



## Reviews.

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THE MUNICIPAL PARKS, GARDENS AND OPEN SPACES OF LONDON, THEIR HISTORY AND ASSOCIATIONS, BY LIEUT.-COL. SEXBY, V.D., (Elliot Stock.) In this handsome volume, replete with numerous illustrations, the author describes with much accuracy of detail the history and romance of this precious heritage of the people of London. The work covers new ground, as no account has before appeared of many of the interesting parks and pleasure gardens which constitute the lungs of our great metropolis. The historian and the antiquary may here find much to interest and delight them. It will come as a surprise to many to find what a wealth of historical associations our Municipal parks possess. Many of them link us with the amusements and diversions of past generations. At Finsbury Park, for example, we are on the site of the Old Hornsey Wood House ; at Spa Green, Streatham Common, Dulwich Park, and other places we come face to face with the old Medicinal Springs of London, quite forgotten now, but which were once active centres of high social life. Other places have become famous through their associations with eminent personages of bygone times. Dr. Johnson at Tooting Common ; Andrew Marvell, Charles II., Nell Gwynne, Coleridge, and a host of others at Highgate ; Carlyle and Rosetti at Chelsea Embankment Gardens ; are but a few instances of valuable links with the past. Hampstead Heath is a household word to every citizen of London, and so many are the famous persons connected with this open space that it deserves a volume to itself. Parliament Hill, with its interesting tumuli and its unique surroundings, furnishes quite as delightful a story ; whilst Kennington Park, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and the old Horsemonger Lane Goal, now scarcely recognizable under the name of Newington Recreation Ground, have quite a chronicle of historical events and associations to unfold. Much information is incidentally given concerning the ancient manors and the rights under which they were held. We congratulate Col. Sexby on the production of a most valuable and entertaining book.

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The reports for the years 1897 and 1898 have been forwarded to us. The Society maintains its usual number of members, and continues to have the benefit of the services of Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., as President, and Mr. Loveday and the Rev. G. E. Barnes as Secretaries. In 1897 the Society visited Stanton St. John, Studley Priory, Boarstall and Brill. In 1898 an excursion was made to Dorchester, of which a good account is given in the Report, and afterwards to Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Little Wittenham, Appleford and Sutton Courteney. A special excursion was made in the same year to Middleton Park, by the invitation of the Earl of Jersey. The Report contains a learned paper by the Rev. E. Marshall, F.S.A., on Wayside, Churchyard and Market Crosses, and a chapter on the Dolmens at Rollridge and Enstone, by the President.

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WEST IRISH FOLK-TALES AND ROMANCES, COLLECTED AND TRANSLATED BY WILLIAM LARMINE. (Elliot Stock.) The new volume of the Antiquarian Library will be welcome not only to all lovers of Folk-lore, but also to the general reader. Mr. Larminé is certainly well equipped for the task which he has undertaken. He has spent many years amongst the wild dwellers of Western Ireland, collecting their folk stories, and he is well acquainted with the old Gaelic language, specimens of which are given in this volume. In a learned introduction the author advances the theory that it is possible to determine the three constituent parts of the Irish nation, Aryan or Celtic, Mongolian or Finnick, and Iberian, by the difference in the folk-lore. The tales are full of interest. "The Servants of Poverty" is remarkable for the variant it contains of the Cymbeline legend. In "The Champion of the Red Belt" we have legends of knights and arms, and several of the stories are of the domestic order and abound in humour so characteristic of the Irish race. The book is certainly a valuable contribution towards the folk tales of our country.

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THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS BY "X" OF THE "SATURDAY REVIEW." (Elliot Stock.) This book will arouse uncomfortable feelings in the minds of many readers. "X" certainly writes with a vigorous pen and in a slashing style, and hurls his lance with mighty force against the shields and arms of the parvenu and pretenders

who have assumed without law or licence the outward signs of gentility. He holds up to scorn the dodges and devices of those who aspire to the dignity of bearing arms and cannot even tell the name of their grandfather, and then preaches the true doctrine of armory. The writing is in many cases more rigorous than polite, but the facts and conclusions dealt with and arrived at are marshalled with skill and sometimes even with brilliancy. All who are a little uncertain about their right to the arms and crests they wear should at once read this book.

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BACON OR SHAKESPEARE? AN HISTORICAL ENQUIRY BY E. MARRIOT. — (Elliot Stock.)—Miss Marriott's work has reached a second edition, and she has performed a loyal service to the cause of sanity and noble literary tradition, in again asserting the inalienable rights of Shakespeare to be himself. Baconians are hard folk to convince, but Miss Marriott is a charming instructress, and her arguments should turn them from the errors of their ways, but we fear that her delicate satire and graceful humour, while they delight her supporters, will be almost wasted on her opponents. To all Shakespearian lovers we heartily commend this booklet.

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BOOK AUCTIONS IN ENGLAND IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, BY JOHN LAWLER. (Elliot Stock.)—This is a new volume of the "Book-lover's Library," to which the Editor of this Journal contributed his "Books Fatal to their Authors." This book now under review is the only book in which the subject has been historically considered or, indeed, treated at length at all, and it forms a very welcome contribution to the library of the bibliophil. Mr. Lawler has given us the first catalogues of Book Auctions in England, and allowed the auctioneers of the time, Cooper, Millington, Dunton and other worthies, speak for themselves in their quaint and informing prefaces. The names of the chief scholars and book collectors appear in these columns with the lists of their cherished volumes. The whole subject is full of interest and is treated of in a delightful and picturesque fashion. All book-lovers will be delighted to add this volume to their libraries.