



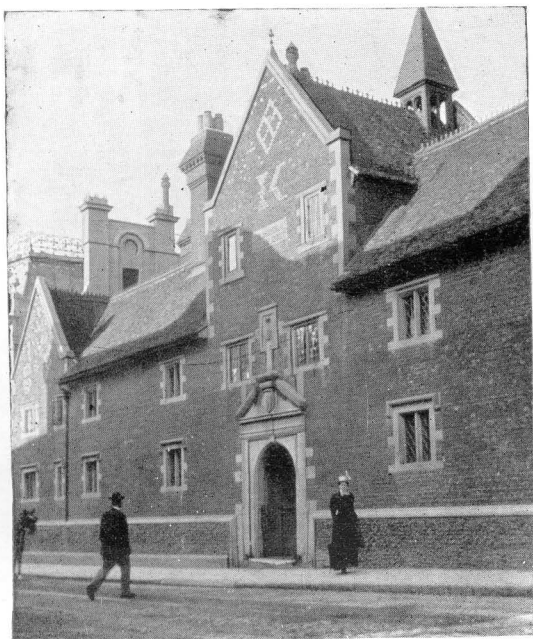
The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Gossip of an Antiquary.

Good news comes to me from Silchester. The fourteenth report tells of the discovery of the principal Baths of the Roman town, a matter of the highest importance. It consisted of a block of many chambers, and included all the usual parts of a Roman bathing establishment, which were arranged much on the same system as a modern Turkish bath. Not only is this block of great importance in itself, but it has undergone various alterations which make its architectural history more than usually interesting. These, can, however, only be adequately shown by means of a series of plans, such as will no doubt be published in the detailed account of the year's work. Attached to the northern end of the baths was a courtyard or cloister, with covered alleys by which it was approached. Time did not permit of this being fully explored last year, but a further examination of it this year has revealed some interesting details, which I hope to be able to see shortly.

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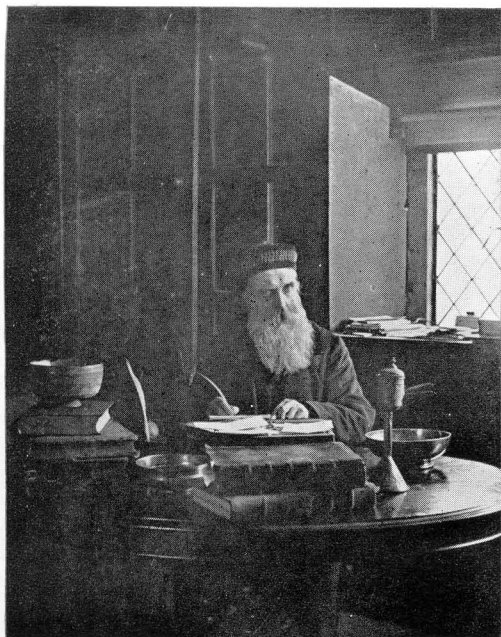
My queries relating to the Berkshire Domesday have called forth one identification. The Rev. A. E. Aldworth, of Laverstock Vicarage, Salisbury, writes as follows:—"Just a line to record the fact that just before reading your Domesday Memoranda,



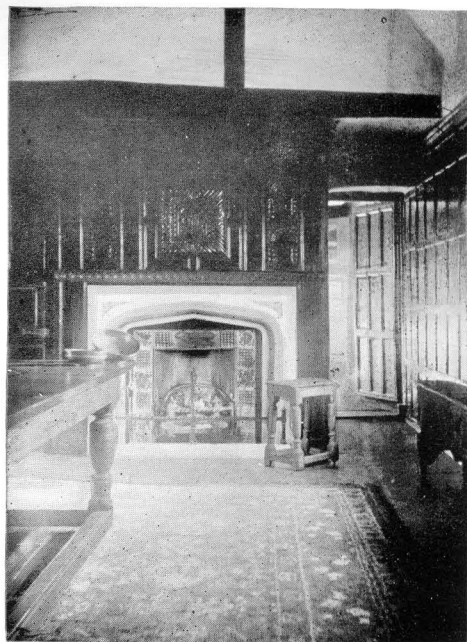
WHITGIFT'S HOSPITAL,
North-East Front.



TITLE PAGE
OF "TREACLE BIBLE,"



THE WARDEN—ALFRED JONES, B.A.,
At Work in his Private Room.



AUDIENCE CHAMBER,
With Door opening into Private Room.

I happened to be looking through 'Berkshire Wills,' when I met with

1562, Willmott, Alice, Lollington, Cholsey.

1553, Willmott, Richard, Lollington, Cholsey.

This, I think, seems very plausible for *Lolindon*."

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My attention has been called to the mistake of which I have been guilty in not mentioning the fact that the names of places, the identification of which was desired, were taken from an uncorrected proof of the new translation of the Berkshire Domesday, which has been just completed for the Victorian County History. Printers' errors are often numerous, and I know not how many of the names have been mis-spelt and altered since they left the pen of the learned writers who made the translation. Perhaps they will pardon me for venturing to quote from the proof before it had been revised by them. The only object of this insertion of the queries in the last number of the Journal was to afford them some assistance in the troublesome task of identifying the places, a task in which local antiquaries can materially assist.

