

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES

**The Empress Maud.** By the Earl of Onslow. James Clark & Co., 10s. 6d. net.

The learned President of the Surrey Archæological Society has filled a conspicuous blank in English historical biography by writing this erudite and detailed account of the life and work of the Empress Maud. His task has been a far from easy one for, as he himself says, "she flourished 800 years ago, and the records of those days are scanty." Nevertheless, by means of a careful collection from numerous contemporary sources of all the scraps of information that they impart, and in the light of recent historical investigation, he has succeeded in compiling a very complete account of her adventurous and distinguished career.

Maud, or Matilda, as she is more commonly called, was daughter of Henry I of England and mother of Henry II. At the age of twelve (A.D. 1114) she was married to the Emperor Henry V, who was twenty-one years her senior. For eleven years she was the centre of a brilliant German court, without rival the first lady in Europe. Then, in A.D. 1125 she was left a childless widow. Her father urgently recalled her to England, for his only legitimate son, William, had been drowned in the wreck of the *White Ship*, and he was much concerned respecting the succession. He had to consider not only the English kingdom but also the Norman duchy which the French king was eager to secure. To safeguard this precious possession with its appendant county of Maine he determined that his daughter, the widowed Empress, should marry Geoffrey, son of Count Fulk of Anjou, the ancient enemy of the Normans, whose alliance with the French king it was necessary at all costs to prevent. Hence in A.D. 1128 the haughty and dignified Empress, aged nearly twenty-six, was married to the youthful Plantagenet, who had not yet reached his fifteenth year. The marriage was, as might have been expected, for a time a desperately unhappy one; but the Angevins as a House were inured to domestic infelicity. Moreover, although it did secure, after Henry I's death in A.D. 1135, the consolidation of Normandy, Maine, Anjou and Touraine, and so frustrated the designs of the French king, it gravely imperilled the Empress Maud's chances

of securing the crown of England. For neither the Norman barons settled in England, nor the English people, were prepared to accept the rule of a woman, more German than English, married to a boy more quarrelsome than wise.

The greater part of Lord Onslow's biography deals with the struggle for the English monarchy that filled the years A.D. 1137 to 1153. It has never before been described in so much detail. We learn much not only concerning the rivals, the Empress Maud and her cousin, Stephen of Blois, but also concerning all their leading supporters. During the course of the conflict the condition of the country became one of appalling anarchy. Men said openly that "Christ and the Saints slept." The Empress lived, however, to see the triumph of her cause in the accession of her son Henry II (A.D. 1154). She lived, indeed, until A.D. 1167, and played a conspicuous and honourable part in the administration of her son's Continental dominions until the time of her death.

If a second edition of this scholarly monography is published there are a few printer's errors that call for correction, the most serious of which occurs in the genealogical table on page 203 where Malcolm III of Scotland is shown as the brother, instead of the husband, of Saint Margaret. The addition of an index would also be an advantage.

F. J. C. HEARNSHAW.

**The Locks of Norbury.** The story of a remarkable family in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, by the Duchess of Sermoneta. London: John Murray, 1940. 18s.

Norbury Park, Mickleham, was bought by William Lock the art patron in 1774, and was inhabited by him and his family until sold by his son in 1819. Then the scene shifts from Surrey to the Continent, and it is by the Lake of Como that the Duchess of Sermoneta, William Lock's great-great-great-granddaughter has written the delightful book of nearly 400 pages which she has based on much unpublished material. Only a quarter of the volume is devoted to Surrey, and if the book is more gossipy than scientific so are the persons that people its pages. The dozen delightful illustrations are from portraits mostly in private possession, and there is an undated engraving of the mansion which may or may not show the house as the Locks knew it.

