

denarii were found at the bottom of the Roman well. The earliest in date represented the legionary denarii of Antony, and the others the reigns of Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian and M. Aurelius. Incidentally, Mr. Macdonald tells us, on the authority of Dr. Haverfield, that the Roman silver coins found in Scotland are as a rule not earlier than the time of Nero, nor later than that of Commodus. The interest of this small find, however, lies in the fact that only the two earliest in date of the coins were struck in silver; of the others, one—the Hadrian—was base, and the remaining ten were imitation denarii moulded in tin. The writer explains this upon the hypothesis that they were specially manufactured for devotional purposes, as “the throwing of money into wells was a very familiar phenomenon”; and he instances the facts that false coins similarly found their way into the treasuries of Greek temples, and in China “coins of paper are regularly manufactured to be used as offerings by devout worshippers.” Mr. Macdonald’s explanation will meet with general acceptance, and I may add that it will account for the frequent discovery of moulds for the manufacture of denarii within the crowded sites of Roman forts, where the secret practice of forgery would be impossible. As such moulds have been found at Lingwell-Gate in Yorkshire, at Leeds, Wakefield and Lincoln, at Castor and Duston in Northamptonshire, and at other places in Britain,¹ at Damery and Lyons in France, and elsewhere on the Continent, the custom was evidently general, and too open to have been the work of the forger. At Duston three moulds were found in the well itself, and in the volume under review is an account by Mr. J. G. Milne of many recently discovered at Alexandria; but he does not refer to Mr. Macdonald’s explanation and inclines to the old idea of forgery.

Rare or Unpublished Coins of Carausius, by Sir John Evans, K.C.B. In this paper the author describes twenty-six varieties of the silver and copper coinage of Carausius, all of which are illustrated. One of these, No. 8, throws an interesting light on the Emperor’s title as given on a Roman milestone discovered near Carlisle and read by Dr. Haverfield:—

¹ *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1839, p. 147; 1871, p. 28, etc.