



Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

ROMANO-BRITISH VESSELS FROM SOUTH FAWLEY.—Two very interesting Romano-British relics have just been received at the Reading Museum from Mr. Philip Wroughton, of Woolley Park. And they are an important addition to the Museum from the fact that they were found in the County. They consist of two small vessels—the one a neatly shaped bottle (*Ampulla*), with a rimmed lip and narrow foot, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, of the hard-baked maroon, glazed ware, so characteristic of much of the pottery from the kilns of the New Forest; the other is a more highly embellished cup (*Poculum*) of coarsely-glazed reddish terra-cotta, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, ornamented with dotted scroll, and on the whole very similar to “Durobrivian” ware. But from the coarser character of the material of the vessel and its ornamentation, and from its resemblance to the scroll-pottery from the New Forest, so frequently found at Silchester, it is likely that both vessels came from the New Forest. An interesting account, by Mr. Walter Money, of the discovery of these vessels, and the remains among which they were found, appears in the lately published volume of the transactions of the *Newbury District Field Club*, from which it appears that four skeletons were discovered in four distinct graves, on a hill between north and south Fawley, in 1883. The graves were about three feet from each other, and were 6 feet in length, 2 feet in width, and 2 feet 6 in. in depth. The skeletons were lying on their backs in the direction of north and south, and the bottle was found in an inverted position between the right shoulder and the head, and the cup occupied a similar position. These small funereal vessels are mostly found in proximity to the right shoulder, evidently to be within easy reach of the right hand. They are commonly understood to have contained food, and are called “food vessels,” but the quantity must have been insignificant; and if they contained food at all was probably that most esteemed by the occupant of the grave during life. It is, however, quite worth the sug-

gestion whether, at all events in the more recent interments, they may not be looked on simply as symbols, and were not actually used for food.—JOSEPH STEVENS, the Museum, Reading, March, 1896.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—During the past quarter this Society has held two meetings. On January 29th, the members assembled in the Art School of the University Extension College to hear a lecture by Mr. E. H. Blake on “Ecclesiastical Stained Glass: its Origin, Development and Decline.” The lecturer delivered a learned and scholarly address, and a large number of illustrations were given by means of a magic lantern, showing beautiful examples of the work of mediæval times which were far superior to the productions of modern art. After tea, Mr. H. D. Barkas, the Art Director, exhibited a large collection of paintings and some interesting drawings of ecclesiastical art work and Greek and Roman architecture by the lecturer. On February 26th a very interesting lecture was delivered before the Society at the Abbey Gate by the Rev. W. H. Summers, whose advent to Reading will be cordially welcomed by all antiquaries. The subject of the lecture was “Reading in Tudor Times,” which we hope ultimately to publish. The lecturer very ably treated of the affairs of Reading as revealed in the Calendar of the State Papers during the reign of the Tudor sovereigns. Very much of interest had been gathered by the lecturer, and his paper was especially valuable. We trust that Mr. Summers will favour the Society with many such lectures.

BENSON MANOR.—We have received a valuable paper from the Rev. J. E. Field on the history of this Manor, and regret that want of space obliges us to postpone its publication until our next number. The same reason compels us to postpone the next paper on the series of “Historic Houses in Berks, Bucks and Oxon.” Information on this subject will be gratefully received.

Queries.

CHANNERS FAMILY.—The Rev. C. H. Channer, Rector of Adrian Michigan, U.S.A., writes as follows:—“A silver cup brought to America by the Ligourney family (according to tradition) has recently been examined. Its supposed date is 1686. The word ‘Channers’ is stamped upon it. Is anything known of a silver-smith of that date in America or Europe of a contemporaneous date? Is the name French, Flemish or English? It is believed that the family existed in Bucks for over 200 years.”

Replies.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT LONG WITTENHAM.—In his account of the excavations at Long Wittenham, in the last issue of this periodical, Mr. H. J. Hewett, in his remarks on the “pot-boilers” taken from one of the pits, states that some of them were placed in layers, and had the appearance of having had a fire lighted on their surface, and inquires whether they could have been used for

cooking meat after the manner of a gridiron. Now, it is remarkable that similar stones were found in the pit-dwellings at Hurstbourne Siding, near St. Mary Bourne (*Hist. of St. Mary Bourne*, p. 31); the stones being described as of two kinds—one being the ordinary “pot-boiler,” the other differing in having “flattish facets, and much blackened, conveying the impression that they had been used in constructing earth ovens for baking or smother-roasting.” And in support of this, the Hon. W. O. Stanley’s researches in the “Circular Habitations on Holyhead Island,” are quoted in the same volume, in which he says that “there are traditions among the Highlanders of a method of preparing their feasts after hunting. They made a pit and lined it with smooth stones, and near it placed a heap of flat flint stones. The stones, as well as the pit, were properly heated with heather. The venison was placed at the bottom and a stratum of stones above it, and stones were repeated alternately till the pit was full; the whole was then closed in with heath to confine the steam.” These examples appear to corroborate Mr. Hewett’s idea, and lead to the impression that, although perhaps not always conducted on one plan, such rude forms of preparing food were in use among the more uncivilized inhabitants of Britain.—JOSEPH STEVENS, Reading, February, 1896.

Reviews.

“SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH, OXON” (Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, 1895).—Under this extremely modest title, the Vicar, Canon Slatter, has sent forth an admirable little history of his parish. These historiettes are increasing, and they are important contributions towards a really comprehensive county history. In 1890, the Rector of Pangbourne (Rev. R. Finch) gave us his charming “Short Account of the Parish of Pangbourne in Berks”; now we have an account of the parish exactly opposite *ripales*, at any rate they are, if not more; and the rival rectors are to be equally congratulated: either Shepherd, would, no doubt, as with Palæmon presiding, gain equal prizes—

“So nice a difference in your singing lies

That both have won, and both deserved the prize.”

Vir. Bucol. 3.

Mr. Finch had Bere Court to boast of; Canon Slatter discourses most exhaustively of his parishioner—Hardwicke House. Space will forbid our more than passingly glancing at the contents, but the