

of the foundation of the several rowing clubs which have their stations on the Berkshire bank, or gather information about the Regattas, what clubs usually compete, and the distinguished oarsmen who are members of the club. Radley rowing has been done admirably by Mr. Woodgate, famous as an oarsman ; perhaps others will kindly collect some information about the other Clubs and Regattas. This can scarcely be called archæological.

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Disciples of Isaac Walton will welcome the new and cheap edition of WALTON AND THE EARLIER FISHING WRITERS, by a great fisherman, Mr. R. B. Marston (Booklovers' Library, Elliot Stock.) It is certainly one of those "companionable books that tempt us out of doors and keep us there." There is a delightful introduction which shows that what Mr. Marston does not know about fishing is not knowledge, and he introduces us to delightful company, to William Wallace, who turned to fishing for recreation, as did Washington and our Lord Nelson, Dame Juliana Berners with her wondrous baits, Leonard Moscall, the pioneer of fish culture, Michael Angelo, John Denny, Gervase Markham, and a host of others, in addition to Isaac Walton himself, of whose ever-green "The Compleat Angler," Charles Lamb used to say "it might sweeten a man's temper at any time to read."

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The rain, it raineth every day, as I am writing these lines, and the spirits of anglers as well as antiquaries are depressed by the continual downpour. We who live in the Thames Valley have especially cause for rue. My neighbour sums up the situation admirably. "Yesterday," he says, "the river was at the bottom of my garden ; to day, my garden is at the bottom of the river." Nothing more remains to be said.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A lecture on English Village Life, past and present, was given by the Secretary on April 2nd, and on June 5th the Annual Meeting was held, when the officers of the Society were elected, the Reports read, and an admirable lecture

delivered by the President on the history and architecture of Swalcliffe Church, Oxon, illustrated by lantern slides. On June 9th the Society joined with the Newbury Field Club in an excursion to the Battle Fields of Newbury, arranged by the latter Society, and admirably conducted by Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., the historian of that town. Arrangements are being made for an excursion to Malmesbury on July 23rd.

NEWBURY FIELD CLUB.—The Annual Meeting was held on May 15th, when there was a good attendance. Much sympathy was expressed for the President, Mr. Mount, in his sorrow, on account of the death of his brother, the Archdeacon of Chichester. The Secretary reported that the Club had a balance in hand of £57. The officers were re-elected including the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Watts, whose services have been so invaluable. The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield gave his lecture on English Village Life, illustrated by lantern slides. The Report for 1902 and 1903 has just been issued with a full account of the society's work. On June 9th the Club inspected the Battlefields of Newbury, and much enjoyed Mr. Money's exposition of the same.

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Last year this Society celebrated its jubilee year ; it was founded in 1852 under the title of "the North Oxfordshire Archæological Society," and since 1887 it has borne its present name. The Report for 1902 has just been received, and is full of interesting matter. There is an account of the excursion to Ewelme and Wallingford, of a curious rood at Somerton Church and the Juxton Coat-of-Arms at the Rectory. A Watlington Court Roll of the 15th century is described by Mr. Pearman. Mr. Manley tells of the fortunate recovery of a missing page of the Merton Registers, and the report concludes with a letter from James II., found in a cupboard in the Town Hall, Woodstock, relating to the defence of the country against the invasion of William of Orange.

