ground rise up through the horizontal plain, as at E y, Chatteris, Whittlesey, and March. It is generally understood, also, that while the fat grazing and corn lands bordering the shore for several miles inland are salt marshes, reclaimed by embankments from the warp-laden tides of the Wash, the black, vegetable soil of the interior and larger portion of the Level has been obtained from the drainage and tillage of deep peat mosses and shallow lakes once existing as a woodland country. But recent excavations for lowering the great network of cuts which carry off the downfall waters and convey the high land floods to sea have explored more deeply the structure of the Fen alluvials, and from a mass of sections and data collected with a view to future publication, I can state in a few words the main facts by which the Fens interlace archæology with geology. In the Saxon and Norman ages (according to the monkish chronicles) meres and pools alternated with immense bogs, and turf-moors with grazing and hay grounds, while some portions were clad with moisture-loving trees, and vert afforested by Royalty. For though the entire plain would be plunged several feet deep under water were the present valve-door sluices removed, the state of the region before the invention of sluices was not necessarily one of continual deluge: the peat being inflated with water like a sponge, its surface was elevated many feet above its modern level. Still further back we find, in the Roman era, the Great Level had already become a fen, though some localities may have borne timber for the axes of the busy legions. A Roman crossing the entire breadth of the Fen country, from Downham in Norfolk to Whittlesey and Peterborough, consists of a gravel causeway, three feet in thickness and 40 to 60 feet in breadth, with a foundation (in place) of oak timber and ragstone, resting upon the peat, which has become partially solidified by the weight. At some remote date the Great Level was a forest. Prostrate timber is found almost everywhere under the peaty soil—the roots of the trees generally standing as they grew, the trunks broken off, and in some districts lying in a certain direction, as if hurled down by some common catastrophe of storm or inundation. The remains testify that in some localities oaks and firs attained a size and altitude now, perhaps, unknown in England, while in other places only a more aquatic growth of alders, birches, willows, and sallows prevailed; the wild boar devoured roots and mast in the recesses of the thick woods; the aurochs or bison, as well as the red deer and stag, herded on the grassy glades, and the beaver colonized upon the shady margin of streams and pools. From the low level of the clayey surface upon which the woodland flourished (such that, were the clay now bared of its peaty covering, it would be drowned by salt water 10ft. to 20ft. in depth) it is clear that a subsidence of the country has occurred since the growth of the timber. This must have been long before the time of the Romans; for the marine alluvium occupying the "Marsh" districts between the true (or peaty) "Fen" and the coast, and in places 20ft. in thickness, rests upon the peat with its embedded timber and bones of animals, and Roman remains exist upon the surface of the alluvium. The peat, forming a subterranean forest" underneath the warp land of the marshes near Lynn, appears as a "submarine forest" in the Ouse estuary seaward of Lynn. Again the surface peat of East Fen (north of Boston) enters under the marsh alluvium, and crops out on the shore. The submarine forest visible at low tide, appears for many miles along the North Lincolnshire coast, and, 60 years ago, extended a mile out to the sea. Much ground has there been eaten away by the waves within the historic period, and it is evident that the ruined forest with its thick covering of tidal warp once extended far out into what is now the German Ocean That this marine alluvium, or "old marsh" land, had been deposited before the Roman age is demonstrable. Two centuries ago the outermost sea barrier was what is called the "Old Roman Bank." A document of the reign of Henry II. speaks of this immense engineering work as "the Old Sea Bank." It is certain from the low level of the land that the many towns and villages contiguous to the bank could not have existed before it had barred out the ocean: and most of them are named in Domesday Book as having existed (many with their salt pans) in the days of Edward the Confessor. Wisbeach could not have been out of the salt water had there been no embankments; yet Wisbeach and its river embouchure are distinctly spoken of in a Saxon charter of A.D. 664 Still further, some of the towns guarded by this bank have Roman names and Roman remains; the embankment communicates with several undoubted Roman sites, and while many Roman relics are discovered on the inland side, none have ever been found on the seaside of the bank. The level of the country and the position of the bank show that no subsidence has occurred since the Roman age; while the fact of the bank standing upon the thick stratum of marine warp which overlies the peat forest confirms the inference from the Roman road, that the subsidence and flooding of the woodland terrain happened long before the Romans visited the scene. But the forest had been peopled by the aborigines. Occasionally the buried timber is met with, bearing marks of human labour, and stone celts have been met with near the trees. In Downham Fen were found under the peat, and resting upon the subjacent clay, pieces of wood, piled for making a fire, with the embers still left in the centre. In Deeping Fen was exhumed a canoe 46 feet in length and nearly 6 feet in width, hollowed out of a single log; itlay below the peat and above the clay, resting upon cross timbers, which had been broken by its weight.—