

our fathers have bequeathed to us, knowing well that the lessons of the past are needed for the welfare of the nation in the progress and developments of the present and future, and that to discard and ignore the national traditions of our country is the sure beginning of demoralisation and disintegration.

The Committee craves the interest and support of every member of the Society. By reading and study, by contributing notes on genealogical or antiquarian matters to our transactions, by constant attendance at our meetings and excursions, by helping to increase our membership, so that we may be enabled to undertake some works of excavation or restoration, and by each member doing his utmost to promote the principles of the Society in his own town or neighbourhood—by all these efforts the work of the Society will be greatly strengthened and the object of our existence attained.

P. H. DITCHFIELD,

Hon. Secretary.

Highways and By-Ways in Buckinghamshire.

*By Clement Shorter, with Illustrations by Frederick
L. Griggs.*

THIS is one of the noted series of volumes published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., denominated the "Highways and Byways Series." They are always welcomed as bright and pleasant reading, containing dry-as-dust information picturesquely described, reflecting the personality of the writer who views his county with his peculiar spectacles, and records the objects which more especially interest him. Some of the volumes can scarcely be taken seriously as contributions to historical or antiquarian research. The Berkshire volume was singularly lacking in all that might be deemed essential to a successful guide book, or a record of the notable

features of the Royal County. The writer always seemed to be in a hurry. His sins of omission were irritating, and his sins of commission displayed a perverted taste and often an entire absence of the knowledge requisite for the due performance of his task. The result was unsatisfactory from every point of view. It is pleasant to turn from it to this admirable volume on the neighbouring county. As a writer of eminence Mr. Clement Shorter is well known. The editor of *The Sphere*, the great authority on Victorian Literature, and especially on the life and work of Charlotte Brontë, he brings to the task the gift of graceful writing, and moreover he knows Buckinghamshire thoroughly, and approaches the story from the human side, recalling the names of the many illustrious men who have been connected with the county. He duly acknowledges the assistance which previous writers have rendered, but has wisely personally visited most of the places he describes, and chronicled the changes time has wrought. Thus we find that Chequers Court is no longer inhabited by the Astley family, that it is at present the home of Mr. A. H. Lee, M.P., and that the Cromwellian relics are no longer there, having been removed quite recently. The origin of the name of the county is traced to a family or tribe of Saxons called Buck, or Bock, therein following the theory the present writer propounded in another book relating to the shire. After a somewhat brief description of its general history, and a record of its most illustrious sons, the author begins his pilgrimage, wandering through the county from village to village, and recording their chief features. Churches, manor houses, mansions pass in view before him, and he has copied many a strange and curious inscription on mural tablet, recorded many a local legend, and given admirable descriptions of some of the heroes of the shire. The interest in our peregrinations is increased by the admirable sketches of Mr. Griggs, who has adorned the book with many beautiful drawings. The author travels from village to village describing all that he sees, though we should like to linger longer with him and crave for fuller details. A few lines only are devoted to the splendid Church at Stewkley, and, if we mistake not, Mr. Shorter is more interested in quaint inscriptions than in architectural details, of which he gives us little information. The following may be taken as an example of his method :—

“From Aston Abbots we get back on to the Wing and Aylesbury Road, whence we may quickly make a short detour to Wingrave. The Church here is the principal attraction. It contains much to

delay us: There is, for example, a rhyming record of a charity in one of the aisles : —

As day doth pass from houre to houre
 Man's life doth fade awaye
 Let every man relieve the poor
 Whilst he on earth doth staye
 Sir Richard Goddard who is dead
 And laid within the ground
 Unto the Poore of Wingrave
 Hath given twenty pound
 The yearly proffit of which stocke
 The poore must have full sure
 And eke the same from time to time
 For ever to endure.

Sir Richard Goddard's charity still obtains, and is now managed by the Parish Council. There is an oak chest in the vestry dated 1684. But the greatest interest of Wingrave lies in the custom of scattering hay or grass in the Church the first Sunday after St. Peter's Day in each year. This custom is still carefully observed, and there is a large congregation. The subject is one that might inspire a latter-day novelist or even a journalist. It had its origin in the fact that an old lady who had lost her way on a wintry night found it again by hearing the Church bells ring, and therefore she left a meadow to endow the quaint custom in question. William Wooley, who was Vicar here from 1753 to 1785, was a great witch-hunter in years when the belief in witchcraft was happily dying out. It is related that during his incumbency Susanna Hannokes, an inoffensive old woman, was accused by one of her neighbours of bewitching her spinning-wheel, so that the owner could not make it go round. This the accuser and her husband insisted upon attesting before a magistrate. The accused was conducted to the Church, stripped of her clothes, even to her shift, and was weighed on a pair of scales, against the Church Bible; but to the great mortification of her accusers she passed the ordeal triumphantly, outweighed the Bible, and was therefore acquitted of the charge against her. The Church is about 800 years old, as is also the font, but the former has obviously been too much restored."

This interesting narrative furnishes a good example of the author's mode of describing a village. We should like to have heard a little more about the Church, which is certainly mainly perpendicular in style, and cannot, therefore, date back to early

Norman times. Some little corrections may be made in a second edition. The Lovetts no longer hold Liscombe Park, that estate having been purchased recently by Mr. Robinson. *Queen Elizabeth* could scarcely have been arrested by her sister Mary. The book will be warmly welcomed by all who love Buckinghamshire. It records in pleasing style many delightful wanderings through the Vale and the charming Chilterns, and will find a foremost place in every library in the county.

Extracts from the Parish Registers of Oxfordshire.

Transcribed by the Rev. Canon Oldfield.

REGISTERS OF THE PARISH OF CASSINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.

Henry Hamlin of Cassington & Margaret Smith of Hincksey were married in the parish Church of St. Mary Magdalen in the suburbs of Oxford by licence, 26 Jan. 1684-5.

June 24, 1687. Thomas Bishop, M.A., of Wadham Coll. in Oxford, being about 30 years of age, was this day buried in the Church, & had a funeral sermon preach'd by me, Ch. Allestree.

A Register of all born in the Parish of Cassington since the 1st of May 1695 who are not known to be lawfully baptiz'd.

(Three entries, viz. : 20 Jan. 1696-7 ; 17 Nov. 1699 ;
29 Dec. 1706).

The Banns of Charles North & Elizabeth Berry were published on 27 Feb. 1780, when "Elizabeth Berry forbid the Banns" but they were married by licence 3 Apr. 1781. So that Charles seems to have persevered and been rewarded.

REGISTERS OF THE PARISH OF EYNHAM, OXFORDSHIRE.

In ye year 1725 ye Parish went ye Perambulation.

In the year 1750 the Parish went the Perambulation.

10 Martij 1664. Edmondus Meyricke vicarius. Ephemeris sive Registrum custodiendum in Archivis Ecclesiæ Parochialis de