

manifold power and use. It has ridiculed and exposed corruptions in the body politic and in the social machinery. It has laughed at some things because they were new, and at others because they were old. It has preserved records of persons and ideas and traits of ancient bygone manners, which must otherwise have perished; and it often stands before us with its esoteric moral hidden not much below its ostensible purport. Mr. Hazlitt recounts the jests of ancient Greece and Rome, facetiæ of all sorts and kinds and of many ages. "Jack the Giant Killer" is an allegory of the protest of the people against the oppression of their feudal lords. The book is excellent reading, and is certainly authoritative.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We have been especially favoured during the winter session by brilliant lectures delivered by expert and learned antiquaries. Illustrations by magic lantern slides have been invariably used, and these add much to the value and interest of the lectures. The able lectures of Miss Murray on Egyptian Exploration, and of Mr. Nigel Bond on the Natural Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, have already been recorded. On Feb. 18th, Mr. W. C. F. Anderson lectured on Recent Excavations in the Roman Forum, and showed a thorough mastery of the subject. His ability as a lecturer is only equalled by his zeal in the regulation of the Educational affairs of the County. Captain Henderson, whose fame as a lecturer is great, kindly gave a lecture on March 24th, on a Tour in Normandy, showing the application of photography to architectural study. Mr. St. John Hope, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, will lecture on the Silchester Excavations, on April 30th, when a large audience may be expected. The lecture will be followed by a demonstration at the Museum, and the Mayor of Reading will kindly entertain the Members of the Society and their friends to Tea in the Council Chamber. In May on the occasion of the Annual Meeting, Mr. Treacher will lecture on Ruscombe. So we have a goodly programme, and hope that the Members will come in large numbers during the remainder of the session.

The Annual Meeting will be held in May, when the Report will be read, Officers elected, and Mr. Treacher will lecture on Ruscombe Church.

“History of Shiplake Church.”

By Emily J. Climenson.

THE village of Shiplake has many attractions, and few rowers on the Thames refrain from leaving their boat and ascending the winding path leading to the old village Church, which has many historical associations. It is fortunate in having so able an historian as Mrs. Climenson, the wife of the present vicar, who has just published its history. It possesses all the charm of her former large work on the history of the village, and will be read with much interest by all who visit this ancient shrine. The earliest mention of the Church is in the year 1163, when Walter Giffard, third Earl of Buckinghamshire, and his wife Ermengarde, gave it to the Abbey Church of St. Mary, Missenden, Bucks. But there was an earlier building than this, as the presence of Roman bricks in the South wall of the South Aisle plainly testifies. The Church continued in the possession of the Abbey of Missenden for 365 years, and at the dissolution of monasteries the advowson and great tithes passed into the hands of Thomas Englefield, Lord of the Manor. Henry VIII. left the advowson to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, in whose gift it has ever since remained.

The present South Aisle was the original Church and is late Norman, and the two small pointed windows on each side of the porch are said to be of the date of King Stephen. The tower was originally separated from the Church, and is decorated in style. The columns of the nave are Early English. The Piscina belongs to the 12th century. The nave was built by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, “King of the Romans,” and brother of Henry III., who was Lord of the Manor. The story of the building of the Church, and the descriptions of the carvings and the various altars, are clearly given by the authoress. Unfortunately, the Church has been somewhat severely “restored,” and we lament the destruction of the mural paintings, which were discovered in 1822. Happily, Mrs. Climenson has recovered some sketches of these, which are hung in