

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.

HISTORICAL PAGEANT AT OXFORD.—Those who witnessed the Sherborne pageant will flock to Oxford on June 27th to see the Oxford play, which promises to be profoundly interesting. It is a delightful way to study history, and to realise the scenes which formerly took place on ground familiar to us. The wealth of Oxford history is so great that the promoters will have some difficulty in devising scenes enough by which to display it; but so many experts are engaged in the production that it is bound to be successful.

STONOR PARK, HENLEY.—An interesting descriptive account of Stonor Park was recently given in the *Henley Chronicle*, from which the following extracts are taken:—One of the most interesting old mansions near Henley is Stonor Park, the ancestral home of the Stonor family, of which Lord Camoys is the head. Situated in a beautiful deer park, surrounded by beech woods and hills, is the house, a picturesque red brick mansion in the form of a triangle, covered with creepers, and built against the side of a hill. The entrance hall is of large dimensions, approached by circular stone steps. On the staircase that leads out of the hall is some fine tapestry, an old picture of Catherine Lady Abergavenny and her daughter, the Hon. Elizabeth Nevill, who married Thomas Stonor in 1654. The gallery at the top of the stairs is about 65 feet long, and contains numerous family portraits, one of the oldest being that of Launcelot Stonor in armour. In the gallery are also some glass cases containing some very interesting manuscripts, amongst others the Charter of Free Warren from King Edward I. to John de Stonor in 1295; a Charter granted by Sir Thomas de Camoys in 1369 to Robert Wall of all his lands in Bakeham, in the County of Norfolk (this was the Thomas de Camoys who had command of the left wing of the English Army at Agincourt); a pardon to Thomas Stonor from King Henry VI., in 1456; letters patent of King Henry VIII., with translated copy, granting certain lands in Nettlebed, in the 36th year of his reign, and an award with the King's sign manual in the top left-hand corner; and "A true relation of a late skirmish at Henley-upon-Thames, wherein a great defeat was given to the Reading Cavaliers lately assaulting the aforesaid tower of Henley." At the end of the gallery is the library, and among interesting volumes are Napoleon's memoirs, dictated by himself in 1823. In the drawing room further on is a cabinet containing valuable Wedgwood china, and a very curious clock, purchased at one of the Paris exhibitions. In one of the rooms in the wall is concealed a trap-door leading to what is termed the "Priests' hole." The chapel attached to Stonor dates from the fourteenth century. The vault of the Stonor family is in the aisle of the chapel. There is a curious story connected with the almshouses in the village. It is said that in the reign of Edward III. a Vansittart and a Stonor had a bet, and whoever lost was to build almshouses in the village and give £50 a year in perpetuity for the maintenance thereof. Stonor won the bet, and the Vansittarts had to pay the money.

ROMAN NEWBURY.—A discovery has recently been made attended with greater than ordinary interest on account of the comparatively few relics of the Romano-British period which have been found in Newbury, with the exception of the rare examples from the Cemetery near the Goods' Station, and from the fact that it somewhat supports the view advanced elsewhere by the writer of these notes that the Roman colonists occupying the British hill-station at Spinæ extended it to the holding of the ford-way over the Kennet from whence sprang the "New-Bourg" on the site of the present town. The building operations in a field on the south side of the main road leading out of Newbury to Enbourn,

westward of the Grammar School, have brought these evidences of Roman settlement to light, implying this spot to have been a burial-place of that period. The relics discovered consist of the débris of a large number of Romano-British cinerary urns—at least twenty being represented by portions unearthed in rims, sides, and bases. Part of the moulded rim of one of these sepulchral urns shows that it had a diameter at the mouth of about 10 inches, and another piece of a more ornate character in which we recognise the graceful work of the Roman artist is about the same size, as were also two or three other somewhat similar vessels. A pan for a cinerary urn was also present, but it fell to pieces on being removed from the soil. All the cinerary urns represented, and which contained the burnt bones of the dead, are good kiln-baked, wheel-turned Romano-British ware, of hard texture, in blue-black, which was produced by baking it in the smoke of vegetable substances—the clay being mixed with portions of broken shells. This kind of pottery, much used for sepulchral purposes, and known as Upchurch ware, is so called because made on the tract of land now known as the Upchurch Marches on the river Medway, below Chatham. There are also pieces of fawn-coloured New Forest ware, and others of red ware, probably made from clay in the neighbourhood. Another interesting item was a portion of a Roman flanged tile of finely tempered clay, seven eighths of an inch thick, scored on the outside, apparently for the purpose of being fixed more tenaciously by the mortar, and bears the impress of the maker's thumb in handling the tile before burning. The urns had apparently been deposited in rows, nearly parallel to the road, at an average depth of about 18 inches from the existing surface, and the broken state in which they were found was no doubt owing to the repeated ploughing operations which in past days went on just above them—the field having been formerly a part of the ancient common lands of Newbury, before the enclosure. In Roman times interments were both by inhumation and cremation, both usages having been adopted simultaneously, but the latter practice and burying the ashes in urns seems to have predominated. That both these customs prevailed on the site in question we have direct evidence in the fact that in addition to the cinerary urns numerous human remains were found, some of which are amongst the broken pots placed in the Museum. It may also be added that the Roman invariably courted the proximity of the living, for he always by preference sought to establish his last home as near as possible to the most frequented road, as in this case, and the inscriptions on his roadside tomb often contained appeals to the passers by—in terms such as "*Siste viator*" (stay, traveller), or "*Tu quis-quis es qui transis*" (thou, whoever thou art who passest)—to think on the departed. No coins have at present been noticed, but there are no doubt many in the soil, as they were invariably buried with the dead, in conformity with the superstitious belief that they would expedite the soul across the lake in Hades. The magic power of money in all connections with human life originated this custom. Such are the principal facts relating to this find, so far as a slight investigation has proceeded, but it is hoped that careful attention will be given to the excavations as they proceed, in the hope of disclosing some of the further buried secrets of the locality. In the meantime, thanks are due to Mr. Allee, the owner of the land for the facilities he has most readily afforded.

