

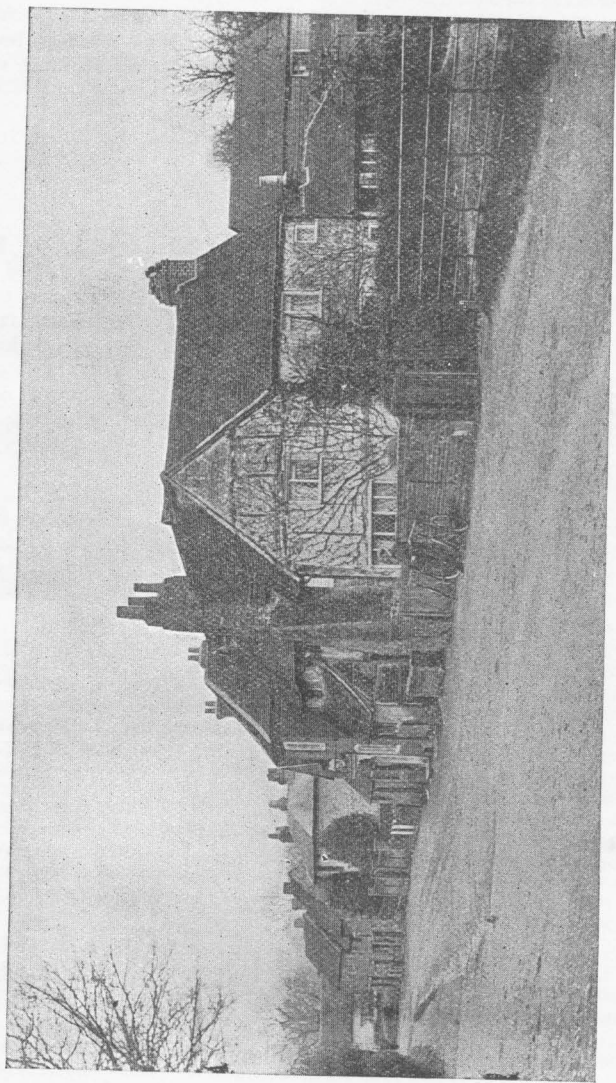
OXFORDSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Reports for the year 1906 and the transactions of this venerable Society founded in 1852 have just been received. The annual excursion is described, Fairford, Poulton, Eastington and Cirencester being visited. The report has notes on John Milton and Foresthill, the Dedication of churches with some notes as to Village Feasts and old customs in the deaneries of Aston and Henley, etc. The transactions contain a learned account of the Charlton-on-Otmoor open fields by the Rev. C. E. Prior, rector of the parish.

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## Reviews.

PENN'S COUNTRY AND OTHER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SKETCHES, by E. S. Roscoe.—The author of this pleasantly written work is a distinguished local antiquary, and knows his county well. His book is a most useful and attractive guide to a delightful part of England which, owing to increased recent railway facilities, has been rendered more accessible. Penn's country includes the village of Penn, the historic Jordans, the meeting-house and burial place of the Quakers, among whom rests the body of William Penn, the picturesque villages of Chalfont-St. Giles and Chalfont-St. Peter, the former associated with the poet Milton, and both with Penn and his friends. We should have liked a more extended account of these historic villages, and the sketches are all too short, but we are grateful to the author for what he has written, which pleasantly recalls the memories of delightful pilgrimages to the places described in this book. He tells again of Stoke Poges and the poet Gray, of Bulstrode and the Portlands [for a full account of this our readers are referred to Mr. Powell's articles in the *Home Counties Magazine*], of Dropmore and Lord Grenville. Beaconsfield recalls the memories of the high-minded Statesman, Edmund Burke and the intriguing politician, and superficial though graceful poet Waller. No Bucks book would be complete without an account of John Hampden and his home, though Mr. Roscoe tells us nothing that is new. This observation applies to most of the chapters, but the descriptions are so pleasantly written that we can pardon the author for omitting much that might with advantage have been recorded. The opening of the chapter on Chenies is misleading, when the author speaks of the departing of its peculiar charm owing to the railway. The village has remained entirely unaltered since the opening of the railway eighteen years ago, and not a brick has been laid at the station he names, or between it and the village. In the chapter on Creslow he might have told us something of its association with the Knights Templar. On page 7 *cerimus* is doubtless a misprint for *cernimus*. The illustrations are excellent, and add greatly to the value of the book, which should be heartily welcomed by all Buckinghamshire readers.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, NOTES AND IMPRESSIONS, by H. J. Dukinfield Astley, M.A., Litt. Doc. (Elliot Stock), 1s. 6d. net.—Mr. Astley's book appears opportunely on the eve of the Pageant which is about to take place in the historic town of St. Edmundsbury. It is not a guide-book; it is not a formal history; but it tells in a pleasing style about the most striking scenes which have been enacted in the town, the story of the famous Benedictine Abbey, and of the martyrdom of the Saint from whom the town derives its name. The most valuable part of this little book is the accurate description of the remains of the monastic house. Visitors to the pageant will be glad to follow the footsteps of Mr. Astley, who is a careful and accurate guide, and to learn from him the story of the famous Suffolk town which is associated with so many important events in English history.



MILTON'S COTTAGE AT CHALFONT-ST. GILES.  
From "PENN'S COUNTRY."

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