

plates are fine reproductions of what must be beautiful originals, but some (as the frontispiece) are less satisfactory, and the considerable and varied reductions must be regarded as unfortunate. The plates are unnumbered, though they are referred to by Roman numerals in the text.

W. B. T.

Agricultural Economics. By Prof. George O'Brien. Pp. viii + 195. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 10s. 6d. net.

It is clearly impossible to deal with a subject so complex and widespread as the economics of the agricultural industry in one little volume; rather does it require an encyclopædia or a library. Moreover, the systematic study of agricultural organisation is of such recent origin that materials are not yet available for a comprehensive survey, and nothing more is possible at this stage of knowledge than an introductory treatment of the whole field, or intensive studies of particular problems.

No one, probably, realises this more clearly than Prof. O'Brien, and in his book, which is an elaboration of a course of lectures delivered to students, he has limited himself to fundamental economic conceptions and to the consideration of scope and method in the examination of the structure of the farming industry. At the same time, the numerous references to published work upon particular aspects of the subject provide the reader anxious to extend his studies with a useful bibliography. The book fills a blank in the agricultural student's library, and fills it well.

Anthropology and Archæology.

On Alexander's Track to the Indus: Personal Narrative of Explorations on the North-West Frontier of India; carried out under the Orders of H.M. Indian Government. By Sir Aurel Stein. Pp. xvi + 182 + 64 plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 21s. net.

THE publication of this book, of which a foretaste was given in the columns of the *Times*, has been eagerly awaited by those—and they are many—who love to follow in the footsteps of Sir Aurel Stein. In this account of his journey in the Valley of Swat in 1926, a twofold attraction is offered his readers. For more than a quarter of a century this had been a 'Promised Land' which political conditions did not allow him to penetrate, though he had seen it from afar. It was, too, ground which previously had been inaccessible to Europeans. Secondly, Sir Aurel was, as his title says, following in the footsteps of Alexander in the memorable campaign to the Indus. In parenthesis it may be noted as a remarkable fact that Alexander does not survive as a figure in tradition or in popular folklore, as might reasonably be expected.

The country which the author traversed is rich in historical relics. It is in this part of the North-West Frontier, where the main routes descend

from the Afghan Hills, that India first comes into contact with both East and West. The Aryan invaders, as well as Darius, were Alexander's fore-runners, and after his day, under the Indo-Scythians, it was by this route that Græco-Buddhist art and Indian culture spread to Central Asia and China. Much of Sir Aurel Stein's narrative is taken up with his account of the Buddhist relics which he was able to examine. But the principle objective of his expedition was the identification of the stronghold of Aornos which, as narrated by Arrian and Curtius, was held against Alexander by the fugitive Assakenoi and besieged and captured by him. This fortress Sir Aurel Stein holds to have been located on the Pir-Sar range. The topographical and strategic arguments which he marshals in support of his contention are completely convincing. Apart from its archæological interest, Sir Aurel Stein's narrative is an entralling record, to which a magnificent series of photographs gives added value.

Our Forefathers, the Gothonic Nations: a Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples. By Dr. Gudmund Schütte. (Published with the aid of Subventions from the Carlsberg Fund and the Rask Ørsted Fund.) Vol. 1. Translated by Jean Young. Pp. xi + 302. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1929.) 21s. net.

"OUR Forefathers" is a translation of a volume published originally in Danish in 1926. In his preface, the author explains that his study of the peoples who have contributed to the make-up of the populations of northern Europe is not a book but a skeleton. He modestly disclaims the qualifications for writing a book such as he has in mind. It could, he holds, only be written by a committee of experts. In default of such a committee, and in view of the improbability of such an undertaking being initiated by any but an individual, he has here sketched a history of what he calls the Gothonic nations which will comprehend the material afforded by all the various possible lines of research.

By 'Gothonic' Dr. Schütte covers, broadly speaking, the related peoples who at various times have overrun and settled in the more northerly parts of Europe. In this first volume he deals with them as a major group, considering their names, ethnic position, environment, old home, language, civilisation, and history. In a second volume the individual nations forming the major group will be studied in accordance with the same scheme. Dr. Schütte has a wide and intimate acquaintance with the early literary authorities, and his book will be valuable as a book of reference from this point of view, as it will be also on the philological side of the argument. For the archæologist and student of the anthropology of Europe in early historical times it will rather be found suggestive. The author's special studies in the religions of the peoples of the group are responsible for a valuable section written on comparative lines which is all too brief.