



## Reviews.

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S. MARY'S, HURLEY, in the Middle Ages ; based on Hurley Charters and Deeds, by the Rev. F. T. Wethered. (London : The Bedford Press.) We were unable, through want of space in our last number, to do full justice to this admirable history of a remarkable church, which its Vicar has so carefully and industriously compiled. The Dean and Chapter of Westminster placed at his disposal a large number of deeds and documents relating to Hurley, and of these he has made excellent use, transcribing and editing them, and deducing from these valuable memorials a fairly complete history of the Hurley Priory Church. After sketching the early history of Christianity in the County, Mr. Wethered tells us that a Saxon church existed in Hurley, and that Bishop Osmund on the invitation of Geoffrey de Mandeville re-dedicated it about the year 1086. This Geoffrey was the great benefactor and maker of Hurley, and was moved to dedicate some of his wealth to the service of Almighty God by the persuasions and example of his pious wife, Leceline. The early Charters published in this volume show the extent of his charitable endowments, and of the foundation of the Benedictine Cell, richly endowed with tithes and lands. The Church also became the resting-place of Edith, sister of King Edward the Confessor. The author follows the fortunes of the Church he loves so well, gives a history of the great family of De Mandeville, and an admirable description of the architecture and treasures of this shrine of ancient days. We then are conducted by our guide to see the inner working of a Benedictine Monastery, to admire its buildings, cloisters and refectory, and the lives of the good men who lived and worked therein. Excellent photographs are given of the remains of the monastic buildings ; the exact locality of the dormitories, hospitium, cellary and bakehouse remains to be discovered. A *resumé* of the history of the Priory is given, until the dissolution of Monasteries brought its annals as a religious house to a close. The Chapter on Hurley Seals, with the admirable reproductions by Miss Lyon, will be fresh in the minds of

our readers, as the author kindly contributed an article on the subject to this Journal. The book contains a list of the Priors and Vicars of Hurley, and closes with a transcription of the Charters and Deeds, which form a mine of wealth for Berkshire Antiquaries. Very numerous are the names of places and people in these 562 documents, and we regret the absence of an index which would have made reference more easy. Mr. Wethered is to be congratulated on the completion of a work which must have afforded him intense interest, and which has conferred a great benefit on all lovers of the historical associations of Berkshire.