The story opens with the mystery of William Lock's birth, and the author states that round Mickleham (where she says the Locks are still remembered) there is a legend that William was a natural son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, or even of George II. We may, however, attach little credence to these unnamed super-centenarians who knew Norbury 120 years ago, and even less to the Italian

medium who was tapped for information (somewhat violently, on the top of her head). The author is not precise in her identification of place-names, but it appears that the earliest known of the Norbury Locks was buried at Ropley near Alresford, Hampshire, in 1614, and that the bachelor father of the first William of Norbury lived at Binsted near our Surrey Farnham, being buried in St. Paul's "covered garden" (Covent Garden?) in 1761 aged 74. The author presumes that William was born in 1732, but on her own showing the father could not have been then aged 55 as she states. William, then living in Cavendish Square, London, with his supposed mother, Mary Wood, inherited the large fortune represented by his father's freehold and copyhold land, together with his pictures and books. In 1766 William married at Marylebone 17-years-old Frederica Augusta Schaub, and during lengthy travels on the Continent the couple had built for themselves the house in Portman Square that is now the Netherlands Legation. But by about 1780 town life and travel were given up owing to a financial failure, and we find William installed with his wife at Norbury Park, with his French mother-in-law not far away at Hampton Court, where she lived till her death in 1793. Lock had acquired the estate in 1774 while in Italy, and wrote from Rome to his architect Sandby, apparently the Thomas of that name who had drowned the Surrey hamlet of Harpsford when laying out Virginia Water. A house was built on a new site commanding the fine views which the author mentions, though what are the Downs of Chessington mentioned in the same breath as Box Hill? Until the new house was finished the Locks lived in the low-lying old building "which still exists, . . . with its lofty room that was a refectory in the old priory days." But Norbury never knew any old priory days, and the author quite rightly concentrates on its diary days, enshrined in the works of Evelyn, Farington, and Fanny Burney. The former mentions the walnut trees, many of which were felled by William Lock's immediate predecessor for gunstocks used against the American rebels in such exciting engagements as that depicted on the south wall of Great Bookham Church. The overrated Druid's Grove is mentioned, and it would be interesting to know on what evidence some of the trees are stated to be well over a thousand years old.

Though the mansion has been much altered it still retains the Painted Saloon, with its landscapes by George Barrett, its *grisaille* statues by Giambattista Cipriani, and its cattle by Gilpin, "Lock's friend," all in the taste correct and pure approved in verse by William Gilpin in his poem on landscape painting. The author's shyness of Christian names leaves us in the dark as to the identity

of the first-named Gilpin, but the latter was the writer and painter, William Combe's "Dr. Syntax," to whose son at Cheam School were sent the three elder boys of the house, William II, Charles, and George Lock.

The connexion with Fanny Burney began in 1784, when at the age of 32 she first came to stay at Norbury. She had got to know the Locks through her sister, Mrs. Molesworth Phillips, who until 1795 lived at the sharp bend in the road in Mickleham village: it was at the Locks' house that Norbury Phillips was born when his mother was paying a call. In 1792 the French refugees came to Juniper Hall, and in the following year Fanny Burney married General d'Arbly at Mickleham Church. It was about this time that Mrs. Lock sent Madame de Staël a dozen muffins to console her for a row with the landlord of Mickleham Hall.

The Locks' family physician was Dr. John Moore, author of "Zeluco," and father of Admiral Sir Graham Moore and the famous Sir John Moore. It was probably Graham Moore who introduced William II and Charles Lock to the Ogilvie family in 1794. Charles married Cecilia Ogilvie, daughter of the Duchess of Leinster and a Scottish schoolmaster, the honeymoon being spent at Boyle Farm, Thames Ditton. Charles died at Malta in 1804 when his wife was staying with his mother at Wimbledon. In the following year the youngest brother, Frederick, died unmarried at Madeira, and the author repeats the erroneous tradition that the big (really pre-Roman) snails of Mickleham were imported from Italy to cure him of consumption. Why they lived to breed is not stated. George Lock became rector of Mickleham when only 24, and later went to Lee near Blackheath. William II married the lovely Elizabeth Jennings and lived much at Norbury, and his sister Amelia married John Angerstein. Augusta, the other daughter, married Sir George Martin, but not before an attachment to Graham Moore, "a friend of all the Locks." A letter from him, headed "Brook Farm," is printed in the book, but the author does not say that Brook Farm is the estate on Cobham Tilt which Moore bought in 1807 with the prize-money of captured Spanish treasure ships. An oak planted by his brother John still stands near the site of the house.

