

and may be commended to the notice of a much wider public, viz. all those interested in the national question of the prevention of tuberculosis and in the public health. The book is light to hold, is printed in pleasant type, and is illustrated with numerous statistical charts and some figures.

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TRADITION AND MONUMENTAL REMAINS.

Folk Memory, or the Continuity of British Archaeology. By Walter Johnson. Pp. 416. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1908.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

MR. JOHNSON puts before the student of tradition a study which, whether or not it be accepted in all its details, will be recognised as a valuable addition to our knowledge of the archaeological remains of our country. It tells us both of the means by which these remains have often been preserved and of the machinery by which a great mass of tradition has been handed down during the ages. A monument is protected by a custom, superstition or tradition attached to it, while the much frailer life of the custom, superstition or tradition is preserved by the continued existence of the monument. It is obvious that we have here a most fruitful and hitherto largely neglected source of information. Even where tradition has obviously gone wrong, the point where it has gone wrong and the reasons and influence which have caused this deflection are laid bare by Mr. Johnson in many cases, and become a not unimportant part of his inquiry. We frankly confess that, despite objections here and there to conclusions wrongly drawn or drawn from authorities not of the first order, we are impressed by the cumulative value of the evidence which Mr. Johnson adduces. He is sound on most of the scientific problems he deals with, and does not allow his theory to master him.

Mr. Johnson is not always just to his own theory. Thus he directs attention to the important fact that in the Isle of Man it was believed that to pasture sheep on ground which was marked by a stone circle would surely bring disease to the flock, and he goes on to observe that "we call these ideas survivals, and thus hide their true character; in their totality they indicate, not spasmodic survivals, but continuity of development." The introduction of the qualification "spasmodic" is here wholly unwarranted. Survival is not spasmodic, but continuous, and Mr. Johnson not only spoils his own argument, but suggests that he does not understand the true significance of Mr. Tylor's admirable term. Again, he is not always correct in his evidence. His reference to the so-called Boadicea's tomb at Hampstead is to Mr. Read's admirable excavation of it and the suggestion, quite tentative, of its being a tomb of the Bronze age; but further research has been made into this subject, and it is now almost certain that this so-called tomb is a boundary mark of the Roman period, a *botontinus*, in fact, and the legend attaching it to Boadicea is explainable on this origin. We give these examples of faulty research or faulty argument, not for the purpose of discounting Mr. Johnson's work, but merely to show that even after the exhaustive inquiry

he has made and the care with which he has marshalled the great mass of facts he has to deal with, there is still much to be done; and the much to be done confirms Mr. Johnson's general conclusions. In these two cases correction would mean additional evidence entirely of the kind that Mr. Johnson advances throughout his work.

The book is usefully, though not elaborately, illustrated, contains full and complete references to authorities, and has a good index. Its scope will be gathered by the following summary of its contents:—the continuity of the ages of Stone and Bronze, racial continuity, links between the prehistoric and proto-historic ages, traces of the ages of Stone and Bronze shown by later implements, stone and bronze in ceremonies and superstitions, the later history of the megaliths, fairies, mound-treasure and barrow superstitions, the reputed virtues of iron, our oldest industry (stone implements), dene holes, linchets, dew ponds, incised figures of our chalk downs, old roads and trackways.

VACCINATION AND OPSONIC ACTION.

Vaccine Therapy and the Opsonic Method of Treatment. By Dr. R. W. Allen. Second edition. Pp. xii + 244. (London: H. K. Lewis, 1908.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book will be found exceedingly useful at the present time, when vaccine therapy has become so popular and in certain fields has achieved such brilliant results. According to the author, the best results are, as a rule, obtained only when vaccination is carried out under the guidance of the opsonic index, but a critical study of his evidence in support of this belief will rather lead one to conclude that good results have been got in spite of the opsonic index and in spite of negative phases. The use of the expression "opsonic method of treatment," forming part of the title of the book, must be strongly deprecated. It is unscientific, and can appeal only to the indiscriminating reader who is unaware of the multiplicity of antibodies elaborated in response to vaccination.

The author commences with a summary review of current opinion on the nature of opsonic action. He believes that the weight of present evidence goes to show that opsonic action, like hæmolytic action, is due to the cooperation of thermostable amboceptor with a thermolabile complement. The practical difficulties in opsonic technique which must yet be overcome in order to do justice to this conception have not, however, been touched upon, nor has the author taken count of this conception in the interpretation of many of the opsonic results tabulated throughout the book. Regarding the site of formation of opsonin, the author concludes from his own experiments that this resides in the muscle tissues. He adduces in support of this view that the opsonic index of muscle plasma from an amputated leg was 1.4 towards various micro-organisms. Further, he mentions that a case of tubercular ulceration which had previously resisted treatment did well when the tuberculin was "injected in a concentric manner round the area of ulceration." We are not told whether the tuberculin was injected intra-