



Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1912—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

Notes.

DISCOVERIES AT BENSON.—An account of several ancient relics found at Crowmarsh Battle in the parish of Benson appeared in some recent notes in this Journal (Vol. XVIII, p. 13). Another discovery of considerable interest was made here last autumn at a point about 20 yards east of the high road, and about 90 yards from the little brook which forms the boundary of Crowmarsh Gifford, where drain pipes were being laid in the field. Several human bones were found, and among them was a very fine and well preserved spear-head of iron, measuring a foot in length and an inch in width, and also an iron knife. Experts have assigned to them a date not later than B.C. 100. Traces of the older track east of the present road were also found. The land was formerly undrained marsh and it is said that snipe were shot upon it little more than a century ago.

In this parish also a brass Quinarius of Constantine, probably struck at Colchester, has lately been found. It is inscribed *Constantinus P. F. Aug.*, and on the reverse is *Gloria Exercitus* with two soldiers bearing standards. It was unearthed from the gravel pits upon Goulds Heath beside the Icknield Way, and near the point where this is crossed by the high road from London, which was doubtless the Roman road to Dorchester and beyond. Pottery was found with it, but the workmen broke this and none was preserved. These gravel pits have yielded from time to time numerous specimens of palæolithic flint implements; and the late Mr. Hedges states in his *Short History of Wallingford* (p. 169), "several cinerary urns have been found" here.—J. E. FIELD.

ROMAN COINS IN BERKSHIRE.—I recently had a small coin brought me for identification found a foot below the surface of a footpath which passes immediately in front of the Rectory of this Parish. It proved to be a Roman 3rd Brass of the Emperor Licinius A.D. 307—323. Obv.; Helmeted head to R. Inscr. IMP. LICINIUS. Reverse: Figure standing with trophy and wreath. Inscr. illegible. The find was more interesting as probably fixing the route of

the old British trackway the "Ickleton Way," which leaves the Ridgeway at Shepherd's Bush in Wanborough Parish and traverses the low land below the Downs and joins it again at Streatley. Through Wantage this Way occupied the present streets of Portway Place and Ormond Road, and, before the enclosure of Charlton Common Land, continued a straight course into the Bridle road to West Lockinge, where more than a century ago its course was lost for some distance, appearing again after leaving Lockinge Park. As the path where this coin was found is in a direct line with the above mentioned bridle road, it is probable the Ickleton Way passed through "Tubbs" (a place name) and so over this footway into Lockinge Park. Adjoining the Bridle Road, on the N. side where Charlton and West Lockinge hamlets meet, is a large mound overgrown with trees, marked on the Ordnance Survey map as Round Hill, but locally known as Round Tree. It appears to have generally escaped notice as an artificial earth work, but is evidently a Botontinus—boundary mark—or a still older barrow.—W. H. HALLAM, Lockinge.

AN EARLY MENTION OF BRICKS.—It has long been known that the English learnt the art of making bricks from the Flemings. A document at the Record Office (Ministers' Accounts, 1122, 15) shews that certain Flemings were engaged to make bricks at Crockernend in 1417, to be used in building operations at Stonor. Crockernend, or as it is now called Crocker End, is in Nettlebed parish. The document is the account of John Warefeld, receiver of Thomas de Stonor, for the year ending Michaelmas, 1417. Among the receipts is £13 13s. 4d. received from the lord "ad solvendum les Flemynges pro opere de Stonore"; also £40 was paid for the making of 200,000 "brykes," and £15 for carting them from Crockernend to Stonor; and on the last membrane of the account there is mention of the hire of a house at Crockernend for Michael Flemyng who was occupied there in the making of bricks. These extracts were made many years ago, and possibly the original has other references to the making of bricks in 1417.—H. SALTER.

Replies.

PARLIAMENT CLOCK (Vol. 18, p. 124).—These were so called from a tax, which Parliament in 1797 ordered to be paid upon all clocks and watches. The tax was short-lived, however, as it was repealed the following year.—W. H. HALLAM.

BERKSHIRE CLOCKMAKERS.—We have a clock, marked "John Horsnaile, Warfield," which hung at my old home in this village for probably a hundred years. It has a large octagonal face, with a narrower straight piece attached for the pendulum, and is painted black with gilt figures and ornaments. I have only of late learnt that it is called an "Act of Parliament Clock," from a tax of 5/- a year put on clocks in 1797, but repealed the next year, as it was ruining the clock trade. These large faced clocks were mostly made at this time. A "grandfather" clock, with the same maker's name inscribed, was bought in Wokingham some thirty years ago by a friend of mine, and is now in Somersetshire. There are, I am told, other clocks with this name in the neighbourhood, and the maker is said to have been a blacksmith; but this may only be from his name? Any information as to John Horsnaile and his clocks, would be of interest.—K. E. CASWELL, Binfield.