

THE (EARLY) LORSCH SCRIPTORIUM.

BY W. M. LINDSAY.

I. — Preamble.

If we palaeographers got from some fairy a wishing-cap and one wish only were allowed us, that wish would be, I fancy, for "a full account of each great writing-centre, its history, the vicissitudes of its script, the abbreviation-symbols current there, the marks by which we may detect its products". A full account of an important scriptorium would fill a volume, such a volume as the German palaeographer, Dr. Tafel, was preparing on the Lyons scriptorium or the Belgian, Abbe Liebaert, on the Corbie scriptorium. But although anything on that scale cannot be attempted in this journal, I hope to print a series of articles on as many scriptoria as possible, along with plates exhibiting the characteristic script of each. What a boon it would be, could we learn particulars of — let us say — each centre of Anglosaxon writing on the Continent, so that we could distinguish at a glance the Insular script of Fulda from, say, that of Wuerzburg, and could trace the Insular elements in the Continental minuscule of each place where English missionaries had once been! In the 'magnum opus' for which this journal tries to collect material, the great work on Latin Palaeography (which decade of this century will see its publication?), the chapter on Anglosaxon script cannot be written till all these details have been collected.

The collection of them is not easy. We may know (from