



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.

A CURIOUS FIND NEAR NEWBURY.—There has recently been found, in digging the ground at "Gorselands," the residence of Mr. Alfred Jackson, J.P., part of the first battlefield of Newbury, a set of nine small brass bells, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, and scored with indented lines. Six out of the seven, two having been lost, bear the letter R., and on one is the broad arrow. From the locality it may have been supposed that they belonged to the Civil War period, but as the broad arrow was not used as a mark for government goods until 1698, the bells, if any part of army equipment, most probably date from 1745, when five or six thousand troops were encamped on the Wash for some time during the Scotch Rebellion. Many relics of this date have been found on the Common.

PARISH DOCUMENTS AT WARBOROUGH, OXON.—Several documents of considerable interest are preserved in the parish chest at Warborough. The earliest is a beautifully written and well preserved charter, on parchment, of Pope Martin IV. dated in the fourth year of his pontificate (1284), addressed to Roger de Draythton, dean of the chapel of St. Nicholas in Wallingford Castle, confirming a grant of certain rents in Warborough and Shillingford made to that chapel by Edmund Earl of Cornwall for the maintenance of six chaplains, six clerks, and four taper-bearers (*ceraferarii*). There is also a lengthy inquisition, relating to the lands on which these rents are charged, taken at Bensington 7 Henry VI. (1429). A memorandum of later date, written on a loose sheet, is worth transcribing, though the chief fact which it records has been frequently mentioned in works relating to Oxfordshire and to Dorchester in particular. It is as follows :—

Be it Remembered

That In the Year 1766 March and April Thos. Beisley and Willm. Wickens Dug up some old Foundation Walls in Boywere furlong By Prissmoor Lane in the Lower field of Warborough in the County of Oxford, which Ground Platt was measured by Edwd. Beaper, Clerk, and the North and South Sides wall was 64 Feet Long, being longest that way. And the East and West Sides Measures 60 foot 6 Inches, in Length (or width) this being the Shortest Side. And there was also at the Same time a Stone Coffin with Dry bones in, and

other Carcases found in Church Piece, and Foundations of old walls, and a Small flower Pot found in the Coffin By Order of Mr. Benjamin Bisley (or Beisley) was Buried again. These Memorials was Dug up when the Revd. Doctor Francis Randolph was Minister of Warborough, and Edward Beaper Parish Clerk at that time.

It may be well to explain that Priestmoor or Prissmoor Lane leads from Overy in the parish of Dorchester eastward to Warborough; in its western part it is the boundary between those two parishes; and it is traditionally said to be the road by which the priests went from Dorchester to Warborough Church, this being one of the churches which were served from the Abbey. At the eastern end of Priestmoor Lane an old track leads north-eastward, and in the angle between them is Boyvere (now knowe as Boyvere) Furlong, where the foundations of the square building were found. The north-eastward track already mentioned passes between Boyvere Furlong and Church Piece which lies between this track and the tributary river Thame. The Ordnance Map marks the spot as that in which the stone coffin was found. This is one of the two stone coffins now lying in the nave of Dorchester Abbey Church.

Warborough Church was founded as a chapel of Bensington (Benson) early in the thirteenth century, two miles west of the mother-church. Possibly it then superseded the church of which "Church Piece" preserves the name, and which was a mile further west, close to Dorchester. Between the two, rising northward from Priestmoor Lane, is "Town Hill", presumably the site of the original "turn" which has been superseded by the village of Warborough (Ward-burg) south of it. That Church Piece always belonged to Warborough (in Bensington), and not to Overy (in Dorchester), may be inferred from the improbability of any change having been made in the boundaries since the time when the lands of the bishopric were first severed from the royal manor of Bensington by King Cynegils in the seventh century.—J. E. FIELD.

Queries.

STOCKS.—Will some one kindly send names of places where stocks, pillories, or whipping-posts still exist in the three counties?—P.H.D.

OLD HOUSES.—I should like to compile a list of all the old halls and mansions which were pulled down or destroyed by fire during the last century.—P.H.D.

CHURCHES.—Descriptions of Vandalism wrought in churches during "restoration" would be greatly valued.—P.H.D.

WILLIAM COATES, M.D.—Will some reader give me some further particulars of the Rev. Charles Coates, the historian of Reading? He was a (young?) brother of a great-grandfather of mine, William Coates, M.D., of London and Andover, and was born at Reading about the year 1745, his father being John Coates, "Fabri Antomatarii" of London. The "Dictionary of National Biography" gives the date of his death as 7th April, 1813, but the inscription

on his tombstone in Osmington Churchyard states that he died on the 14th, aged 65. As by the Parish Register he was buried on the 20th, I have no doubt that the date on the tombstone is correct. If any one can tell me where he was baptised, I should be greatly obliged.—HERBERT F. RAE, R.N., Smewins House, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead.

Reviews.

HOUSE MOTTOES AND INSCRIPTIONS, by S. F. A. Caulfield (Elliot Stock), 1908.—This is a new and revised edition of an interesting book which was reviewed in this JOURNAL on the occasion of its first issue. The subject is a most fascinating one, and Mrs. Caulfield has gleaned far and wide including house mottoes captured in foreign lands as well as those in the British Isles. We need not repeat the commendations which were passed on its first appearance, but we must regret that the glaring errors which we then pointed out have not been corrected in this "new and revised edition." The authoress apparently does not know Latin; it would not have been difficult for her to have obtained the aid of someone to aid her in removing these terrible blemishes. The translations of Latin mottoes are rather ludicrous, e.g. p. 26 *siti, non ebrietati* over a cellar naturally means for thirst not for drunkenness; but *siti* is something like *satis*, and so we find the translation given as "sufficient", not drunkenness. On the same page *manquam* appears for *nunquam*. The note on p. 130 betrays a strange ignorance. If the book has been revised at all, it is a great pity that it should not have been revised more carefully.

THE PEDIGREE REGISTER, edited and published by G. F. T. Sherwood, 50 Beecroft Road, Brockley, S.E.—Mr. Sherwood's name is well known to our readers as a learned genealogist. His new quarterly for the recording of pedigrees will prove extremely valuable to many who are interested in the history of their families. The current number contains an interesting note by Mr. Ernest Francis, of Reading, on his family. The register contains notes, queries and replies, and inquirers may be sure that if the Editor cannot discover the answers to their queries, those answers are not discoverable.

NELSON'S LIBRARY.—All good antiquarians love to read good novels occasionally, and it would be difficult to find a better selection of cheap copy-right stories than those published by Messrs. T. Nelson and Sons in their "Nelson's Library" at the amazingly small price of 7d. each. It includes excellent novels by such writers as Frank Norris, Msr. Humphrey Ward, Anthony Hope, Sir G. Parker, W. E. Norris, Lucas Malet, and other well-known authors. The type is large and clear and does not weary the eyes, and the books are small and convenient for putting in one's pocket, nor do they look unseemly on the shelves of the library. They are far superior to the ordinary paper-clad sixpenny novels.