

The Annual of the British School at Athens

No. 43, 1948. Pp. viii+280+59 plates. (London: British School at Athens, 1948.) 63s. net.

THE mastery of detail which now distinguishes classical archaeology is well exemplified in this admirable volume. Half of it is taken up by an exhaustive investigation of unprepossessing objects excavated during 1931-32 in a sanctuary on Ithaca, dating from the ninth to the sixth centuries B.C. Much of the pottery is Corinthian mass-produced ware, painted with a limited repertoire of traditional patterns, animals and occasionally human figures, while other Greek and even Etruscan imports in various materials appear from time to time in smaller numbers.

But the largest element among the finds consists of local pottery imitating the Corinthian, and to a lesser extent the other Greek wares, in both shapes and decoration. Martin Robertson is able to trace the influence of the imports and the entire development of the local craft in astonishing detail, giving us an insight into the minds of these very provincial artisans. This method of research could be applied outside the classical field where there is a comparable abundance of remains of one class, for example, the bronze vessels of primitive China or the pottery of the Peruvian coast; and it should then be possible to follow the labours of generations and estimate the duration of each stage of culture.

Many points of interest emerge from O. A. W. Dilke's comparative study of the auditorium in Greek theatres, and T. W. French's summary of the post-war condition of the monuments in the Dodecanese is the nearest equivalent in English to a guide to those exceptionally historic islands; the remaining articles will concern specialists alone.

Turf

A Book about Golf Greens, Tennis Courts, Bowling Greens and Playing-Pitches, no less than Lawns; their Making and Keeping according to Modern Practice. By I. G. Lewis. Pp. 141+11 plates. (London: Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1948.) 12s. 6d. net.

AN attempt is here made to condense modern British greenkeeping practice, including the treatment of bowling greens, football fields, cricket grounds, tennis courts and golf courses, into a comparatively slim volume. Much of the work is sound; but the text suffers from the liberal use of the superlative and from regrettably frequent inaccuracies and dogmatic statements which would not pass unquestioned by either greenkeeper or research worker. Despite the limited space, there is also much repetition.

Grasses considered valuable for turf are described; but limitations of space doubtless prevented comprehensive treatment. Pedigree Aberystwyth strains are stressed, and while acknowledgment is made to the indirect contribution to greenkeeping of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, there is no mention of the direct investigations of the St. Ives Research Station, though the author has obviously drawn from its published work.

The establishment of turf from seed is dealt with in some detail, while considerable space is rightly devoted to the renovation and maintenance of existing turf. There is, however, a marked tendency to vagueness at points at which explicit instructions would be most helpful, as illustrated, for example, by the bald statement "elimination of worms is best

accomplished by using wormkiller—and there are many reputable brands—once or twice a year".

Although published in 1948, this work has evidently been in preparation for some time, since some sections, notably that dealing with weedkillers, have already been rendered out of date by research work carried out in 1947 and 1948. Quoting only one example, loosely termed "hormones", based on 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid, while 2:4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid formulations, widely used in the United States, are dismissed as only just beginning to receive attention in Britain.

The work concludes with a prophetic chapter on future trends, much of which is already accepted practice, development being limited only by present difficulties of commerce.

Urban Geography

A Study of Site, Evolution, Pattern and Classification in Villages, Towns and Cities. By Prof. Griffith Taylor. Pp. xv+440. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1949.) 20s. 6d. net.

THE subject which this work attempts to epitomize has become so important in the curriculum of geography that comprehensive statements and re-statements of its purpose and content are regularly appearing. Partly for reasons of its practical value in planning, it is, however, a subject which makes stern disciplinary demands on those who undertake comprehensive commitments within it, and there is no longer the same welcome, as formerly, for collections of town studies, only popularly treated, such as this book is. The attention paid to the important city of New Orleans will make the reviewer's meaning clear: as it is only one of a miscellany of two hundred town studies—the number should have been heavily reduced—it has only some eight hundred words to itself, in addition to hastily drawn sketches on a completely inadequate geographical scale. The most useful feature of the book is an extensive bibliography, which is marred, however, by the absence of any guide to the greatly varying merits of the works mentioned. W. FITZGERALD

Logbook for Grace

Whaling Brig *Daisy*, 1912-1913. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Pp. xlii+290. (London: Robert Hale, Ltd., 1948.) 15s. net.

UNDER this somewhat obscure title is hidden one of the most delightful naturalist log-books ever published. It dates from 1912 when Dr. R. C. Murphy followed his university course with a trip on the New Bedford whaling and sealing brig *Daisy* on a round trip in the South Atlantic to South Georgia and back. The journal was written for his wife and posted to her in instalments when opportunity occurred. The *Daisy* was mainly concerned with the slaughter of sea-elephants at the Bay of Isles, South Georgia, but also captured a few sperm whales. The diary treats chiefly of whales, penguins and albatrosses, but has many human touches and reflexions on whalers and others. It is a lively book, and at the time of writing must have contained much about the life of the southern ocean and its islands that was fresh and unknown. If modern whaling, as well as several Antarctic expeditions, have made South Georgia and its animal life better known, Dr. Murphy's observations are so lively and exhaustive that their freshness and vivacity are unimpaired.

R. N. R. B.