



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

WITH this number the seventeenth volume of this Archæological Journal commences. Time flies fast. The account of its initiation and the story of its progress are well known to our readers, and were retold at the commencement of the last volume. We are grateful to all antiquaries in the three counties who have contributed to its pages, especially to the President of the Berks Society, Mr. Keyser, for his admirably illustrated papers on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of the County which have for some time formed an important feature of this Journal. We would again solicit the aid of correspondents in various parts of the three counties, and invite them to send us notes on antiquarian discoveries, on new architectural projects, and on all matters appertaining to the past history of our towns and villages.

We would remind subscribers that many subscriptions are in arrears, and we should be obliged if these could be paid without further delay. The names of new subscribers will be thankfully received, and a copy of the Journal will be sent to anyone who desires to make its acquaintance.

THE PAVEMENT OF READING ABBEY.—During building operations which were recently carried out at Reading Gaol, a part of an ornamental tile pavement was unearthed at a depth of about three feet. So far as can be seen from the portions exposed, it appears to have been the floor of a passage leading from the Cloisters of Reading Abbey to the Infirmary. This latter building stood on the east side of the site of the present Gaol. The tiles themselves are of interest, and show *in situ* the effect of decorated tile pavements. The tiles are chiefly of two patterns and represent grotesque figures and floral designs, with border tiles. They are of red colour, with a slightly impressed pattern, which was filled with a fine white clay. The whole of the surface of the tiles was originally covered with a thick yellow glaze. The date is late XIIIth century or early XIVth century. It is hoped that Captain Wisden, the Governor, will present the tiles to the Town Museum, where they will make an interesting and important addition to its relics of the famous Abbey.