



Romano British Berkshire.

It is very gratifying that so much interest has been taken in the Berkshire volumes of the Victoria County Histories, and that consequently they have elicited so much criticism. I have before me Mr. Harold Peake's review of the article in the Roman Remains of the county, which contains many points of interest, but Mr. Peake does not quite appreciate the fact that a straight piece of road followed by a straight fence and a county or parish boundary is not alone sufficient to constitute the line of a Roman road. It seems to me a pity that he and others like him spend much mental energy in theorising on the supposed lines of Roman roads when they might in many instances settle the matter definitely with a pick and shovel. If when, Mr. Peake, thought he saw the large flints embedded in gravel at Peaked Lot, he had had a trench cut and so exposed the surface of the road, if it existed, and repeated the experiment at other points along the line of the supposed road, some definite results would have been attained at a very slight cost. From the experience I have had I feel sure that landowners will generally allow any reasonable excavation to be made.

I am obliged to Mr. Peake for his corrections with regard to Bussock Camp being in Winterbourne parish, though I am told that the 6in. Ordnance Map (Ed. 1900 Berks. XXXV, N. W.) shows it in Chieveley parish.

The hoards described under Chaddleworth and Welford, which Mr. Peake states are the same, are described, the former in *Arch. Journ.* VII, 87 as consisting of 100 coins, and the latter in *Trans. Newbury Field Club* II, 60 as consisting of 800 coins. Mr. Peake is, no doubt, from his local knowledge correct, but from the reports the fact is not apparent.

Stanmore Farm is shown on the Ordnance map, in Brédon parish, as Mr. Peake points out, but I was led astray by Dr. Palmer who placed it in his report in East Ilsley parish.

The reference to "The Berkshire Ridgeway" should have been to "Blackwood," September, 1883.

WILLIAM PAGE.