

Reviews of Books.



THE ABBEY OF ABINGDON.—The Camden Society has published under the editorship of Mr. R. E. G. Kirk, the accounts of this ancient Abbey. They are now preserved in the Muniment Room of Sir Harry Verney, of Claydon House, Bucks, and throw much light upon the internal arrangement and working of an old Benedictine House. We hope to publish a fuller account of this work in a subsequent number.

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THE REGISTERS OF THE PARISH OF S. MARY, READING, 1518—1812, VOL. II.—MARRIAGES AND BURIALS.—The Rev. G. P. Crawford has concluded his arduous labours in transcribing the Registers of S. Mary's Church, and the present volume shows the same care, accuracy, and good arrangement which characterised his previous work. Such a work is of course invaluable to the genealogist. We noticed the burials of numerous "condemned prisoners" in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, also the numerous deaths caused by the ravages of the plague, and of unhappy old women "apprehended for witches," and presumed burned to death. In 1634 a plague of small-pox carried off many victims. After the French Revolution several of the French priests found an asylum in this country, and the Government assigned to them a house in Castle Street. Many of them found a last resting place in S. Mary's Churchyard. The work concludes with an elaborate and carefully compiled index.

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THE HISTORY OF UPTON COURT, BERKS.—Miss A. Mary Sharpe has published an extremely important and valuable history of one of the most interesting and picturesque houses in the Kingdom. The story of the old Manor House is linked with the family of the Perkins, the famous recusants, who in spite of persecutions adhered to their ancient faith and somehow seemed to have contrived to retain their estates. To any one who knows with how much difficulty and labour the scattered records of local history are collected, how much literary skill is required to weave the scraps of information gathered from various sources into one harmonious whole, will appreciate the work which Miss Sharpe has so ably accomplished, and we beg to congratulate her upon the happy result of many years of patient research. The volume is admirably produced; there is a good index, and the book is adorned with numerous plates and engravings.