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The threatened destruction of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, in Croydon, has recently been exercising the minds of all lovers of antiquity, and a strong protest has been framed against such vandalism. It is an Elizabethan building in brick, built by John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, incorporated by Royal Charter, and opened in 1599 as a Lay College, for "not exceeding forty poor persons," of the parishes of Croydon and Lambeth, and certain parishes in Kent. The Hospital is in the form of a quadrangle, and consists of a chapel, warden's, brethrens', and sisters' rooms, muniment room, common hall, and kitchen. There were also, adjoining, a schoolhouse and schoolmaster's house, which were demolished in 1898. The ancient building is in excellent preservation, being essentially the same structure as at first. Of the four rooms occupied since Whitgift's death by the Wardens (who have always been poor brethren), the audience chamber is 25ft. long, 15½ft. wide, and 13ft. high, being open to the roof, and panelled throughout in oak, with fine carving over the fireplace. The private chamber and bedroom above are similarly

panelled. The chapel was panelled in 1640, and contains the original hewn benches.

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This interesting and almost unique building stands at the junction of North End and George Street, the main thoroughfares in the centre of the town. Many who know little, and care less, about buildings intimately associated with the history of their own country, clamour for the demolition of the Hospital, alleging that it interferes with the traffic, and the Croydon County Council has accentuated the apparent case for its removal by causing the forecourts of some adjoining buildings, recently pulled down, to be thrown into the road, so that the old structure is now left projecting from the present building line. Against this threatened destruction the committee urge the following considerations: (1) Whatever obstruction there may be, it is not great, and it will be less when the new system of tramways is in working order. (2) It is possible to create alternative routes for foot passengers and vehicles respectively. (3) The value of this fine Elizabethan structure, from historic and artistic points of view, is so great to the townspeople of Croydon, to the County of Surrey, and to the nation, as far to outweigh utilitarian considerations.

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I have received the prospectus of Messrs. Methuen's issue of a new series of volumes dealing with various branches of English antiquities. It is called "The Antiquary's Books." The programme is very attractive. Abbot Gasquet will write an English Monastic Life; Mr. J. Romily Allen on Celtic Art; Professor Windle on the remains of the Prehistoric Age in England. Dr. Munro will treat of the useful subjects of Archæology and False Antiquities, showing how modern methods of comparative archæology may be utilized as a means of detecting erroneous conclusions, whether founded on imperfect observations, false statements, or the actual forgery of objects. The tricks of "Flint Jacks," and other fraudulent persons, will perhaps receive a check, when everybody can detect a forgery. I am glad to notice that a constant and valued contributor to this Journal, Mr. N. T. Hone, has been selected for authorship of the book on "Manors and Manorial Records."

The Booklover's Library thrives apace, and should delight all booklovers. The most recent volume is "Books condemned to be Burnt," by James Anson Farrer (Elliot Stock). To collect something is a large part of the secret of human happiness. Mr. Farrer has collected books that have been burnt, a companion library to that recorded in another volume of this series, containing books fatal to their authors. He has confined himself to English book-fires, and has not included all the works referred to in Peiguot's excellent *Dictionnaire Critique des Livres Condamnes au feu*, a learned work which I am fortunate enough to possess. Many authors shared the fate of their books, as did Leggatt, at Smithfield, and Wightman, at Lichfield, in the time of James I. Our present era is one of universal toleration, and the only fiery ordeal is that of criticism, and the dread of the reviewer has taken the place of all fear of the hangman. There is no lack of books published now-a-days which it would be well to burn, and Mr. Farrer is not far wrong in asserting that with some regulations and restrictions one can conceive that a revival of book-burning would not be without utility.

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A book, extremely valuable to the compiling of American genealogies has just been published. Mr. Fothergill's *List of Emigrant Ministers to America (1690-1811)* published by Mr. Elliot Stock, presents in handy form the names of the ministers and schoolmasters of the Church of England who went to America, having received a bounty of £20 from the king, in order to defray the cost of their passage. It was the desire of the King of England that the new colonies should not lack ministers, and over 1200 are enumerated who received this passage money. The earliest missionary was Robert Hunt, who went out in 1606 to Virginia, but owing to the increase of population it was very difficult for the ministers to provide services for the rapidly increasing colonists. The Virginia Company earnestly sought the aid of the Bishop of London in supplying the colony with "pious, learned, and painful ministers." The reports of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel contain a vast amount of information with regard to the missionary activity of these early days of the Empire. Amongst the names recorded, we notice Goronwy Owen, premier poet of Wales; Robert Stanser, Bishop of Nova Scotia; William White, first American Bishop

of the English line ; Dr. Charles Inglis, first Colonial Bishop of the Church of England, who was the grandfather of the defender of Lucknow ; George Keith, formerly a Quaker, first S.P.G. American missionary, and other illustrious names.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On April 30th Mr. St. John Hope lectured on the excavations at Silchester ; a report of the Meeting appears in the Annual Report of the Society in this Number. On June 16th the Annual Meeting of this Society was held, when the Reports were read, the officers elected, and an able and interesting lecture delivered, by Mr. Llewelyn Treacher, which we hope to publish. It is hoped to arrange excursions to Fairford, Burford and Witney, to Wallingford and Silchester. By a unanimous vote it was decided to raise the subscription of ladies from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

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NEWBURY FIELD CLUB.—The Annual Meeting was held on May 27th, when the officers were elected, and a lecture given by Mr. Nigel Bond, on the aims and work of the National Trust for places of historic interest or natural beauty. The programme for the summer excursions includes a visit to Dorchester Church and the neighbourhood, which will take place on July 11th.