

Correspondence.

"MONUMENTAL BRASSES OF BERKSHIRE."

To the EDITOR of the QUARTERLY JOURNAL.

SIR,—I beg leave to reply to the note signed "E.E.T." in your last issue, p. 104.

I am unable to accept the correction that the brass at Sulhampstead Abbots "is to the memory of Rodolph Flyer, not Eyer." The inscription is well engraved and well preserved, the lettering being unusually clear and bold, and the name is "Radulphus Eyer," or, as I stated, "Ralph Eyer" (*Quarterly Journal*, No. 4, p. 74). I omitted to state that this, like the Hurley brass, 1492 (described on the same page), shows an early example of a date in Arabic numerals, 1521. It is worth observing that in a series of memorials to the Eyres, lords of the manor of Allerds or East Burnham, in the Parish Church of Burnham, Bucks, ranging from *cir.* 1500 to 1786, the name in one instance is spelt *Eyer* (Thomas Eyer, 1581).

The limits of my papers on the Berkshire Brasses restricted me to descriptions of the memorials and admitted of few notes of the persons commemorated. But since "E.E.T." writes that "The Pennebryggs or Pembridges were a well-known Herefordshire family," it may be well to add that Tong in Shropshire is the burial-place of Sir Fulke de Pembruge, the husband of Margaret Pennebrygg of the Shottesbrooke brass, 1401 (see pp. 71, 73). He died 1408 or 1409, and is commemorated at Tong with his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Ralph Lingen of Wigmore, 1446-7. Margaret, the former wife, was daughter and sole heiress of Sir William Trussel of Cablesdon, who in 1337 re-built Shottesbrooke Church in its present beautiful form, endowing it for a warden, five canons, and two clerks, the value at the dissolution being estimated at £42 2s. 8d. (The *Valor Beneficiorum*, *temp.* Edw. I., shows that there had been a church here previously.) Similarly Tong church, which had previously belonged to Shrewsbury Abbey, was re-built by the widow, Elizabeth Pembruge, presumably after Sir Fulke's directions; for though it is nearly a century later in date, it bears a remarkable resemblance to Shottesbrooke church, being cruciform with a central tower and spire; and she made this also a collegiate church, with a warden, four fellows, and two clerks, and added a hospital for thirteen poor persons, the revenue at the dissolution being £45 9s. 10d. It is interesting to find a Berkshire church thus reproduced in Shropshire. Sir Fulke Pembruge was the last of his line, and the next in the fine series of tombs at Tong is that of Sir Richard Vernon, probably the son of his sister and heiress. Will some correspondent complete this story by telling who was the next owner of Shottesbrooke? I have said (p. 52) that the nameless priest and franklin commemorated in another brass at Shottesbrooke "have been thought to be the co-founders of the church," as I have somewhere seen it suggested: but it should be added that this brass is certainly thirty years later than the foundation of the church, and it

is generally believed that the canopied tombs in the north wall of the north transept are those of Sir William Trussel and his wife.

Can any correspondent throw any light upon a brass very similar to that at Shottesbrooke, and of the same year, 1401, at Goring, commemorating one Elizabeth whose surname has disappeared? The mutilated inscription is an early instance of the use of English. An interesting Norman-French inscription to Henry de Aldryngton, 1375, lies near it, both being in the north aisle; possibly therefore the lady is of the same family.

J. E. FIELD.

P.S.—In Miss Thoyts' paper on *Field Names*, p. 101, line 5, is *Lauds* a misprint for *Lands*?

List of Books relating to the History of Berks.

(Continued from page 106.)

- Domesday "Berkshire," zinc photographic.
- Rowe More's "Queries."
- Our Catholic Forefathers.
- History of St. Lawrence, Reading.
- "Reading Observer" Articles, re-printed in book form, 1885.
- Newbury Field Club Reports.
- English Villages.—P. H. Ditchfield.
- Traces of History in the Names of Places.—Edmunds.
- History of Berks.—Col. Cooper King, 1877.
- Powell's MSS., in British Museum.
- Suckling's Collections, Berks.—British Museum.
- Testa de Neville.—British Museum.
- Richardson's MSS.—British Museum.
- Members of Parliament (?).—Reading Library.
- Ashbury in Berks.—Miller, 1877.
- Worthies connected with Newbury.—Godwin, 1859.
- Antiquities of Stanford in the Vale.—Maine, 1886.
- Guide to Reading.—Turner.
- History of Thomas of Reading.—Deloney, 1827.
- Ashmole's Life and Diary.—Reading Library.
- Rocque's Survey of Berks, 1756.
- Literary History of Reading.—P. H. Ditchfield, 1889.
- Belford Regis.—Miss Mitford.
- Our Village.—Miss Mitford.
- Topography of Berks.—Ecclesiastical Architectural Society.