

## Notes.

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### ALPORT HEIGHT.

The handing over of Alport Height, on Nov. 1, 1930, to the care of the National Trust is noteworthy, as it is the first "place of natural beauty" in our beautiful county to become National property. Two "places of historic interest"—Duffield Castle site, and Winster old Market Hall already belong to the Trust.

The gift, which is we believe from one of our members, consists of nine acres of upland, which includes the well known Alport Stone, a huge upstanding piece of hard Kinderscout grit left standing by the ages. Also the old Ordnance Survey cairn (now rebuilt), at a height of 1034 feet. The Height was a station of the first trigonometrical survey at the beginning of the 19 c. and it was again used by the surveyors in 1853, when they made 84 observations.

Standing as it does almost at the end of the Pennine chain it is the highest point in the southern half of the county, and commands a fine view, especially south and south-west.

Some 50 miles away is the Wrekin, while the Clee Hills still further away have been seen on a clear day. Bolsover Hardwick, and Wollaton are visible, and the sappers saw 59 churches, including Lichfield cathedral.

An old stone guide-post, probably discarded about 1798 when wooden way-boards were ordered to be erected, and since used as a field gate-post has been happily rescued, and set up at the entrance to the Height, where it once more shows the way. It has on its four sides, respectively, DARBY—ASHBORN—a damaged WIRKSWORTH—and the date 1710. It must have originally stood at the road fork just below.

The place-name Alport occurs three times in Derbyshire; near Youlgrave, in Hope Woodlands and Alport Height in the civil parish of Ashleyhay near Wirksworth. Those who wish to visit Alport Stone and are ignorant of its situation will find it on the 1 inch O.S. map, popular edition, 53. The name is derived from *alde* and *port*, O.E. *ald*, 'old'; *port*, 'harbour, port, town.' Its exact significance is not easily recognized in these instances.

F. MARPLES.

#### S. MARY'S BRIDGE CHAPEL.

The members of the Society will probably now like to have a few notes on the progress of the repairs which are being carried out at the S. Mary's Bridge Chapel which are, so far as the structural work is concerned, approaching completion.

The whole of the old walls have been carefully grouted and pointed and such parts as were actually fallen away have been made up with tiles in cement. It has also proved possible to repair the tracery of the east window in a similar manner although much of the old stonework was of a very friable nature. No new stone has been used except in rebuilding the upper part of the south wall and its windows. Those who knew the building will remember that this wall had been rebuilt with bricks of very poor quality at the time when the place was converted into a carpenter's shop. It will perhaps be a matter of interest that the stone for these windows was obtained from the lately demolished bridge in Derwent Street. It has fortunately proved possible to preserve the old timber framed gable on the east wall which had up to now been hidden by lath and plaster. A large proportion of the old roof timbers has also been saved, including the beautifully carved beam which is illustrated in Cox's *Churches of Derbyshire*, though, as might be expected, a good deal of it was too far decayed to be allowed to remain. The roof