

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The number of OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS issued since the survey in the preceding volume of *Collections*, though not large, comprises several of great interest.

A new volume of the *Close Rolls* of Henry III covers the years 1247 to 1251. Many phases of the administration of the country are illustrated in it, and by the judicious use of such headings in the index as "Ecclesiastical" and "Works," the patronage of the fine arts by Henry III, a subject not yet sufficiently worked out, can be usefully studied.

The *Calendar of Close Rolls* in English, edited by Mr. W. H. B. Bird, has been carried by one fresh volume from 1385 to 1389. The enrolments of private deeds continue to form an increasing part of the work and the index enables the Surrey entries to be picked out easily.

A further volume of the *Calendar of Fine Rolls* covers the nine years from 1347 to 1356 and, in addition to the enrolment of writs of sundry kinds to the escheators, contains commissions to collectors of subsidies and other officials, from which it is possible to compile lists of such officers, often of great use in dating documents and for adding instructive details to genealogical investigations.

Unpromising though it may seem, there are Surrey entries to be found in the *Calendar of Papal Letters*, a volume of which for the years 1455 to 1464 has recently been published. Thus we find dispensations to hold a second benefice granted to the following secular clergy, viz.:—Richard Tanner, rector of Beddington, Thomas Eggecombe, rector of Lambeth, Robert Ballard, rector of Merstham (a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury), who was also chaplain to the bishop of London, and William Clerk, vicar of Reigate.

We learn also that James Blakedon, bishop of Bangor, had previously been rector of Headley and had retained it *in commendam* when made bishop of Achonry, and that John Waynflote, dean of Chichester, had been archdeacon of Surrey.

There are references to four monastic houses. John Barneham, at first as a monk and then as prior of Bermondsey, receives two

dispensations; John Dunmowe, a monk of Waverley, Thomas Hery, a canon of St. Mary, Southwark, and William Crosse, the master of the hospital of SS. Mary and Thomas the Martyr, Southwark, receive one each. There is also an indulgence for persons visiting and contributing to the last-named hospital.

We cannot produce a similar list of laymen because, owing to the description of them being merely "of the diocese of Winchester," it is impossible to tell if they belonged to the County of Surrey. We would venture to call attention, however, to an entry relating to Thomas Pedyn and Joan Wheler, who are dispensed to marry notwithstanding the impediment of Spiritual affinity arising from the fact that the deceased wife of Thomas had been godmother to a child of Joan.

Of the other official publications it is unnecessary to speak, as they hardly come within the scope of this review.

LOCAL RECORD SOCIETIES.—Our own Record Society has published latterly a fifth and concluding part of the *Archdeaconry Wills* (Herringman Register), and before these notes are in the hands of members will probably have issued another of the Registers of this Court (*Spage*) complete in one part, under the editorship of Mr. C. L. Kingsford: and perhaps the first part of a volume dealing with *Surrey Taxation Returns*.

Of the publications of local societies, other than those connected with Surrey, we may pick out for special mention the very careful and elaborate work on *Bedfordshire in 1808*, prepared by Dr. G. Herbert Fowler, and published by the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society. In it the original Domesday Book returns for each "vill" are reconstituted as far as possible, and detailed tables given of the great mine of information that can be extracted from that survey. The value of the book is enhanced by some excellent maps.

Another volume well worthy of note is *The History of Rothley*, published by the Leicestershire Archæological Society. It is the work of four collaborators, and each has done his part with care. The history of any of the houses of the Knights Templars is sure to repay study, and in this instance many interesting details of the house itself, the manor and the parish church, are brought to light. We regret that it has no index.

BOOKS RELATING TO SURREY.

The inter-relation of geography with history, especially with industrial history, is well brought out by a learned little monograph on the *Historical Geography of the Wealden Iron Industry*, by M. C. Delany. It is the first of a projected series under the editorship of Professor H. J. Fleure, and certainly forms a promising beginning. The subject, though mainly concerned with the sister county of

Sussex, is yet one intimately connected with the southern fringe of our own, which is the excuse for noticing the book at some length here. The authoress describes the geological formation of the Wealden districts, and traces its history by various data, such as archæological finds and nomenclature, to the time when documentary evidence begins. All printed sources seem to have been brought under review, and a readable account of the history of the medieval black-country results. This is not to imply that there are not left further interesting avenues of information to be explored, and especially in the examination of unpublished sources. Some sketch-maps, which are furnished, afford a great assistance to the grasp of the theme.

We are asked to note that the *English Dialect Society* still has copies left of its *Surrey Provincialisms* and a *Glossary of Surrey Words* (Oxford Press), first published in 1876 and 1893 respectively. With the rapid disappearance of dialect these records of local speech become more and more valuable, especially at a time when scientific examination of phonetics is arousing increased interest. The books are hardly scientific in themselves, but they are the rough material for investigation and therefore of value.

We have received a copy of the *Official Guide to Walton-on-Thames*, by our Honorary Local Secretary, Percy H. Webb, M.B.E., F.R.N.S. It contains a considerable amount of information, both modern and ancient, but does not attempt any full account of its subject; being merely (as its author explains) a guide book. It is much to be desired that guide books to our Surrey places should all have the advantage of local antiquarian knowledge.

A little pamphlet on *St. George's Church, Esher*, also by an honorary local secretary of this Society, the Rev. J. K. Floyer, M.A., F.S.A., is more definitely archæological. It describes the building, a post-Reformation church, and its monuments, and traces its history, giving some account of the incumbents. Then the author sketches the earlier ecclesiastical history of the place, which is of considerable interest. Many members will remember visiting this church under Mr. Floyer's guidance; as they will also the paper read by Mr. Webb at Walton on the same occasion.

In *Bletchingley, a Parish History together with some Account of the Family of De Clare, chiefly in the South of England* (Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, 2 Vols., £5 5s.) Mr. Uvedale Lambert has written the most complete history that has yet appeared of any Surrey parish. The parish has little pre-Conquest history, but from the eleventh century onward it has been associated with the de Clares and a succession of distinguished families and persons, so that there is no lack of record evidence, into which Mr. Lambert plunges with enthusiasm. In addition to the public records, he has made very full use of local ones and of many deeds and documents in private hands, and in this respect his work would seem to be exhaustive. The earlier medieval history is mainly taken up with an account

of the de Clares, much of which only indirectly concerns the parish ; but as Bletchingley was one of the great strongholds of that family its inclusion here may be held justified. There is a very full account of the church and its monuments, illustrated with a large number of photographs, and there are good biographies of the rectors and the many worthies associated with the parish. In addition to the many illustrations there are memoirs, pedigrees and reproductions of several old parish maps, for which one is especially grateful to Mr. Lambert. These volumes, copies of which are now in the Society's Library, form a very notable addition to Surrey History very magnificently presented.

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