



## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

ARGUS'ON (ASGARSTON, ESGARSTON).—Mrs. Stevenson will, I am sure, allow me to correct her when she says that the name "Argus'on" is of Roman origin. It is *the* one name, still in use, which helps to preserve the original Saxon root name of Esgar's Town, but which "East Garston" entirely fails to do. The older and northern name of Esgar was Ansgar or Asgar. Argus'on—Asgarston—Esgarston.

Esgar is said in Loftie's Book of London (in the series of "Historic Towns," p. 127) to be the "Hero of Hastings." Certain it is that he was very badly wounded in defending the English Standard on October 14th, 1066, and was carried from the battle-field on a litter to London soon after. The following elegiacs refer to Esgar (Wid. Amb. 681):—

"Intus erat quidam contractus debilitate

Renum, sicque pedum segnis ab officio ;

Vulnera pro patriâ quoniam numerosa recepit ;

Lecticâ vehitur mobilitate carens."

F. T. WETHERED.

BERKSHIRE GAMES.—Reading Mrs. H. Peake's paper on these reminded me of the collection of games I made some years ago, now in the Free Library at Reading. I was the first, I believe, to collect these games in our County and also I wrote out the tunes. By far the prettiest was the refrain "Isabella." This with a guitar accompaniment is charming. I taught the school children to play the games together in tune and time and they did them at a village entertainment. Sulhamstead children played "Isabella," "Nuts in May," "Jennie Jones," "The Three Dukes," "My Sheep," "There sat a lady on a mountain," "Sallie Waters," "Mulberry bush," "Poor Mary," and various others. Many are old but some are derived from more recent children's books I fancy. "Nuts in May" is absurd. I always fancy it should be "Nuts away." In these games the oral sound is handed down and corrupted. "Skipping on the green," the last part was used in several games. I have no copy of my original MSS. and am unable to go to Reading to consult it, else I could send you some interesting fragments from it.—EMMA ELIZABETH COPE.

The following notes on Children's Games may supplement the article contributed by Mrs. Peake in the last number of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal. My notes relate to the rather widely separated villages of Lockinge and Padworth in Berkshire. In the game of "Wolf and Sheep," it is the same as given in the Journal in both villages, with the exception of "seven years" is always used and not "many a year," and "My" is not prefixed to sheep.

"Skipping up the green grass." This game as given in the Journal is not known in either village, but what is probably a variety is identical in both. My version runs thus:—

Wall flowers, wall flowers,  
 Growing up so high,  
 We are all ladies  
 And we shall all die,  
 Excepting (some player's names),  
 She's the youngest flower.  
 She (or he) can hop and he (or she) can skip,  
 And he (or she) can dance the wire-whip,  
 Fie for shame, fie for shame,  
 Turn your back to our game  
 And tell me what's your sweetheart's name.

This same termination is also used to the game of

Sally, Sally Water, sprinkle in the pan,  
 Rye Sally, Rye Sally for a young man.

Jenny Jones is the same as given by Mrs. Peake which is used in both Lockinge and Padworth, but without the prefix "poor."

"Nuts and May" is the correct title of this game. The rest of the words and the actions (which is a kind of tug-of-war the same as in Oranges and Lemons) are as given by Mrs. Peake.

Another courting game in Lockinge and Padworth begins with the verse

On the carpet you shall kneel,  
 Where the grass grows in the field,  
 Stand upright upon your feet,  
 Tell the one you love so sweet.

This game is widely distributed. I have instances of it occurring as far as Manchester and Nottingham. The tune to which the words are sung is identical too, which, strange to say is that of "Innocents" in Hymns A. and M.

"Here we go round the Mulberry Bush" (common to both villages) would seem to be the origin of the "Action Song" now so generally taught in all the Elementary Schools.

I have no mention of several of the games given in the Boxford list, neither from the Padworth list can I add any; but at Lockinge two, both boys' games, would seem to be unknown at Boxford. These are known by the strange names of "Warney" and "Dolly." In the former game the boys *out* are chased and captured by the others running in couples; in the latter, as each individual was captured—by touching—one long line is made and each end boy only does the touching. When a large number was thus joined escape was only possible by breaking through the line, as the touch is only effective while all hands are joined. The individual who had to start these games by himself alone was

picked by lot in a curious way. All the players stood in a line and one lad passes down touching one after the other and repeating a most ridiculous jumble of 15 words. Something very similar to these words occurred some time ago, I believe, in N. and Q., and the writer of them attributed them to a relic of Druidical incantation.—W. H. HALLAM.

A notice of Chinnon or Chinham, mentioned by Mrs. Stevenson in the January Journal, will be found in "Wantage Past and Present," and further particulars in Maine's "History and Antiquities of Stanford."—W. H. H.

The February number of *The Antiquary* contains the following articles:—

Grâce Dieu and its Associations : by H. Butler Johnson.

Letters from France and the Low Countries, 1814—1819 : by Richard Twining.

Notes on All Saints' Church, Crathorne : Miss Alice Doré.

Some Ancient Russian Ornaments : by F. Sheppard.

GOOD FRIDAY.—The following Latin lines are contributed by Mr. H. B. Blandy to the *Wokingham Parish Magazine* with a very happy translation made by him:—

Mors Mortis Morti mortem nisi morte dedisset

Æternœ vitæ janua clausa foret.

*Translation* : Had Death's *Death* death to Death by death not given  
Eternal Life's closed gate had ne'er been riven.

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## Replies.

FYNMORE.—Finnimore in Basildon married 1544, has two sons and one daughter. Walter Filmore, of Reading, two sons and two daughters, born 1624—1633. William Filmer, ditto, three daughters, born between 1625—1628. Probably other entries.—E. E. COPE.

DRAYTON, p. 124.—Aldworth is pronounced locally Alder and often so entered in Registers. John Aldworth, of Marcham, died 1736. Robt. Aldworth, of Abingdon, married at W. Illsley, 1680, Dorothy Skinner. Robt. Aldworth, of St. Giles', Reading, married 1569, Elline —? and had three sons, Peter born 1578, John 1581, Thomas 1584.—E. E. COPE.

