

## Proceedings of Societies.

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**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.

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## Reviews.

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**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first time, as far as we are aware, a continuous sketch of its history, founded upon original research among a mass of unpublished documents, has been published.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

extremely valuable, not only to ecclesiologists, but to the large and increasing number of educated people who know little of architecture, but who desire to know more, and who need just books of this nature to guide them when visiting a Church, and to enable them to read its architectural story and note its principal features. Ordinary guide books often fail in this respect, and even in such books as the *Highways and Byways* series we read that a village has a "Gothic Church"—that is usually a safe description; or that a Church is "old," or that it is Norman, because it has a Norman doorway; whereas it may possess features of almost every style of Gothic architecture and have very little Norman work at all. This series should correct many errors, and be of immense value to students and the general reader.

The first county treated is *Norfolk*, which the General Editor, Dr. Cox, has himself undertaken. It is a large county, and two volumes have been devoted to the Churches of the county. Even then much compression has been necessary, and doubtless Dr. Cox often wished that he had as large a canvas on which to paint as he had when he wrote his four volumes on Derbyshire Churches. But wisdom has been shewn in the production of these handy little books, which can be conveniently placed in a capacious pocket, and make pleasant companions for a pilgrimage. Such a tour Dr. Cox makes, and after a brief account of the rise and spread of Christianity in East Anglia, the introduction tells where examples of various styles may be found, and gives a list of no less than 125 Churches which have disappeared. And then we travel through the county, taking each Church in order, describing its plan, its restoration, its old work and various styles, piscinas, coffin-slabs, mural paintings, brasses, etc. The only fault we find is that the descriptions make us eager to learn more, and we rather pine for those four volumes with which Dr. Cox treated another county. There is unfortunately too long a list of errata, but a second edition will doubtless soon enable the author to rectify these misprints. The volumes are well illustrated. Some of Mr. Keyser's photographs of Norman doorways which appeared in the *Memorials of Old Norfolk* have been utilised. The books are produced with all the care and beauty for which Messrs. Allen and Sons, Ruskin's publishers, are famous.

**SURREY.**—This volume is by MR. J. E. MORRIS, B.A., a native of the county, who has personally visited all the Churches he has described, as well as availing himself of the many books that have been published relating to the shire. He proves himself an able ecclesiologist, an accurate observer, and his little book will be of great value to all who visit the Churches of Surrey. Other volumes of the series are in preparation.

#### THE MEMORIALS OF THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND (GEORGE ALLEN & SONS).

The same publishers have for some time taken over the publication of this important series, of which the Editor of this Journal is the General Editor. The most recent volumes are: *Leicestershire*, by Miss Alice Dryden; *Lincolnshire*, by Dr. Sympton, F.S.A.; *Durham*, by Mr. H. R. Leighton. Mr. Ditchfield has finished *Gloucestershire*, which will shortly appear, and he has nearly completed two large volumes on the *Counties of England*, containing historical sketches of all the shires, which will be abundantly illustrated.

#### PRINCESS ÆLFRIDA'S CHARITY, by Dr. LANSDELL (BURNSIDE, Blackheath).

This is a charming little sketch of the story of the first five hundred years of the Manor of Old Court, Greenwich, one of the principal possessions of Morden College, written by the learned Chaplain, whose studies of the history of title have been reviewed in these pages. We regret that want of space prevents us from giving any adequate review in this number, but we hope to return to these interesting pages at a later date.