



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On the last day in March the Annual Meeting was held, when a paper was read by the Secretary on “Old Tenures and Manorial Customs.” On April 28th, the first summer excursion took place, when the Society visited Hardwick House, a fine Tudor mansion occupied by the Hardwicks in the time of Richard II. It was ably described by Canon Slatter. The south front was built by Anthony Lybbe in the reign of Charles II. Thence the party drove to Mapledurham House which was well described by Mr. Ravenscroft. It is a venerable Elizabethan house, which was garrisoned by Sir Charles Blount for the King in the civil wars. The oak staircase is very fine, and the house contains many good family portraits. The Rev. F. J. St. John Thackeray and the Misses Thackeray hospitably entertained the Society to tea, after which the party visited the Church. On the return journey Caversham Church was ably described by Mr. Wing, and, by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Simonds, the Rectory, formerly a cell of Nutley Abbey, was visited. The excursion was much enjoyed by all who accompanied it.

On May 19th, the Society visited London, and inspected Lambeth Palace and the Tower. The party was larger than usual. Mr. Kershaw, the Librarian, described Lambeth; luncheon was provided at the Westminster Palace Hotel, and Sir Frederick Middleton kindly made arrangements for the Society to inspect portions of the Tower not usually shown to the public.

NEWBURY FIELD CLUB.—We have received the Report of the Annual Meeting of this Club, an abstract of which appeared in our last number. On June 15th the members visited Bradford-on-Oxon, Farleigh Castle, Kingston House, &c., and enjoyed a very pleasant and interesting day.

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READING LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of this active Society was held on April 27th, when the Rev. J. J. Goadby was re-elected president. Mr. T. H. White, secretary, read a very satisfactory report, which shewed that the Society had 310 members, and was heartily thanked for his services. Mr. Burch read a paper on "The Colour Sense." On May 26th the Society visited Three-Mile-Cross and Stratfieldsaye. An able paper on Miss Mitford and her writings was read by the Rev. Alan Cheales.

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THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB, on May 25th, came very near our borders, and visited Hartley Wintney, Yateley and Bramshill.

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OXFORDSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Reports for the years 1895 96 of this Society, which was founded forty-four years ago, have just been published. The members make one Excursion each year. In 1895, they visited Cumnor, via. Bablock Hythe Ferry, Stanton Harcourt, Standlake and Northmoor. In 1896, they journeyed to Great Milton, Great Haseley, Watlington and Shirburn Castle. Two excellent illustrations are given of Shirburn Castle and the portrait of Erasmus, supposed to be by Holbein. The following is a translation by Mr. James Parker of the Latin inscription beneath the portrait :—

Whoe'er has never seen Erasmus, know
This picture will his life-like features show.
If but the artist could the voice control,
Thou would'st have seen a portrait of his soul ;
And yet what his skilled hand could not provide
He has himself in richer gift supplied.
Behold ! throughout his books his mind appear,
His life reflected there so true and clear !
In these a far more worthy portrait find
Than in the painter's modest art enshrined.
Oft as thou gazest on this canvas learn
Fresh traits of his great genius to discern,