Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

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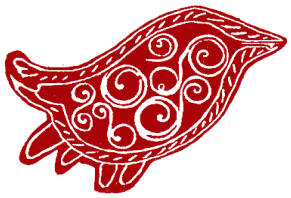

Title: Review: "The three ages: an essay on archaeological method", by Glyn E. Daniel (Cambridge University Press, 1943)

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The Three Ages : an Essay on Archaeological Method. By Glyn E. Daniel. Cambridge University Press. 1943. Price 3s. 6d.

Archaeology is a young science, and that it should outgrow some of its early concepts is not surprising—indeed, it is inevitable. This book is a critique of the Three Period System (Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages), which Prof. Macalister has justly termed " the corner-stone of modern archaeology." Dr. Daniel traces the history of this concept from its formation by Thomsen who published it in 1836, its proof by Worsaae to its present elaboration of complex schemes and different usages—typological, cultural, chronological, functional economic, etc. Instead of the old scheme of Lower, Upper and Middle Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, the author advocates the adoption of Menghin's distinction of Protolithic and Miolithic. The Neolithic to the " Middle " Bronze Age are rolled into an " Eochalcic Episode " followed by the " Full Prehistoric Metal Age " which includes the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. For more detailed work an adaptation of the principle of " sequence-dating " of approximately named and dated periods. Our present Age Dr. Daniel calls " the Age of Power Tools." Whether the ideas put forward in this book will meet with acceptance or not has yet to be seen. Perhaps one of the advantages of the Three Period System is its picturesqueness for the Man in the Street.

E. MacW.

Cork Historical and Archaeological Society.

Towards the end of last year the Cork County Council set up a local Advisory Committee under section 22 of the National Monuments Act of 1930, and appointed four of our members and a member of the Cork County Council to act on it. As a result of representations made by the new Committee, substantial sums have been voted for conservation work in the present financial year on two abbeys—Bridgetown and Castlelyons. There is a definite need for this advisory body, as many of our historic monuments are in an appalling state of disrepair due to public indifference or, worse still, wilful demolition. Members of our Society can assist by bringing to notice any monuments in their area which are in danger of being demolished, or on which conservation work might be profitably carried out. Such information will be gratefully received and acted upon.

Encouraged by the success of the **Cork City** number, the Editorial Committee has decided to allocate the January-June (1945) issue of the *Journal* to the history and antiquities of Youghal and the Barony of Imokilly. The framework of this special number has already been planned. It will include articles on the geology, archaeology, history (military, religious, educational, literary and industrial) and folklore of the district, and will be the first in the projected series of baronial surveys for the county. Should any of our members have suggestions such as might increase the usefulness of this special number, these suggestions will be welcomed and given consideration by the Editorial Committee.

Hon. Editor.

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