The elder William Lock died at Norbury in 1810, and, like his mother, had a walking funeral to Mickleham Church. The widow and her children gave up the estate in 1819. Little Amy Lock, whose tears saved her mother's life on the Lake of Como, was buried in her great-grandfather's vault in Mickleham churchyard in 1833.

The sources of the author's information are not always clearly indicated, and several Surrey items are unindexed, such as the reference to Leatherhead's annual autumn fair and its Norbury

Park booth, to stock which the Locks would work for months beforehand—the buying-up of the stock of the Chertsey toyshop—and the harehunting on horseback. T. E. C. W.

**Abinger Parish Church.** By J. A. Gibbs, M.A. 24 pp. A. A. Tanner & Son, Dorking. 1s. 6 Plates and 2 Plans.

The authors of Church guides too often treat the subject *in vacuo* by confining their attention to the building and omitting any reference to the environment, including that important adjunct—the churchyard. In the case of Abinger Church the surroundings add much to its interest and attractiveness, and a guide that ignored them would be incomplete. In this booklet Mr. Gibbs has dealt adequately with both aspects. The Introduction contains a useful note on the physical and historical setting. This is followed by a detailed description of the building which supplements previous accounts in several respects.

The section devoted to the Churchyard gives evidence of the same thoroughness. Abinger is one of a number of Surrey parishes in which the custom known as Church Marks formerly obtained. Reference is made to this and to the interesting fact that the initials of the parties liable for the upkeep of the enclosing wall may still be traced on some of the oldest portions. Mention is also made of the old-fashioned wooden inscribed rail or “bedhead” of which 12 specimens still exist, and which, it may be added, was, according to Aubrey, the only type of graveyard memorial to be seen when he perambulated the County in 1673.

The booklet is well illustrated, and is indispensable to all who wish to gain a satisfactory understanding of the Church.

W. H.

**History of St. Peter's Church, Petersham, Surrey.** By Charles D. Warren. 168 pp. Sidgwick & Jackson, Ltd., 1938. 7s. 6d. 16 Plates.

It is good to have this carefully written and well documented history of what, though perhaps one of the less well known, is by no means one of the less interesting of the ancient churches of Surrey. Were it only on account of the numerous noble families who have been connected with Petersham and its neighbourhood, and many of whose names appear in the register throughout the centuries, the history of the parish would be of especial interest. But apart from that the fabric of the church itself has many features of interest. Its ground plan with its short nave and chancel, and long and wide north and south transept is unusual. A church in Petersham is mentioned in the Domesday survey,

Mr. Warren states, although we may hesitate to accept without qualification the assertion he quotes of learned authorities that the term "ecclesia" in the survey always indicates a church which had been restored. There may at least be some reason for accepting the opinion set out by the late Mr. H. E. Malden that a church is only named in Domesday if possessed of land or forming part of the landed estate of some landholder who was in possession of the presentation. However this be, although it is stated on the cover of the first volume of the parish register that the church was built in 1505 there is evidence in the north wall of much earlier building going back to the twelfth or early thirteenth century.

We have called Mr. Warren's history well documented, although he has to regret the loss of nearly all the church and vestry papers and records apart from the register and other bound books prior to the beginning of the present century. The curious history of the parish may partly account for this loss, for it is only from 1891 that Petersham has existed as a separate parish. Prior to this from the year 1788 it had been a joint parish with Kew, a peculiarly inconvenient arrangement it would seem with the large parish of Richmond intervening. In earlier times it appears as one of the chapelries of Kingston.

