

Our study collections, like the exhibition material, have needed much treatment, but with the addition of many recent acquisitions are now becoming a centre of keen interest. They include an herbarium, a fine collection of archives, bird study-skin, geological and zoological collections and a very recently acquired collection of lepidoptera.

Finally, the museum possesses a fine collection of paintings representing many of the early continental schools, which were originally on loan from the museum's earliest benefactor, Mr. John Benjamin Smith, but which were later presented by his executors.

The hours of opening are as follows:—

Open Weekdays.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (April to September).
" "	10 a.m. to dusk. (October to March).
Open Sundays.	2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (April to September).
" "	2 p.m. to dusk. (October to March).

Book Review

“Timber Building in England”

By FRED H. CROSSLEY, F.S.A.

Although not dealing solely with a Cheshire subject, the attention of readers of “THE CHESHIRE HISTORIAN” is drawn to the above book, published by Batsford, 1951 (Price 30s.) There are two main reasons for this: firstly, no student or admirer of Cheshire buildings can afford to do without it, and secondly, because its author is our greatest living authority on Cheshire buildings, and in particular the old Churches of the County. It is not surprising, therefore, that for the Cheshireman a good deal of added charm is found in its many references to Cheshire buildings, and in the magnificent series of illustrations which adorn the book. Apart from the one possible exception of boat building, the whole field of timber construction is dealt with from the earliest evidences of the art to the styles appearing at the end of the 17th century.

It is well that a book of this type should appear and be read at a time when through the action of misguided councils, hard-up landlords and indifferent tenants so many of our timber houses are disappearing from the Cheshire scene. May it, before it is too late, help to educate Cheshire people to appreciate and to preserve what they have so richly inherited.

M.H.R.