

A REVIEW.

Coins and How to Know Them. By Gertrude Burford Rawlings, xix + 374 pages, 35 plates, crown 8vo., cloth 6s. Methuen and Co., London.

It is only within recent years that the student of the various branches of archæology has been enabled to acquire a really useful book upon his subject at a price at all comparative with that of general literature. Amongst the pioneers of this movement were Messrs. Methuen, and we have only to quote their Antiquary's Series to prove that technical and standard works of reference upon almost every section of the subject may now be purchased at prices which we used to pay for fiction. The book before us, however, is of a more general character as befits its title, for it deals with coinage from the assumed date of its invention to the present time, and in the course of its stream flows through the Grecian, Roman, and mediæval European currency before it reaches our shores. Nevertheless, in spite of the large sphere comprised in these chapters the coins are clearly and carefully described, for although selection and condensation are essential they are forgotten in the mass of general information available.

The subjects which come within the provenance of this Society occupy exactly one-half of the book, and comprise Early-British, Anglo-Saxon, English, Irish, Scottish, Colonial and American numismatics, followed by a chapter on Tokens and a Table of modern prices. The coins of the early Britons are well represented, but it is to the Anglo-Saxon series that a second edition should allow far more generous treatment, and it is here only that a feeling of disappointment may pervade. From the Norman Conquest to the reign of His present Majesty the authoress may be credited with not only general knowledge,

but what is better, much modern knowledge. True, her list of selected mints does not claim to be comprehensive, but whilst she correctly recognizes Launceston, Pembroke and St. Davids, no doubt from Mr. Carlyon-Britton's papers in this *Journal*, she credits coins of Launceston to Stepney which never had a mint, and omits Aylesbury, Barnstaple, Buckingham, Cricklade, Christchurch, Guildford, Hythe, and Stafford, which are so well known that they should not be absent from any list, for there are still others which are, perhaps, too recently discovered to be inserted in this edition, or which may be allowed to pass under the proviso of selection. Also we do not like the Saxon D and P alphabetically classed as D and P, instead of TH and W, although cross references are given.

Ireland receives attention in a short but careful chapter, and Scotland is cleverly and more fully treated. Our Island and Colonial Dominions suffer only from the limits of space; whilst the articles on America and the Tokens are of a general rather than a technical character.

We have not hesitated to anticipate a second edition of this work, for we believe that it will both supply and create a demand. It is not only well illustrated but neat, and is a book which every numismatist has at some time or other required. To all it is useful as a concise volume of reference, for there is more in it than the best of us can say he either remembers or even has forgotten.

W. J. A.