

## REVIEWS

HALLATON HALL. By Frances Matthews. Reproduced from typescript, 9pp. 1972. 25p+3p postage from the Vocation Sisters, Hallaton Hall, Market Harborough.

Miss Frances Matthews has traced the tenants of Hallaton Hall from 1848 when the Bewicke family ceased to live there. The Hall was a hunting-box in the great days of the Quorn and, later, the Fernie hunts, and Miss Matthews has performed a service to the historians of the village and county by recording and giving some details of the families who have lived there. Since 1940 the Hall has been occupied by a variety of institutions, and is now owned by the Vocation Sisters, who use it as a retreat and study centre.

JANET D. MARTIN

A HISTORY OF LOUGHBOROUGH ENDOWED SCHOOLS. By A. White. Publ. Loughborough Grammar School (1969). 358+xv pp. Illustrated. £1.50, postage 12½p (available from Loughborough Grammar School).

Histories of Schools are often acts of *pietas* by *alumni*. It is somewhat of a surprise to learn that Dr. White is not a product of Loughborough's schools. He has all the enthusiasm and devotion of an old boy in producing in book form a work that began as a Ph.D. thesis. There are times when the thesis shows through the attempt to interest a wider audience in his subject, and Dr. White's book would have benefited from much re-writing. A great deal of information is rather raw for the average digestion, but there can be no doubt that the book is an important contribution to the History of Education in this land. It is also good, at this point in time, when we are so much torn between arguments about the merits of 'public' and 'private' sectors of education, between old-type and comprehensive schools, and so on, to know more about how our system of schools—if it really ever could be called a system—came into being. It will be a sad day if, as in other spheres, the reform of the present is removed from the historical context out of which that present grew. Existential Education along with doctrinaire Education needs vigilance, and a constant reminder that, as Pope might well have put it: "For forms of learning let fools contest; whate'er is well administered is best".

Not that the history of Loughborough's Endowed Schools is a continuous story of good, still less perfect, administration. There have been many ups and downs in the developments of the various Schools which now enjoy the fruits of the Burton Charity and also that of Bartholomew Hickling, by whose will of 1683, provision was to be made for a Free School for 20 poor girls. In addition contributions were made to Loughborough's Schools from John Hickling's Charity, from Clarke's, Dawson's, Fowler's, Hawley's Mansfield and Somerville's Charities. It would have helped the reader considerably if Dr. White had set out, in part of a chapter, the origin and nature of these various Charities, whose Trustees are later often mentioned.

The book was designed to appear in time for the celebrations in 1970 of the 475th Anniversary of the "Foundation" of Loughborough Grammar School. It is fitting that Loughborough should remember, at least every quarter century, what it owes to Thomas Burton, Merchant of the Calais Staple, who, by his will of 1494 set aside lands for the maintenance of a chantry in the parish church. As is so often the case it is difficult to sort out what happened over the administration of bequests of this kind and Dr. White's interpretation of the arrangements involved by an indenture enrolled on the Close Rolls of January 1519, is dubious. Burton did not intend to found a school, but the Dissolution of the Chantries enabled the income from the Burton lands to be used for the furtherance of a Free Grammar School—probably already in existence—for the repair of the town's bridges over the River Soar and other charitable uses. That Loughborough's citizens in the 18th Century inscribed the Burton monument in the parish church with the words *Maecenas nostrum primus et summus publicae scholae fundator* tells us only what tradition had established, rather than what had actually happened. But they were right to esteem him highly.

A review of this kind cannot tell readers much about the contents of a book which has so much to relate; and the story Dr. White tells is a complicated one. It is interesting that, although Loughborough Grammar School, as it became, never had its Thring or its Arnold, it was reformed and its curriculum revised well ahead of the Taunton Commission. The governors had sufficient foresight in 1850 to open a school for girls—Loughborough High School—thus becoming pioneers in this sphere. Their resources were well used in the last century, and included the support of two schools which later became Technical Schools, out of which the present University has evolved. They still control two Direct Grant Schools and a junior school. Thomas Burton would not be displeas at the diversion of his endowments from their original intention.

It is a pity that Dr. White devotes such a small part of his book—37, out of 334 pages—to the 20th century. From the point of view of the changing character of Education, of status, of curriculum reform, methods of teaching and of recruiting teachers as well as finance, more has happened in the last 72 years than in the previous four hundred. Perhaps he ought to write a second book.

JAMES CROMPTON

SCENES FROM KIRBY MUXLOE HISTORY. By Jonathan Wilshere. Leicester Research Services (1971). 50pp. Illustrated. 50p.

