

## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

READING ABBEY.—I have just returned from visiting the ruins of Reading Abbey which interested me much, after an interval of *sixty* years. I was young at that time, and am now 86 years old, but I remember with vivid interest a remarkable little circumstance connected with that former visit. I am not aware whether it is generally known, so I think I will just mention it. I was on a visit at Wargrave to my cousins, Mr. John George Phillimore and his wife. With her, I drove over to Reading and saw the Abbey Ruins. The gateway specially attracted us, and in those days there were vestiges which do not now exist. One arrested my attention. It was a hole in the earth at the spot where now begins the staircase, that leads, I understand, to the room of the Archæological Society above. As I stood looking at it, I observed a boy standing near. He appeared to be an intelligent lad, about 11 or 12 years old. I asked him what the hole was. He said "It leads to an underground passage which is said to have gone under the river to Caversham Park." "Have you ever been down there?" I said. "Yes," said he, "my father is a mason, and I went down with him several times last year, to bring up bricks from the walls for building." "Did you find anything curious?" I said. "Yes," said he, "one day we found a skeleton bricked up *in the walls*." I turned and looked at my cousin, Mrs. Phillimore, who had just been reproaching me with being somewhat prejudiced about the deeds committed in monasteries.—THEODORA HELYAR, Penwood, Branksome Park, Bournemouth.

BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD.—A remarkable, and in more than one respect unusual, specimen of a bronze spear-head was dredged from the Thames below Boulter's Lock, Berks, near Taplow Mills, about the end of last March, and is now in the British Museum. It measures  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, but the socket which retains remains of the wooden shaft is broken, so one can only conjecture that the blade occupied about two-thirds of the entire length, and on this basis the entire length would be between twenty-three and twenty-four inches. In form it somewhat resembles an Irish example illustrated in Sir John Evans' *Bronze Implements*, fig. 400, but the loops joined the base of the blade and were not separated by a space of half-an-inch as in the Irish specimen. The tapering socket is prolonged right to the point and has a decided ridge, while both edges are bended and a row of dots separates the blades from the socket on either face. The base of the blade, which also has rows of dots near the edge, is further ornamented with two conical gold studs on each face, and this feature combined with its excellent workmanship renders the spear-head of

exceptional interest and value. The closest parallel for the gold studs is to be seen in the National Collection on a stone bracer or bowman's wrist-guard found in a barrow at Driffild, E.R. Yorkshire.—RICHARD E. GOOLDEN, F.S.A., Horton Grange, Maidenhead, 17th July, 1903.

Mr. Shrubsole states that this discovery is one of unusual interest. They have nothing like it in the British Museum, and it was doubtless the weapon of some king or chieftain.

### Queries.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—Now that the Dictionary is all printed off, I can devote all my time to the dialect grammar, for which I have already collected a vast amount of material, but it is far from being complete for certain counties, including Berks. I have at present very little reliable material for your County. I have just compiled two word-lists, containing such words as I require the exact dialect pronunciation of, and also a phonetic alphabet. As soon as the pamphlet is finally printed off I can supply any number, and also blank slips on which to write the words and their pronunciations. Every helper, whose material is fairly accurate, will receive a free bound copy of the grammar. I shall be very thankful indeed, if you can kindly help me to find about nine reliable people to represent the dialect pronunciation in the various parts of your County, as North, N.E., N.W., Mid., W., S.W., S., S.E. and East. I am very anxious that the grammar should be as complete and as accurate as possible.—Professor WRIGHT, Langdale House, Park Town, Oxford.

### Replies.

INSCRIPTION ON BELL AT RUSCOMBE.—Your correspondents seem to have overlooked the fact that the name of S. Cletus stands second among those of twelve saints who are commemorated with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Twelve Apostles in the earlier part of the Canon of the Latin Mass: *Memoriam venerantes . . . Lini, Cleti, Clementis*, etc. How could *Clete* possibly stand for an abbreviation of any other name when the name of *Cletus* was so familiar? And what authority leads your three correspondents to agree in the extraordinary idea that *Clemente* is the vocative case of *Clemens*?—J. E. FIELD, Benson Vicarage.

"SANCTE CLETE."—Notwithstanding my reply (in the July number of *The Journal*) to Mr. Ll. Treacher's enquiry as to the inscription "Sancte Clete Or" on a church bell at Ruscombe, I agree with Mr. Algernon Taylor as to its interpretation, viz.: "Saint Cletus pray [for us]." It has been suggested to me that this bell probably belonged to a set named after the first Popes, as there is no record of Cletus, or Anacletus, having any special honour in England or elsewhere; and on the still undecided questions, viz.:—

- (1) Whether Anacletus, who in some lists of Popes follows Clemens, is the same person as Cletus,
- (2) Whether Clemens followed immediately after Linus,

there is high authority for quoting, as the most suitable book to consult, on this subject, Duchesne, *Liber Pontificalis* (ed. 1886), vol. i., pp. i.—xii., lxix.—lxxi., the most commonly accepted opinion now being that the order of the first five Bishops after St. Peter is Linus, Cletus or Anacletus, Clemens, Euaristus, Alexander.—F. T. WETHERED.