



Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the Winter Session was held at the Abbey Gate on Wednesday, November 14th, when a lecture, with musical illustrations, was given by Mr. A. F. Ferguson on "The Songs of the People, especially Sea Songs." The lecturer gave a very interesting description of the origin of the Folk-music, and a special character of the English Folk-songs. He told of the old singing men, the rise and fall of the minstrel, the love of the people for dancing, the old country dances, the rise of the ballad, and interspersed his lecture with many songs of the people which were rendered in a very charming manner. Mr. Ferguson was heartily thanked for his lecture, and also Miss Ravenscroft who so kindly accompanied the songs. Mrs. Falcon Stewart very kindly entertained the Members of the Society to tea at the close of the lecture. Several other lectures are promised during the Winter Session.

On January 30th a lecture will be given by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield on the "Names of Places in Berkshire," and on February 13th Mr. G. A. Kempthorne will lecture on "Some notes on the Devil's Highway in Berkshire," illustrated by magic lantern views.

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LENT TERM, 1900.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH.

A Meeting was held in the Ashmolean Museum* at 8.15 p.m., the President (Mr. F. Madan) in the Chair, at which the following

* By kind permission of the Keeper of the Museum, all the evening meetings of the year were held in the Lecture Room of the Museum.