Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the Society was held on November 27th, when Dr. Hurry exhibited and described the seals and coins of Reading Abbey, and the Rev. A. Cheales gave a learned and interesting lecture on "Ancient Egypt."

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READING LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—Mr. O. A. Shrubsole recently gave a demonstration at the Reading Museum of certain flint implements which are considered to represent the earliest stage of human culture, and have been termed "Eolithic," of which some account was given in our last number.

OLD CLOTH HALL, NEWBURY.—It is proposed to restore this interesting building as the Newbury Queen Victoria Memorial for the purpose of a Museum of Local Antiquities and Art Gallery. No more worthy proposal could have been made, and we wish the people of Newbury every success in this undertaking. £1,800 is required, and the Treasurer of the fund is the Mayor of Newbury.

DENCHWORTH MISSAL.—I am much interested in Mr. Macray's note in the October number. Mr. Jackson told me that he bought the Denchworth Missal and two others of about the same date from a person in Liverpool. He thought it belonged to Norwich, until I pointed out to him the names of my ancestors, and we afterwards discovered the word Denchworth. As for the difference between Missal and Breviary, I must plead with Dr. Johnson "Ignorance, pure ignorance."—H. B. HYDE.

BARTON COURT.—I am afraid that Mr. Player Isaac's note in the last number of the Journal (p. 96) adds nothing to what is already known about the destruction of Barton House, or Court, in the Civil War. The extracts from the Civil War tracts which he quotes are given in Mr. Compton Reade's book "A Record of the Redes," to which Mr. Isaac alludes. The book was reviewed in this Journal, Vol. VI., p. 62. An exhaustive search of the Civil War Tracts would probably reveal some contemporary account of the siege. That Compton Reade defended the house, and that it was for this that he was given his baronetcy, are statements which, at present, rest solely on tradition. I have not seen the book by Mr. Maurice Reed, of Boston, to which Mr. Isaac refers, but I believe that it is altogether untrustworthy, as is another American work "The History of the Read Family in England and America," by Jacob Whittemore Read (Boston, 1864), which I have examined.—H. T. READE.