The conjecture that further investigations on the Enbourn Road site were likely to result in the disclosure of the walls of a villa or other structure has been since verified; and if the objects obtained are not of great archaeological importance, there has been rescued from oblivion the remains of the first building belonging to the Roman era discovered in Newbury.

At a depth of 2ft. from the surface the workmen in removing the top soil came upon a piece of undeniably Roman wall, about 12ft. in length, running east and west, 1ft. 6in. in depth, and resting on the virgin gravel, which formed a sufficiently good base to build upon without any artificial foundations. On this firm footing the wall was built of flint rubble interspersed with large blocks of chalk, which had evidently been grouted in with fresh liquid mortar and the whole hardened into a solid mass. It was apparent that the wall had been disturbed at some time or other down to this point, and in other places entirely removed, for the sake of the material. Above the walling was a large quantity of the debris of the fallen building in which indications of fire were very frequent, and a remarkable variety of broken pottery, roofing, floor, and flue tiles, the latter showing that the villa possessed an hypocaust, the Roman method of heating a house. The pottery ranged from the coarse brown and black unglazed jars, used for culinary purposes, to the so-called Samian ware and the necks, handles, and rims of stone jars, jugs, and bottles attest the use the Romans made of these articles. The ornamentation was diversified, and an effective design on one of the jars consists of a series of fine parallel lines in various combinations. Numerous roofing tiles were found, with the flanges turned upwards, and several quite perfect inverted semi-cylindrical ones to go over the joints and keep out the wet. One of the roofing tiles possesses a special interest from having certain inscribed letters upon it, scratched on the clay before firing, which most probably indicates the name of its maker. There were also many floor tiles, 1in., 1½in. and 2in. thick, of the common sizes, namely, 7½in., 13in. and 18in. square; also bonding, and flanged wall tiles. Many portions of the stucco, which had covered the walls of the villa internally, and had been painted in fresco with various colours were found amongst the rubbish, and lumps of concrete or *opus signinum*, composed of lime, sand, small stones and powdered brick. Among the animal remains was the jaw of a short-horned Roman ox. Running across the fields at different angles are shallow trenches, of an obtusely V-shaped section, and about 3ft. deep, containing black earth, which may be due to the lines of surface drains. One Roman coin was found—a third brass, but in a condition of decay which rendered the inscription illegible. The inevitable Roman snail—*Helix Pomatia*—was present. This species is daily exposed for sale in the Paris markets. There was also found a bone mesh needle, made of the print of a red deer antler, and several tusks of the boar.

The site was a beautifully chosen one, on the rising ground between the Kennet and the plateau of the Wash, opposite the Roman station of *Spinæ*, and sheltered from the damp winds of the west by the heights of Enbourn and Hamstead, where several Roman cinerary urns were found some years ago. Since the above was written the wall has been traced for a distance of 70ft., running east and west.—WALTER MONEY.

Queries.

CAN any of your readers supply me with the following particulars?

- (1) The marriage of William Allen between 1649 and 1654 in Berks, Bucks, Oxon, or Herts.
- (2) The Howes of Berks in the 17th Century. They held "Howes House of Paynes" in Frilford, and are believed to have been settled elsewhere in Berks, and to have assisted in the sale of Monastic estates.

—COMPTON READE, Kenchester Rectory, Hereford.

BERKSHIRE MANORS.—I am trying to find out where in Berkshire the Manors of Hertrugge, Tydecombe and Haselwyk are. In Hen. V. and VI. "Joh'es Romayn Ar' and Isabella quce fuit uxor Johannis Romayn" owned them. The name is really Romney. I have been advised to ask you, and I will be greatly obliged if you can tell me anything. I cannot find the places on the maps.—LAURA ROMNEY BENNETT, 32, Sandmere Road, Clapham, S.W.

ON a monument erected in 1698, removed from the old to the new Church at Stoke Mandeville Bucks, is a very quaint and touching reference to the death of four "tender babes," children of Edmund Brudenell, commencing with these words:—

" Cruell death by mortall blades,
Hath Slaine foure of my tender babes."

