

right and left, saying to them, like a royal highwayman, "Your money or your life!" No doubt his Attorney, in compiling his reports, sought out as many instances as he could find of an earlier and more legitimate employment of his royal master's favourite legal implement. By so doing he has left us an interesting side-light on the history of Maidenhead.

Proceedings of Societies..

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—An important meeting of this Society was held on January 31st, when Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., the General Editor of the Victoria Histories of the Counties of England, visited Reading and gave a lecture on the Volumes relating to Berkshire. After the lecture, the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading held a reception in the Council Chamber and hospitably entertained the members of the Society and the Committee of the Victoria History of Berks to tea. Lord Saye and Sele presided in the absence of Mr. Keyser, and there was a large attendance.

Mr. W. Page outlined the general scheme of the Victoria Histories. There would be, he said, 171 volumes in all, and three extra to the history of London. Twenty-eight had already been published. Four volumes completed the history in the case of most Counties, but in regard to the larger Counties there were five to nine volumes. It took thirty years to complete some of the earlier County histories, but they hoped that ten years or less would see the completion of their series. With regard to former County histories, the compilers did not have the facilities of which they could now avail themselves. A weak point in regard to former County histories was that they were written by one man, and so all the subjects touched upon were not characterised by equal merit. But with regard to the present series they had experts on each subject. It was the late Queen Victoria who gave their Histories the title, and who accepted the dedication of them. The great difficulties they had to overcome were time and space. There had been criticism, and deservedly so, but the critics had not been too severe. It was said that local workers had been ignored. They were only too glad to receive local help. But in a work like that uniformity was essential, and that was impossible unless the work was entrusted to those who were trained in the history, by the history, for the history.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, Editor of the Berkshire volume, spoke of the progress of that work. He said they would have been struck by the magnitude of the scheme devised for the production of that important series of histories. He did not think such a work had ever been done before, or would ever be accomplished again. Hitherto County histories were the result of individual work. But now for the first time there was a thorough system of co-operation; they had ransacked the documents at the Record Office and other collections of annals, and the process had cost a vast amount of time, energy and money. Store houses had been made to yield up their treasures which would be disclosed in the County histories. He was sure Mr. Page was the right man in the right

place, and well worthy of the great and important task committed to his care. As regarded the Berkshire volume, that contained special articles by specialists upon some of the principal features of Berkshire history. Several of the writers were Berkshire men. It was possible, however, for specialists to make mistakes, and there were one or two errors which had been brought to his knowledge, and the following volumes would contain the necessary corrections. By some error on the part of Mr. Cornish, the fallow deer in Calcot Park had been converted into red deer, as Mr. Benyon had pointed out. Mr. Cornish, however, was a great naturalist and a great worker, and the world was the poorer by his early death, probably brought about by overwork. They would readily understand that the production of those beautiful volumes and the services of expert writers could not be obtained for nothing. As an investment the possession of the volumes would be a good bargain, but from a patriotic point of view he thought they should obtain the only complete history of the County published, or likely to be published for long years to come.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County proposed and the Archdeacon of Berkshire seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

On February 28th, the Rev. Alan Cheales read a paper on the Roman quern and pottery which had recently been discovered at Prospect Park. These objects were exhibited, and Mr. Wells, the owner of the property, and Mr. Collyer, Curator of the Reading Museum, laid stress on the importance of the discovery, and the probability of finding some Roman building on the site. The Rev. J. Howe then gave a lecture on Winchester Cathedral, illustrated by lantern slides, which had been kindly lent by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester.

On March 22nd, Captain Henderson gave a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on his recent Tour in Norway.

On April 18th, Mr. C. Forbes will lecture on the Churches of Essex. This will be the annual meeting, when the reports will be read and the business of the Society transacted.

Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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.

Notes.

ROMAN REMAINS IN READING.—After the lecture in February two of the officers of the Berks Society visited the site of the discovery of the quern, and when they were there some fragments of pottery and bones were found. It is hoped that excavations will be made there shortly.