

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On Wednesday, August 7th, the Society journeyed to Wiltshire and visited a delightful region in the neighbourhood of Chippenham and Calne. A large party assembled at the Great Western Railway Station at 9.51 a.m., and a speedy journey was made to Chippenham, where carriages were in waiting to convey the antiquaries to the church, which was described by the President. Then the drive was continued to Calne, when a visit was paid to the interesting church, and luncheon was served at the "Lansdowne Arms." In the afternoon the Berkshire archæologists were permitted by Lord and Lady Lansdowne to visit Bowood, one of the latest works of the Brothers Adams. It is a noble house, and contains many rare paintings. H.M. King Edward had just concluded his royal visit to Bowood, and his signature was eagerly scanned in the visitors' book. The gardens were thrown open for inspection, and hearty thanks were expressed to the noble owners for the privilege of being allowed to inspect the beautiful interior of their fine mansion, a privilege which is rarely accorded. A long drive through the park, which contains magnificent beech trees, and over the highest country in Wilts, conducted the party to the most interesting house, Lacock Abbey, where they were welcomed by the owner, Mr. Talbot, and his niece. It would take too long to tell the story of this mansion, which was graphically described by Mr. Talbot, and all its many interesting features pointed out. Tea was served in the hall, and after a visit to the church the President expressed on behalf of the Society the grateful thanks of the members to Mr. Talbot and his niece for their great kindness. The party then drove back to Chippenham, and thence by train to Reading. The excursion was pronounced to be one of the most successful that the Society has ever enjoyed, and many pleasant recollections will linger in the minds of all those who took part in it.

The Summer Session was concluded with a half-day Excursion to Bucklebury and Stanford Dingley, which was much enjoyed by many members. Journeying by train to Midgham, the party then took up their carriages and drove to Bucklebury where they were met by Mr. Webley Parry, Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., the Vicar and Mrs. Thorpe and others. Mr. Money gave a graphic account of the history of the Manor and kindly presented each member with a copy of his paper. The remains of the old house were inspected, and the President described the Church. Stanford Dingley Church is especially interesting with its mural paintings, brasses and curious encaustic bricks, of which Mr. C. de Lacy Lacy has sent us some interesting notes. The President and the Vicar described the Church. Mr. and Mrs. Keep kindly entertained the members to tea at their house, Ferrises, and their hospitable entertainment brought an interesting programme to a close.

NEWBURY DISTRICT FIELD CLUB.—One of the most successful excursions which this Society has ever had took place on September 12th, when the members visited Sudeley Castle, the seat of Mr. H. Dent-Brocklehurst. A full account of the excursion has appeared in the local press, and it is perhaps unnecessary to repeat what has already been so well recorded. The Secretary is to be congratulated on the success of his arrangements.