

Exposed as the county was to entry from the sea by way of its many creeks and estuaries, as the Saxon settlement had shown, it was inevitably raided by Scandinavians; but they do not seem to have been disposed to settle as they had farther north. Scandinavian derivations are not common, though they are seen in such names as Audley End, Kirby, Skighaugh and, more doubtfully, in Clacton, Thorpe-le-Soken and Frowick. No county, however, shows more strongly the effect of the Norman invasion. Many names derive from feudal and manorial custom, or are survivals of the personal and family names of barons of the county, such as Grays from Henry de Grey, its baron in 1194, Helion Bumpstead, Hadfield Peverell or Woodham Ferrers. Names that are of purely French derivation, such as Pleshey and Beaumont, are relatively not infrequent.

However great the interest to the historian of the later evidences of the growth and organisation of society which have been collected by students of Essex place-names, the archæologist will return again and again to the indications of great age and of early settlement to be found in county nomenclature. In evidence of both these Essex is especially rich. As the distribution of the earliest forms, those ending in *ge* and *ingas*, would show, the earliest Saxon settlements were along the estuaries and river-valleys, Thames, Lea, Blackwater, Crouch and Colne, as well as along the coast, now marshy, but then more attractive, with a tidal level thirteen feet lower than it is to-day. To this group belong such settlements as Firminghoe at the mouth of the Colne and Dengee on the coast between the Blackwater and the Crouch. Later, from these isolated settlements they spread along the Roman roads and to the less easily worked lands, and to woodland clearings which they at first had avoided, until settlement was general throughout the county. It is significant that it is in the wooded areas, and especially towards the heavy soils of the north-west, that the Saxon names are latest in form and that traces of the survival of a Celtic element are found.

Of paganism there is evidence in the worship of Thunor and Woden which appears in Thundersley and the lost Thunderlow and Wodnesfeld in Widdington. High Ongar and Little Wakering were probably once places of worship, while in Broxted and Hertisheued in Lindsell there is suggestion of heathen sacrifice. The familiar Teutonic water-sprite is responsible for Nickerlands in Stanford Rivers and Nickersmadwe in Greenstead by Colchester. The general distribution of these and similar names points to a widespread settlement of the county area while paganism still flourished.

The attention given to the names of fields in recent volumes of this series has been carried further in the study of Essex. In the long list given here much information may be gleaned bearing on social and economic conditions. Of such, for example, are names which point to the dedication of certain fields to specific services of the church, or the presentation of land to the bride on the morning after the wedding.

The publications of the Place-Name Society go from strength to strength, and the Essex volume is an advance on a standard already high. It is recognised how much of the excellence of the volume is indebted to the labours of such great scholars as the late J. H. Round and R. C. Fowler. It affords a technical equipment, including an excellent series of distribution maps, which will be of the greatest assistance to further research.

Parasitism and Disease

By Theobald Smith. (Published on the Louis Clark Vanuxem Foundation.) Pp. xiii+196. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 9s. net.

In these lectures the late Prof. Theobald Smith reviewed the knowledge and experience of nearly fifty years of fruitful devotion to research on infective disease in man and animals. The book contains an analysis of the complex interactions of host and parasite and a commentary on the very varied aspects of the subject. Starting with the maxim that the most effective factor in the evolution of parasitism is the continued life of the host, the writer maintains the thesis that parasitic diseases have begun by the straying of the invader into a new tissue or animal, where it may be at once destroyed or may set up an unwonted cycle with serious consequences for the host; after this phase and perhaps after many such attempts, a new recurring disease may be started, and finally a mutual tolerance established with little inconvenience to host or parasite, and so the continuance of both attained. The four essential stages of parasitism are laid down as entrance of the parasite, multiplication in the new environment, exit and transit to fresh hosts. The modifying influence of host on parasite and the converse, and the origin of races of parasites peculiar to special hosts are discussed.

The author derives the need for active public health measures from the axiom that Nature abhors a crowd and reduces superabundance by disease, but he points out that freedom from disease exacts the price of constant vigilance and readiness to use new tactics to avert renewed attacks in the constantly changing ecology.

The book is full of interest to all biologists as well as to medical men and veterinarians, for the matters discussed have been passed through the mind of a master who had no small share in the original observations and in their elaboration.