

incidence might well have been illustrated by the reproduction of a curve showing this variation for some common type of aeroplane wing, giving instructive information as to the limits within which the simple law may be taken to hold. Other similar experimental results available at the time the volume was written might well have been made use of.

Part II. of the work is devoted to consideration of the equilibrium and stability of the aeroplane in still air. These two questions of equilibrium and stability are not kept as distinct as they should be, and we fear some confusion in the mind of the reader must necessarily result. The ideas put forward on the subject of stability are of interest, but the experimental basis is, of course, too slender for any satisfactory examination into this question, which cannot be dealt with in so elementary a manner.

The merits of the original work of Captain Duchêne are well preserved by the translators, both of whom, from their intimate association, both practical and literary, with aeronautics, have special qualifications for their task. The lucidity and terseness of the French are reproduced in the English version, and the choice of equivalents for technical terms is particularly happy.

#### OUR BOOKSHELF.

*The Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements.*  
By E. Thurlow Leeds. Pp. 144. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913.) Price 5s. net.

THIS book is suggestive, in the sense that while it raises many interesting problems, the material at present available does not admit their complete solution. Dealing with a period of about 200 years, from the first coming of the Saxon invaders down to the cessation of the evidence furnished by the pagan interments, Mr. Leeds attempts, from a survey of the archæological remains, to supplement and correct the literary record. These historical sources are admittedly much later than the events of the early invasions which they profess to record—Prosper Tiro, Gildas, Procopius, and Zozimus belonging to the fifth and sixth centuries, followed by Bede and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

Mr. Leeds' method is to study the remains discovered in interments both in Great Britain and on the Continent, and to discuss their bearing on the historical record. The chief difficulty lies in the comparative scarcity of remains in the period which he is investigating, and, in the case of objects of art, like jewelry and metal-work, of discriminating between objects which may have passed from one tribe to another in the course of trade, and those which can with certainty be attributed to certain races or areas. The book bears the marks of rigid compression. A more extended narrative, a larger amount of illustration, better maps, and occasional summaries of conclusions,

would make it easier reading. It may be hoped that he will be encouraged to treat the subject in more detail, and that the publication of the book will lead to more active search for remains of the Anglo-Saxon pagan age.

Even with these reservations, the book is a useful contribution to archæology. In some cases, as regards the early history of the West Saxons and the occupation of the Isle of Wight, the evidence of archæology is in direct conflict with current history. Among many interesting conclusions we may note that the distribution of the early settlements is based on the English river-system, and that the invaders avoided Roman roads and cities, partly with deliberate strategical intent, partly from a desire to place water between them and the ghosts supposed to haunt places destroyed by fire and sword. The female interments, as might have been expected, provide more interesting remains, in the form of jewelry and other ornaments, than those of males.

On the whole, the book is a valuable contribution to the early history of these islands, and its conclusions will deserve the serious consideration of future writers on this obscure period.

*The Romance of Scientific Discovery.* By C. R. Gibson. Pp. 318+plates. (London: Seeley, Service, and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 5s.

THE title of this book covers an extremely large field, and anyone who attempts to deal with the manifold discoveries in so many branches of science undertakes a difficult task. In spite, however, of the many pitfalls, the author of this work has been fortunate in avoiding them. Mr. Gibson is a well-known writer of popular and non-technical works, and the present volume brings out his faculty of stating facts clearly and making the subjects he deals with interesting. To write about the romance of scientific discovery successfully must necessarily indicate that the author is well versed in the literature of many sciences, and that this is the case is shown by a perusal of the present volume. He has nevertheless taken the opportunity of consulting his many scientific friends who have read in manuscript the particular portions which deal with their special subjects.

The subjects dealt with are most varied, and are treated in twenty-three chapters, each restricted to some specific point. To mention a few, there are essays on discoveries concerning our planet, how the crust of the earth was formed, living creatures of past ages, microbes, discoveries in botany, chemistry, electricity, &c., and discoveries concerning the universe. Care has been taken not to burden the reader with a host of names and dates, and an appendix is given in which further details are mentioned and can be referred to if needed. A capital index is given, and the book is well illustrated with numerous excellent plates. The frontispiece illustrates the large refracting telescope at Treptow, near Berlin, and is described as the largest telescope in the world. The actual largest refractor in the world is that at the Yerkes Observatory, in the United States.