GLENFIELD, A CONSIDERABLE VILLAGE. By Jonathan Wilshere. Leicester Research Services (1971). 36 pp. Illustrated. 50p.

Mr. Wilshere continues to supply us with the fruits of his enthusiastic researches into local history. Now he has given us accounts of two villages close to his and his ancestors' hearts. Both booklets are essentially for the browser. There is a wide variety of fascinating information on aspects of life in Kirby Muxloe and Glenfield. Kirby Muxloe was ecclesiastically dependent on Glenfield as the mother parish until 1930, so it is sensible to look at the two villages together.

The illustrations are carefully chosen, and are helpful additions to what is sometimes a rather bald and over-fragmented text. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wilshere will, one day, put his detailed knowledge to greater use, and give us a narrative history of Leicester and its environs. It is a pity that the Glenfield booklet has no table of contents.

SELECTED LEGENDS OF LEICESTERSHIRE. By Susan E. Green. Leicester Research Services (1971). 39 pp. Illustrated. 30p.

Mrs. Green has made a collection from local traditions and folklore: ghosts, witchcraft, highway robbery and romance. The illustrations are by D. E. Green.

GEORGE FOX AND THE PUREFEYS. By T. J. Pickvance. Friends Historical Society (1970), 35 pp. plus map. 30p.

The reader is given in this booklet the history of the Purefey family of Fenny Drayton, as an introduction to the emergence of a strong puritan tradition which was imparted in that village to the young George Fox by his parents. Not enough work has been done on the local origins of English Dissent, and this survey fills a much-needed gap. It should not be forgotten that before Puritans or Quakers there were Lollards in Leicestershire, and this reviewer suggested (in *Transactions* 44 (1968-9), p. 17) that Wyclif's faithful Achates, John Purvey, might have been connected with the Purefey family of Fenny Drayton. English Dissenting tradition has deep roots, and was a persistent feature of religious life, defying all attempts at suppression, and often still baffling to the historian.

LIFE IN VICTORIAN LEICESTER. By Jack Simmons. Leicester Museums (1971), 80 pp. Illustrated. 50p.

Readers of *Transactions* are already much indebted to Professor Simmons for his fascinating contributions to Leicester's history. This little book originated in a series of 10 Broadcast talks on B.B.C. Radio Leicester in the winter of 1968-9, and in a contemporary Exhibition of pictures at the City Museums and Art Gallery, many of which are reproduced in the booklet. Both the text and the pictures speak

eloquently. Professor Simmons always combines, with apparent effortless facility, an appreciation of the major issues of 19th-century urban history with a great feeling and sympathy for the significance of small things and of ordinary people. He can produce as if from a magic bag treasures old and new, whether about Christmas customs, amusements, transport, shopping, crime or schools. His judgements are always careful, shrewd, cautious and fair. He must surely be right in concluding that Leicester "on the whole was a pleasanter and happier place for most people living in it in 1914 than it had been when Queen Victoria's reign began". His enthusiasm for the city of his adoption is infectious, and the booklet is a very "good buy", eminently suitable as a small gift. Would that more historians could so combine scholarship with humour and fine writing.

JAMES CROMPTON

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES. By J. Youings. Allen & Unwin Ltd. (London, 1971). 264 pp. £3.50; paperback £1.95.

This book has the same title as a book by Professor G. W. O. Woodward published in 1966, but whereas Professor Woodward's book is a general introduction to the subject, Dr. Youings' book is much more limited in its scope; it is a socio-economic study of what happened to the monasteries in Tudor England. *The Dissolution of the Monasteries* is Number 14, in the Series *Historical Problems: Studies and Documents*, and for it Dr. Youings has collected forty or so documents from many different sources, and brought them together between two covers, prefacing them with a long Introduction. Her own special territory is Devon, but she includes some material which will be of interest to Leicestershire readers: viz. "16. The Prior's Fee'd Men, (b) an indenture of March 1538 whereby Ulverscroft Priory, Leicestershire granted to Richard Standish, gentleman, the office of bailiff and surveyor of its lands", and in "28. Treasurers' Accounts" we find that Ulverscroft paid a fine of £166 13s. 4d. for exemption from the Act of Dissolution of 1536—a large sum considering its total annual income was only £83. Ulverscroft was eventually dissolved in 1539. Something similar happened at Garendon, a larger monastery than Ulverscroft, but there is no mention of it in this book. Dr. Youings is Reader in Tudor History in the University of Exeter.

PATRICK NUTTGENS