Nevertheless, in spite of this lack of earlier records, it is an extremely readable and connected account that Mr. Warren has been able to produce from all the materials available to him, and he has dealt very fully with the general history of the church, its fabric, the entries in the register, such vestry and parish records as exist, and much interesting information respecting the ministers and vicars, the parish clerks and other officials and concluding with a detailed account of the churchyard in which many noble and famous persons are interred, amongst them the explorer Captain George Vancouver. A useful plan of the churchyard with a complete index to the graves in it is appended.

It was inevitable no doubt that with so many well-known families recorded in it, Mr. Warren could not have refrained from printing very copious extracts from the parish register, though in general we must deprecate the practice of picking out and printing the plums from a register as likely to deter a future enthusiast from printing it in full as every early register should be in time.

An interesting piece of history is concerned with the genuineness or not of the certificate of the marriage at Petersham on 30 July 1664 of Prince Rupert and Lady Frances Bard, daughter of Lord Bellamont, found more than two centuries after the event recorded in the possession of a descendant of Lord Bellamont. Mr. Warren devotes a chapter to the discussion of this certificate. The page

or pages of the register in which the marriage would have been recorded had it actually taken place are now missing, but have been deliberately cut out as though by one who had an interest in concealing whatever they may have contained. On the other hand, the character of Henry Bignell, the officiating minister who has signed the certificate, is not above suspicion. On the whole Mr. Warren is content to leave the mystery as likely to remain for ever unsolved in the improbability of any further evidence coming to light. A photograph of the certificate is exhibited in the church and is reproduced in this book.

In addition to the plan of the churchyard and this certificate, there are excellent reproductions of early drawings of the exterior and interior of the church, a portrait of Vancouver with a photograph of his grave and other illustrations. Altogether the work is one worthy of being on the shelves of all interested in the history of the county.

M. S. G.

**South Eastern Survey.** (*The Face of Britain* series). By Richard Wyndham. B. T. Batsford, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.

Mr. Wyndham lives at Tickerage Mill in the centre of the three counties of Surrey, Sussex and Kent which he describes; he is talking of country which he both knows and loves. He calls his book a travel-book rather than a guide book, the outcome of journeys at haphazard but for the most part on side roads only and through villages and lesser towns; unluckily, owing to the outbreak of war, he was unable to complete certain districts, particularly Surrey, as he would have liked. His first chapter deals with The Vanished Forest, and explains very briefly the geological formation and general history of the Weald; how it began as a single hump joining the North and the South Downs; how the peak was denuded to a ridge of sand standing in a plain with chalk ridges to North and South; how the Piltdown skull recalls its earliest human habitation; how the Britons had their camps and villages on the downs; how the Romans stationed a legion a few miles South of the author's valley; how the Saxons, being expert woodmen, settled at the foot of the downs with small forest clearings where the swineherds had their huts; how the Wealden iron industry developed greatly in Elizabethan times and flourished until the close of the eighteenth century but thereafter decayed, and how the bungalows and arterial roads of recent years have had only a restricted influence and leave the side roads for the most part undisturbed. The only chapter dealing exclusively with Surrey is the seventh, entitled "Beauty Spots," which treats very briefly of Box Hill and Norbury Park, of the Hog's Back, of

Frensham and Hindhead, of Leith Hill and the Silent Pool. There are, however, some most attractive photographs, the author's own, *inter alia* of an Elizabethan monument in Stoke D'Abernon church, of the Old Lock-up at Lingfield, of Restoration brickwork at Godalming, of the Norman Church Interior at Compton, of the Village Pump at Newdigate, of Old Cottages and the Georgian Façade at Betchworth and of Windmills at Outwood.

There are an index and maps of Sussex and South Surrey and of Kent and East Sussex.

This review, being exclusively concerned with the archæology of Surrey, cannot do justice to the book, which is interesting and varied; the author seems particularly attracted by the various "Follies" erected by eccentric persons to perpetuate their memory; the photographs include "Brighton Crooner" and "The 'Grid' Crossing the Sussex Downs" no less than "Detail of the Saxon Font at St. Martin's Church, Canterbury."

