

Proceedings of Societies.

NEWBURY DISTRICT FIELD CLUB ANNUAL MEETING.—The forty-third annual general meeting of the Newbury District Field Club took place on April 28th. The President (Hon. A. E. Gathorne-Hardy) was in the chair, the attendance included: Miss Rose, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., Rev. C. L. Jeayes, Rev. R. B. Dickson, Mr. G. J. Watts (hon. sec. and treasurer), Mr. W. H. Belcher, Mr. W. H. Blacket, Mr. W. E. Lewendon, Mr. Richard Hickman, Mr. F. Comyns, &c.

The President addressed the members, remarking that he had not been able to accompany the club on its excursions last year, owing to being engaged in the National Telephone arbitration. He was able to visit Kingsclere Church with them, and the plate preserved there came as a revelation to him. He fully believed in the retention of such articles for their sacred uses, and did not like to see them transferred to museums or sold to American millionaires. When he became President of the society he did not know that it was so devoted to the study of antiquities, on which he did not profess to be an authority. He was, however, a keen naturalist, and a letter which had been received by the Secretary from the Selborne Society, had prompted him to speak more fully on a matter that he had intended referring to. This letter asked the Club to appoint someone to correspond with the Selborne Society, for the retention of the wild plants of the district. He thought that more could be done in this connection by rousing the interest of people in plant life, and endeavouring to impress upon them that plants were much more beautiful when left to grow in their own natural surroundings. For his own part he was delighted to observe that the practice of watching birds and wild and savage animals in their native haunts had enormously increased of late, and he hoped it would continue to do. Instead of disturbing birds' nests people now photographed them, and the cinematograph exhibition, of wild animals coming to drink at a pool in the desert, recently given in London, was a further proof the advance made in this direction. During the year the Club had lost an old friend in Mr. James Parker, of Oxford, who often accompanied them on their excursions, and who was keenly interested in the archaeology of the district. Regarding this season's excursions, he hoped it would be possible to visit Claydon, a mansion full of antiquities and interesting objects. Mr. Keyser, gave an account of last year's excursion to Gloucester and Tewkesbury with the Berks Archaeological Society, and West Hendred, Harwell and Islley. Mr. Watts then presented the balance-sheet. Receipts £65 9s. 9d., including a balance brought forward of £40 2s. 3d., expenditure £42 8s. 11d., leaving £23 0s. 10d. in hand. The statement was passed. The President was unanimously re-elected, also the Vice Presidents and the General and Central Committees. Mr. Watts was re-elected secretary. Mr. Keyser outlined the programme for the ensuing season. Arrangements had been made to accompany the Berks Archaeological Society to Warwick and Kenilworth on June 23rd and 24th, and the second outing would probably be to Lyford, Hanney, Charney-Bassett and Denchworth. Mr. Watts also announced that a "walk" has been arranged by Mr. Peake and Mr. Sharwood Smith, in the Enborne and Hamstead Marshall locality, returning to Newbury by the canal towpath. Afterwards the members, joined by a number of ladies, partook of tea, at its conclusion the president recited Tennyson's "Gardener's Daughter."