What does "blades" refer to?—F.L.R.

DENCHWORTH.—I received the vol. of the Journal by mail yesterday, and am exceedingly pleased with it, the beautiful photographs are in the very best style, and I am thankful that I happened to catch sight of the announcement of publication. The description of Letcombe Regis Church and the fine illustrations are very interesting to us: my great-great-grandfather, Charles Gearing, having lived and died there (1778) and his father before him. They are described as of "West Challow, parish of Letcombe Regis." Our ancestor, Gregory Geering, is described as of Denchworth Manor: he died in 1690, and his son Gregory is said to have married Martha Hibberd, of Sutton Courtney. They appear to have descended from one John Gearing of Shrivenham (1475): so that we have some natural right to be interested in Berkshire. I should be exceedingly obliged for anything about Denchworth that might come in your way, if not troubling you.—HENRY GEARING, Atlas Works, Cape Town. 13th March, 1907.

JENNINGS FAMILY.—I daresay you have a "Notes and Queries" department in your publication, and you may besides know many Searchers of Parish Registers, etc., who may come across the following facts, which I have, so far, failed to get at.

Henry Constantine Jennings married *about* 1767 Juliana, dr. of . . Atkinson. She died at *Wargrave*, Berks, and is buried in the Jennings vault at *Shiplake*, Oxfordshire, 31st Oct., 1769, leaving one child, *John Henry Jennings*. *Wargrave* is only a short distance from *Shiplake*, which estate was occupied by the mother of Henry Constantine Jennings.

As these Jenningses were descended from John Jennings, Alderman and Mayor of Reading, who died 1643, it is just possible that a *Berkshire* Society may have pedigrees or notes *not* published throwing light on this matter; but everything relating to the family and a *history* of it will be welcome.

There is a very fair pedigree in the History of *Shiplake*, by Mrs. Climensson, but we were quite unable to get the Marriage and Baptism as above; and we think they will only be got by Searchers in genealogy coming on them by accident.

P.S.—I have ALL the burials, and only want the marriage and the baptism to make the pedigree complete.—E. JENNINGS (grandson of the above John Henry J.), 83, Park Lane, Tottenham, London, N.

Replies.

THOMAS CRACROFT, D.D., was the third son of George Cracroft of Fulnetby and Burgh, Lincolnshire. He entered at Lincoln College, Oxford, and was appointed a Fellow of Magdalen College by the Parliamentary Visitors in 1648; M.A., 1648; B.D., 1660; D.D. at Cambridge by Royal Mandate, 1678. His will was proved at York, 5 Aug., 1704. He resigned his Fellowship in 1657. For further particulars see Vol. IV. of the new series of the *Register of Magdalen College*, 1904, pp. 60—1.—W. D. MACRAY.

THOMAS CRACROFT, S.T.P., 1686.—See *Macray's Register of Members of Magdalen College, Oxford, New Series*, Vol. IV., p. 60. Frowde, London, 1904.—J. R. MAGRATH, Queen's College, Oxford.

BERKSHIRE MANORS.—The Manors of Hertrugge and Tydecombe are in the parish of Kintbury. Indeed they are identical. The manor of Tidcomb was held in the time of Henry V. and VI. by the families of Hertrugge, Burton, Romaine and Long. I do not know the Manor of Haselwyk; perhaps it is Haseley in another County.—EDITOR.

Reviews.

THE LAW CONCERNING NAMES AND CHANGES OF NAMES, by A. C. Fox-Davies and P. W. P. Carlyon-Britton, F.S.A. (Elliot Stock).—This is a very useful handbook for all those who are concerned in the changing of surnames. Those who benefit under the wills of deceased persons who make it a condition that the fortunate recipients shall assume the name of their benefactors, lawyers who are concerned in such transactions, and the general public who are interested in heraldry and genealogy, will all find much to interest them in this volume, which, as far as we are aware, is the only popular work dealing with this abstruse subject. The names of the authors are a guarantee that the information given may be thoroughly relied upon.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN BERKSHIRE, by J. E. Vincent (Macmillan and Co.).—The best feature of this book is the illustrations by Mr. F. L. Griggs, which are admirable. Berkshire people looked forward to the issue of this work with pleasurable expectations, but have reason to be woefully disappointed. A large part of the County is practically untouched. It is somewhat extraordinary that anyone should have undertaken a work of this nature who possesses none of the qualifications necessary for its compilation. The writer possesses a fluent pen and writes pleasantly, showing a certain amount of humour, but he has not taken his task very seriously. He roams about a corner of the county, and makes random reflections upon what he sees. His idea of the origin of place-names are wild, perverse and nonsensical. He knows nothing about archæology or architecture, and is more at home in describing motor-car shows and such like things. His pages are never dull, and it is always interesting to read novel impressions concerning familiar objects, if one were not continually exasperated by ignorant statements and occasional lapses in the matter of taste. We wish that the book were better than it is, and if Mr. Vincent had taken more care in writing the book, had studied the subject more thoroughly, and had abstained from wild and foolish theories, he might have produced a book more worthy of the County, and more worth reading.