**A Walk through Surrey.** By John Moore. Chapman & Hall Ltd. 5s.

The author at the suggestion of his publishers took a six-days' walk through Surrey, a county of which he previously knew little. His route was chiefly in the S.W. portion of the county, from Guildford by Puttenham to Frensham Ponds and Grayshott, from Hindhead to Cranleigh, a day in Hurt Wood, then over Leith Hill to Dorking, from Dorking by Reigate to Epsom, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon and back over the N. Downs to Guildford. He was blessed with hot weather and enjoyed his trip, but his bent was not archæological; botany, butterflies, village cricket and the people whom he encountered on his way were his chief interests; he also has something to say of inns and hotels (for some of which he has hard words) and of the survival of old English speech. The Pilgrims' Way of course reminds him of Chaucer's poem, but the portion near Farnham would hardly be included in a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury! It is rather "a walk in Surrey" than "a walk through Surrey." Perhaps another time Mr. Moore will start from Bagshot over Chobham Ridges and end at Lingfield or Limpsfield Chart. The illustrations by Mr. Barrington Browne bear only a slender relation to the text; the artist evidently does not share the author's attitude towards "famous beauty spots"; witness his picture of Friday Street, of which the author only says in a footnote on page 81 that he "avoided it." A competent piece of journalism and a readable book for an hour's train journey, but with the vividness of first impressions rather than the knowledge of the expert. The book has an index and a summary with sketch-maps.

**The Geometrical Arrangement of Ancient Sites : A development of the Straight Track Theory.** By Major F. C. Tyler, O.B.E. 45 pp. 4 Plates. Simpkin Marshall Ltd. 1939. 2s. 6d.

This little monograph, which is based on a lecture delivered by the author, develops the "straight track" theory enunciated by the late Mr. Alfred Watkins, by seeking to show that ancient sites are arranged on a geometrical plan or "grid." The author accepts as fully established the conclusion that many of these sites in all parts of the country conform to a system of alignments, though unable to adopt Mr. Watkins' belief that the alignments originated from ancient tracks. His own contribution is to show that these sites not only follow straight lines but often fall on the circumference of concentric circles, "each circle taking up two or more sites" whence he infers purposeful arrangement according to a geometrical form. He illustrates his arguments with a number of examples chiefly taken from south-west England. Surrey is only referred to incidentally; in the chapter on Road Alignments a diagram is given of the Pilgrims' Way to illustrate the proposition that in its different stretches the Way "displays . . . the phenomena of 'The Old Straight Track'."

Whatever one may think of the theory it at least has the merit of working. This booklet is suggestive without being dogmatic, and those interested in the subject will find it worth reading.

W. H.

**List of Antiquities in the Administrative County of Surrey with a general Introduction and Photographic Illustrations.** 84 pp. 3rd Edition. Surrey County Council. 1939.

This is a new and greatly expanded edition of the List of Antiquities which was first published by the County Council in 1934 and reached a second edition in the following year. The List has been retained and added to but the Antiquities instead of being set out as before in one alphabetical sequence are here arranged under five areas based on a grouping of the districts into which the County is now divided for purposes of local government. The many new features that have been added have transformed the List into a handbook of treble its former size.

The work commences with a general introduction which briefly surveys the various periods ending in 1800. In addition, each area is prefaced by introductory notes on the Antiquities comprised in it, and there are a number of excellent illustrations together with two very attractive maps, one a reproduction of Moll's Map of Surrey, 1724, the other John Ogilby's Road Map of London to Arundel, reproduced from his *Britannia*, 1675. The Records and

Ancient Monuments Committee of the County Council and Mr. Scott Henderson, its Chairman, deserve to be heartily congratulated on their enterprise in planning and producing this useful little volume and the courage shown in publishing during war time. The List has already had a salutary influence: in its new and improved form it should help still more to stimulate appreciation of the many important ancient monuments that the County still possesses and check the depredations of owners and local authorities, which are often due to ignorance rather than to deliberate vandalism.

