

Reviews.

"Curiosities of the Church: Studies of Curious Custom, Services and Records," by WILLIAM ANDREWS, F.R.H.S., author of *"Historic Yorkshire,"* &c.

This volume is full of curious lore and quaint information which Mr. ANDREWS, the well-known Yorkshire author, has amassed from extensive reading and research. It contains some notices of Berkshire Churches, amongst which we may mention the bequest of Richard Palmer to the Sexton of Wokingham Church (wrongly spelt Workingham) for ringing the great bell every evening (c.f. *Lecture on Wokingham* Pg. 117); a good description of the Hurst Hour-glass, and of the Chained Bible at Cumnor, which he pronounces to be the finest specimen in England. The book contains interesting chapters on early Religious Plays, Strange Serpent Stories, Church Ales, Doles, Briefs, and a variety of other subjects connected with the curious customs of former days. The book is admirably illustrated.

"Reminiscences of Reading," by an OCTOGENARIAN (printed for private circulation).

It was a happy thought which inspired the gentleman who has adopted this *nom de plume* to write his reminiscences, and he has done good service to the town he loves, and to those who wish to recall its ancient appearance, by recording the recollections of his early days. The stores of his well-furnished memory enable him often to throw light upon obscure points which puzzle the historian and antiquarian, and his book has been referred to in two recent lectures delivered before our Society—on the supposed tomb of Henry I. and the bull-baiting at Wokingham. Many of these recollections have appeared in the columns of the *Reading Observer*, but it is a great advantage to the friends of the writer to possess them in the form of a book, which is well printed and furnished with good illustrations of Old Reading.

The next number of *The Reliquary* will contain the lecture on "The Guilds of Reading," which was recently read before the Berks Society by the Secretary.

Our Library has been enriched by the presentation of eight volumes of the Collections of the Surrey Archæological Society. They are admirable specimens of what a Society's transactions ought to be. This neighbouring Society is about to move its headquarters to Guildford, and under its new Secretaries is in a very flourishing condition. It has followed the example of the Berks Society in inaugurating a movement for making an Inventory of Church Plate.

"Memorials of the Church and Parish of Sonning," by HUGH PEARSON, late Vicar of Sonning and Canon of Windsor, edited by W. R. W. STEPHENS.

Admirers of the late Canon Pearson will welcome this volume with keen pleasure. The Memorials of the Parish he loved so well were contributed by the Author to the *Sonning Parish Magazine*, but they have been deemed worthy of a wider circulation, and his friends have wisely determined to publish the original articles in book form. The volume contains an interesting Memoir of the Author, written by the Editor; an exhaustive account of the Church, its tombs and brasses, its tower and bells (one of which records the memory of the famous Dr. Sacheverell); and a general history of the Parish from early Saxon times. The book contains much that is valuable to the historian, and will be greatly prized as one of the too few literary remains of a gifted and well-read scholar.

