

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The work of the Winter Session commenced on November 18th, when Mr. Dodgson, of the University College, Reading, gave an excellent lecture on the history of Blewbury Church, Berks. We hope to publish an account of this lecture, which treated of the history of the Church from a documentary as well as an architectural point of view. The lecture was illustrated by a charming series of lantern slides. The Members of the Society were entertained to tea by the kind invitation of the Rev. G. H. Gwilliam, Rector of Remenham.

On December 8th, Mr. W. G. A. Anderson gave an interesting lecture on Constantinople, Past and Present, illustrated by lantern slides. Tea was served by the kind invitation of the Rev. B. and Mrs. Littlewood.

On January 19th the President intended to lecture on some Berkshire Churches, but he is unfortunately prevented, and Mr. Ditchfield will describe the work of the Historical Monuments' Commission and the need of preserving ancient buildings and other objects of National interest.

On February 17th Mr. Gordon Hills will lecture on Chichester Cathedral, and in March Mr. M. Macartney will lecture on Some Notes on Berkshire Houses.

Reviews.

A HISTORY OF ABINGDON.—By JAMES TOWNSEND, M.A. (HENRY FROWDE, London). *3s. net each volume.*

We have at last been favoured with an important history of the Borough of Abingdon, and congratulate most heartily its author on his achievement. We have had other works on the history of some periods. The Abingdon Chronicle, the story of its Abbey, is a monumental work, which is of immense value to all students of the history of the county. Mr. Bromley Davenport, the learned Town Clerk, has transcribed with much diligence and toil his Records of the famous borough. But this is the first time, as far as we are aware, a continuous sketch of its history, founded upon original research among a mass of unpublished documents, has been published. Mr. Townsend has conferred a benefit on the people of Abingdon and on the students of Berkshire history, which is inextricable. Owing to pressure of space in this number we regret that we are unable to give a full and complete review of this important work, and are compelled to defer further notice until the next issue of our Journal. In the meantime we recommend all our readers to beg, borrow, or — buy a copy of the *History of Abingdon*, wherein they will find much to appreciate, and much to enjoy.

COUNTY CHURCHES (GEORGE ALLEN & SONS, Ruskin House, London).

A new series dealing with the architectural descriptions of the Churches in each County has been inaugurated under the able editorship of Dr. Fox, F.S.A., than whom no more learned expert could have been found for the control and management of this important undertaking. This series of works will be