In a co-operative work of this wide range, some mistakes are to be expected. Yet several of the more obvious that occur, of which the following are examples, could have been avoided by more careful editing. The house of Friars Observant of Richmond founded by Henry VII is described at p. 17 as a Convent of Carmelite Friars founded by Edward IV, though correct particulars of it are given in the list of Religious Houses at p. 34. The statement at p. 16 in reference to Chertsey Abbey that—"Hardly a trace of the structure, other than the foundations, exists to-day, though portions of the walls and outbuildings are still standing" seems self-contradictory. The Wick, Richmond Hill, which was the work of Robert Mylne, the Scottish architect and engineer, is dated "circa 1760" in the Introduction (p. 31), while correctly dated 1775 in the List (p. 45). Special attention is drawn to Slyfield House in the Introduction (p. 25) and again in the Notes on the Mid-Eastern Area (p. 48), where it is correctly placed in Great Bookham Parish, whereas in the List it is placed in the North-Eastern Area under Stoke D'Abernon Parish. In the Notes on the South-Eastern Area (p. 75) Dry Hill, Lingfield, is referred to as the one Iron Age Camp in this Area though, as the List which follows shows, the Area comprises three other important camps of that Age, namely Holmbury Hill Camp, Anstiebury and the Camp at War Coppice, Caterham. The Old Town Hall, Godalming, and Wray Common Mill, Reigate (misnamed in the List "Redhill Windmill, Wray Common") are good examples of their age and type, but as both were erected after 1800—the Town Hall in 1814 and the Mill in 1824—they are outside the time-limit set for the List.

The compilers seem to have been in two minds whether to schedule the Antiquities under the old parishes or modern local government areas which, as a result of the recent revision, often comprise more than one parish or parts of several parishes. This has led to some inconsistency of arrangement. Thus the Antiquities of Gatton and Merstham appear under those parishes, though the first and larger part of the second are now embraced by Reigate

Borough. The Antiquities of Kew, Petersham and Mortlake, on the other hand, are included under the Boroughs of Richmond and Barnes of which those parishes now form part. It would seem preferable to adopt the civil parish as the unit in every case, and insert below, the name of the borough or urban district, where it happens to be incorporated in either of such areas.

W. H.

**Dulwich Village : Chapters in the History of the Hamlet and Parish.** By D. H. Allport. (Dulwich, 1937.)

This little book is of a kind which could and might with advantage be produced in many places : being an amateur's account of the history of the place in which he lives ; not attempting in general more research than can be done in a good Library, but bringing together very usefully for the benefit of fellow inhabitants the principal facts which form the framework of Local History ; perhaps revealing to one or two the possibility of pursuing such studies themselves ; and certainly doing valuable archaeological work in removing some of the ignorance which is so often the excuse for unnecessary destruction.

If I may mingle a little criticism with appreciation there is one common but mistaken tendency which finds occasional illustration in Mr. Allport's work : that is the tendency to write imaginatively, not to be contented with mentioning some occurrence in the past but to try to describe the impression created by it ; and it is a mistake, because such a description would only be truthful if the describer could observe the fourteenth century with the eyes, and feelings, and experience of the fourteenth century—which few, if any, of us are competent to do. It is a dangerous tendency, too, because it may sometimes tempt an author beyond his depth in the interpretation of technicalities, such as those of *Court Rolls* : and it uses valuable space.

One other point on which I would offer a suggestion is the omission in this work of any mention of the Authorities consulted : even in the most modest of volumes some kind of note on this subject is possible and its usefulness is not confined to the reviewer. I fancy, by the way, that our author might find material he would think worth while in the publications of the Surrey Record Society. On the other hand, he must be congratulated on the inclusion of a somewhat unusual and most welcome 'Historical Directory' to Road Names in his Parish : he has probably salved here much local knowledge which might otherwise have perished.

H. J.