. Curial Edicions Catalanes, carrer del Bruc 144, Barcelona 37.