

Queries.

DODD FAMILY.—Can any reader supply the parentage or the birthplace of Moses Dodd, of Streatley and Aldworth, who died in 1779, aged 79? He was living at Streatley 1735-9 where three sons were born to him, namely (1) Thomas, who lived at North Stoke and died without issue in 1803; (2) Moses, who lived at Aldworth and died also in 1803, leaving a son Moses, born 1870; and (3) John, who lived at Ipsden and died 1824, leaving a numerous family, several of those descendants remain in the neighbourhood of Wallingford. It is believed that descendants of Moses, the second son, live in the neighbourhood of Wycombe. The elder Moses was not a native either of Aldworth or of Streatley, as far as appears from the parish registers.—J. E. FIELD.

Rebiews.

UNTRAVELLED BERKSHIRE by L. S., illustrations from photographs by Walton Adams (Simpson, Son, Martin & Co.), 7s. 6d.

This is an admirable Berkshire book which will be welcomed by all lovers of the Royal County, and the author who veils his identity under initials has done good service in investigating the story of our more remote villages. We surmise that it is the work of a lady. The sympathetic appreciation of Berkshire character, the quaint talks with bucolic rustics, the light touch with which antiquarian subjects are dealt, form a pleasant feature of the book, and the writer is to be congratulated on the production of a very charming volume.

The author has hit with accuracy upon the special characteristic of Berkshire scenery when he insists upon its diversity and variety, a quality that constitutes so much of its charm.

"Berkshire (he writes) is a country of surprises. Therefore, if Mr. George Moore is right in his definition of happiness as the faculty for being surprised, given the necessary capacity, there is plenty of room and opportunity for felicity in Berkshire. Also . . . the better one gets to know the country, the more this special peculiarity strikes one. No satiety is possible, or any weariness caused by monotony. Not indeed that such a thing as monotony in nature can possibly exist anywhere, except for the merely casual observer. But in Berkshire, even for the casual observer, monotony is absent. I think the feature of variety is one of the chief attractions of the county, even of its charms. Infinite change, infinite interest, endless uncertainty. There are the Downs, over which we have lately been wandering; there is the Thames with all its luxuriance of distinctive beauty, to say nothing of the smaller rivers. Berkshire is well watered. Then there are the woods, the copses of hazel, oak, and beech and alder; there are the fir-woods, solemn, and quiet, and grand, and restful, as some great cathedral; and there are the commons; scenery to suit every mood and every temperament; and to some natures,

certainly, to some moods, I think the commons will especially appeal. The

"Solitary places ; where we taste
The pleasure of believing what we see
Is boundless, as we wish our souls to be."

There are many commons in Berkshire, each one differing from the others, each one possessing its own distinctive features ; each one of them beautiful, so beautiful that it is difficult to decide to which one to give the palm.

He tells of the delights of Crookham Common, of Bucklebury and the Berkshire Rivers, of Aldworth and its effigies, Blewbury and its miser parson, East Ilsley and its Sheep fairs, East and West Hagbourne and much else that delights us about the quiet villages in the Lambourn valley, village industries and the faith of the rustic. The photographic illustrations are excellent.

THE GUNPOWDER PLOT AND THE LIFE OF ROBERT CATESBY, ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF CHASTLETON HOUSE, by Mary Whitmore Jones (London, Thomas Burtleigh) 2s. 6d. The chief interest of this little book is centred in the history of Chastleton House, one of the finest in Oxfordshire, which the writer describes as a veritable "Mansion of ye olden time, and dull indeed must be the mind that can view it without feeling anything of the spell of the old historic past." It was perhaps unnecessary to tell again the oft-repeated story of the Gunpowder Plot which was completely recorded a few years ago by Mr. Philip Sidney in a work reviewed in this journal. The authoress's spirited account of the adventures of Arthur Jones has been printed before in Mrs. Sturge Henderson's *Three Centuries in North Oxfordshire*, in which volume occurs also "the inventory of all and singular the goods and chattles and debts of Walter Jones, &c." here again printed. But there is much of interest in the story of the manor of Chesterton and in the history of the home of the family. It is most satisfactory when the members of old families take such a keen interest in their pedigree and their history and can write so well and worthily of their homes and family traditions.

LANDS AND TYTHES OF HURLEY PRIORY, 1086-1535 by the Rev. F. T. Wethered, (Charles Slaughter & Son, Reading). The author's former work on *St. Mary's, Hurley*, dealing with the history of the Church and Benedictine Priory of Hurley, based on mediæval charters and deeds, will be remembered by most of our readers, in whose libraries it will have found a welcome place. He has increased the debt which Berkshire Antiquaries owe to him by publishing a new volume based upon Hurley deeds and documents preserved among the muniments of Westminster Abbey. These are of great value, and the author has added greatly to their interest by his admirable notes and explanations which show wide reading and great knowledge. From this book we learn much concerning the daily life of a monastery, of the order and regulations of the monks, the duties of the monastic servants, and much else that is of great importance. Hurley Priory had many possessions, and we gather much history of other places, of Pyrton and Clare, Esgarston (which masquerades under the modern corruption East Garston), Streatley, Bucklebury, &c. We are glad to have the complete charter printed in full with the writer's useful and accurate Glossary. A history of the Priors, a description of the seals, a list of vicars, and a diocesan history of Berkshire complete the book. A slip of the pen caused the author to write in the preface that the year 630 saw the commencement of the Diocesan History of Berkshire, instead of the year 635 A.D. Mr. Wethered desires that this very slight error should be noted and corrected.

ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHY.—We have received an admirable catalogue of works on British Topography and Local History from Mr. B. H. Blackwell of Oxford. It is so complete that many collectors may like to know of it.