

between the owner and the holder of an ecclesiastical appointment. This brought conflict with episcopal authority, which could be thereby limited to a bishop's proprietary churches. Moreover, some episcopal churches were possibly situated in the diocese of another bishop, to the detriment of the latter's authority. In Durham the position was complicated by the claim of the monastic cathedral to a franchise within the bishopric of Durham. Mr Barlow examines the origin and development of this franchise, as well as the rights of the priory in Lothian and Yorkshire. His period, the eleventh to the fourteenth century, is restricted to allow detailed research.

It is doubtful whether any sure generalisation can be made, from this piece of investigation, as to the diocesan condition of medieval England as a whole. Backward conditions in north-east England, and the special status of the bishop of Durham as palatine earl, combined to make Durham an exceptional area in English history after the Conquest. It possibly accounts to some extent for the strained relations between bishop and chapter. At the same time the monks' claim rose as much from a genuine desire for freedom of election as from hope of more material privileges; the author makes no clear distinction between the value of the true causes. At times he is hampered by lack of evidence, and particular interpretations are correspondingly tenuous; this is especially noticeable in the largely conjectural account of the relationship between Bishop William of Saint-Calais and the monks (p. 8).

This is minor criticism of a competent piece of work, which has added something new to a larger subject; and if the constitutional history of the Church, especially on a local scale, is one of the less appealing parts of church history, here at least it is made more digestible by lively narrative, and an aptness of expression all too rare in studies of this kind.

JOHN LYNCH.

THE INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITIES OF MEDIEVAL ENGLISH JEWRY. By Cecil Roth. British Academy Supplemental Papers. (Oxford University Press; 10s. 6d.)

This monograph provides a valuable survey of the scholars in Jewish society in England up to the expulsion of 1290. It is comprehensive, containing recently discovered material and correcting earlier work; at one and the same time a convenient short reference work, and a guide to more detailed study. Although English Jewry produced no great body of scholarship, what it did achieve is impressive as the work of a small and scattered community. In some fields, notably philology, it had lasting value. It may prove more significant in the general pattern of medieval English life as exact, detailed study of the period advances.

A.R.