Beenham property, which in 1792 he sold to one John Blake. This episode is alluded to rather loosely in *Lysons' Magna Britannia*, where it is stated that previous to 1793 the manor of Beenham had been for a considerable time in the Marquis of Annandale's family.

In 1804 the Manor Farm with its appurtenances was divided among five owners, one of these being the Marquis of Downshire. About the year 1820 it was bought from them by Sir Charles Rich. In Sir Charles Rich's time the house was a substantial red brick building of a style common in English rural districts, picturesque in its way, with a steep red roof of the Georgian period. This has since been enlarged in the same style and is now known as The Grange.

The various transfers of the advowson have been recorded on page 15, vol. 20.

In 1729 the Rectorial Tithes were in the possession of one Francis Hawes, a *director* of the South Sea Company,* and in that year were purchased by Dr. John Girle, in whose family they remained till 1802, when they became the property of Sir Charles Rich and have remained in the possession of succeeding lords of the Manor to the present day.

* Who purchased and lived at Purley Hall till obliged to sell after the South Sea Bubble burst. Mr. Wilder said he was related to, but not the Director of the South Sea Co.—E. E. COPE.

The Potters' Art.

By E. E. Cope.

HAS it ever struck you what an enormous amount of pottery must have been imported into England during the two centuries Rome held sway here? Of course it stands to reason that the Romans brought over with them a certain quantity, for some of the pottery found could not have been produced in this country, even if the best potters of that age had come to England they had not the materials to hand such as they were accustomed to in their own country.

Of the Roman Potter as an individual we know practically nothing. This handiwork remains mostly in fragments, and we marvel at his skill. It is possible that the Romans found already existing in this country potteries in different localities and that they subsidised them, making their vessels after Roman fashion and shape, something of this sort is evident by the finding of coarse jars of similar shape to those seen at Pompeii and by the so called pseudo Samian, now pronounced to be copied from real Samian, but made locally in England. Certain sorts of pottery are named after certain Roman Cities from having been found there and believed to have been produced somewhere in the neighbourhood.

We have a coarse red pottery supposed to have been made anywhere and everywhere, likewise a coarse white as well as a grey or black, which was really smoked to make it that colour. A smooth grey sometimes of a delicate pearly tint is known as Upchurch ware or by its Roman name of Durobrevia. This I do not think is ever or seldom marked with a potter's stamp; some have raised figures on it in the style of the Samian decoration and shews skill and care in its ornamentation.

New Forest pottery may be older than Roman, it has sometimes a peculiar red purple shade due no doubt to some chemical in the clay. Kilns have been found but these were simple in structure and like modern brickfields were moved on elsewhere when the best of the clay bed was exhausted.

Samian ware was valuable, for the Romans were careful to mend it when broken, and real Samian bore the mark of its maker; it was supposed to have been made in Italy, Germany and Gaul, especially in the district of Auvergne, a valley of the Allier. Here potteries were established during the first three centuries of the Christian era. Samian pottery was not always brick red; it was sometimes chocolate and almost black incised ware is very scarce. One decorated in this way was found at Corinium now called Cirencester in Gloucestershire.

It is a pity some zealous antiquary has not collected into one volume all the potters' marks which are recorded in various descriptions of Roman discoveries, such as Charles Roach Smith's "Illustrations of Roman London," which was reprinted in "Chaffer's Guide to Pottery Marks." Another list was given, "A discourse on the site of the National Safe Deposit Company, Mansion House, London, 1873," by Puleston and Price, which gives about 60

different marks, and in many guide books of Roman places marks are noted.

Kilns, or the site of them, are known at the following places in England:—Castor, Colchester, Headington in Oxfordshire, Winterton, Wilderspool, London, Ashdown, York, Worcester and Marlborough. In 1896-7 two kilns were found at Hartshill, near Nuneaton, and another kiln site was explored at Crock Street in Somerset.

The uses of the various platters and jugs and utensils are not known. Different names have been given to the different shapes and uses ascribed, but it is not more than guess work in most instances, for we know so little of the habits or food of the Romano-British that we cannot tell much about their every-day life.

The rubbish pits shew that cattle and sheep were eaten, but after all the centuries there cannot remain much evidence of how they prepared their food nor how they served it. That in many ways the Romans in Britain differed from the Romans of Italy is certain. For one thing, the climate would make this necessary, for in this country the climate was not, nor is, suitable to an outdoor life, and these people, coming from the warmer climate of Italy, and even in some cases from the East, must and did suffer cruelly from the cold.

Besides the ordinary pottery and Samian ware, traces were found of a rudely glazed green ware which was made until the Middle Ages and may have been later than the actual period of the Roman occupation of Britain. A ware of this kind is also found among early Staffordshire potters, and tempts us to think that the manufacture of it may have been handed down by tradition to the 18th century, and this is not unlikely, for all manufactories are more or less worked from old traditional receipts, and the art of pottery making is older than the time of the Romans. Comparing the shapes and style of the pottery and china ware in every-day use in our own homes we cannot trace any vessel now in use resembling the Roman shapes; but if we were to place side by side vessels such as we see in the pictures of the 15th century, we realise how much these have altered in shape. Cups, even, are different from their original pattern of open handle-less little cups; the tumbler is an older vessel, but this was originally of horn, not of glass, and the shape is traceable to the horn, but with the base cut off to let the tumbler stand level on the table. Midway between the horn drinking vessel and the glass tumbler we notice that late specimens of the drinking horn were tumbler shape and had a piece of glass inserted

in the bottom. I can just remember some of this pattern being in use at Sulhamstead in the servants' hall in 1874. To this day there are in the old-fashioned English kitchens many bowls used to contain food. Milk is always kept in pannikins of a special pattern, jam is put into another sort of jar. We must also remember that we had no china ware of English make till the 18th century, and that even now china clay is not found everywhere, and that limits the making of china to certain districts or to such parts where it can be imported easily from other countries. When we think of this it makes us admire the wonderful resource of a nation who could not only conquer a wild country, but import thither their own manufactories both great and small.

Think of the thousands of miles which separate Italy from England, the difficulties of transport, where everything was carried on a pack horse or on men's backs. Think of the tiny ships impelled by oars, the difficulties of building enough of these small ships. It is all extraordinary when we stand on the site of some inland Roman settlement, unburied after the lapse of centuries, and there are the fragments of hundreds of pottery vessels either brought from abroad or made in the country. Whichever was the case, it is a marvellous record of industry and what can be done by energy and organization. All the same we feel that much of the so-called Roman pottery must have been made, and was made, in England. We are a conservative nation, and the shapes of pottery still in use are much like those of former generations. We know that Staffordshire was a great centre of pottery-making long before potters gave it a world-wide reputation. The Wedgwoods came from a remote Yorkshire parish. I have seen their names in the parish register there—Coxwold.

Perhaps some geologist will give a list of places where clay and china clay is found in our County, and if other readers will contribute any accounts of pottery, and especially any found in Berkshire, we, as a County, can soon discover if any was made hereabouts.