

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal

Editorial

WITH this number of our *Journal* it passes under new auspices. Ever since its inauguration in 1894, when at the request of the late Mr. James Parker, of Oxford, and the secretaries of various archæological societies in the three counties, I undertook its editorship, I have been responsible for its publication and financial arrangements. A quarter of a century is a long period, and I am grateful to all who have assisted me in this congenial task, to the contributors of communications, the subscribers in this country and America, and especially to the President of our Berkshire Archæological Society, Mr. Charles E. Keyser, who has contributed to the *Journal* numerous important articles on ecclesiastical architecture, enriched by many valuable illustrations. I am also greatly indebted to my friend and colleague, Mr. J. Hauntenville Cope, who has for several years acted with me as co-editor and with whom it has always been a pleasure to work. I am very glad that under the new arrangements our partnership will continue.

With this number the *Journal* ceases to be my personal property, and the copyright has been acquired by the Berkshire Archæological Society, who will continue its publication on its former lines, and I trust with renewed prosperity. Articles and notes of antiquarian interest relating to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire will be cordially welcomed in

the future as they have in the past, and we trust that the *Journal* will be a means of co-ordinating the work of all the archæological societies in the three counties, and stimulating research.

Before the War, which has rendered all publication difficult on account of the increased cost of printing and paper, this *Journal* was published quarterly. Recently, two double numbers have been issued bi-annually. This arrangement will be continued for the present, and the subscriptions will be the same—6s. per annum. The Berkshire Archæological Society has, however, arranged that all Members who subscribe 10s. shall receive the *Journal* free of cost, a proposal that has been received with much satisfaction by its Members. As far as circumstances will permit it is intended to issue the numbers in January and July in each year.

During the whole time of its issue our publishers have been Messrs. Slaughter and Son, of Reading, and I am greatly obliged to them for the care and attention they have bestowed upon its production for so many years. The publication has now been transferred to Mr. B. H. Blackwell, of Oxford. It was felt that Oxford was a better centre for the issue of a magazine of this nature, and Mr. Blackwell is such an experienced and well-known publisher that the whole conduct of the *Journal*, the supply of back numbers, the collection of subscriptions and all the business arrangements which have so long fallen to my lot, may safely be left in his hands. In future, all communications relating to the business of the *Journal*, subscriptions, etc., should be made to Mr. Blackwell, Broad Street, Oxford, and not to the Editors, who will, of course, be glad to receive, as before, all literary communications and notes on antiquarian intelligence.

Secretaries of Societies and ladies and gentlemen in all parts of the three counties are cordially invited to send to the Editors notes and discoveries that they may deem of importance, and we should wish to have representatives and local correspondents in every centre. May we venture to invite volunteers?

In relinquishing the possession of this *Journal* I venture

to think that it has justified its existence. It has published many valuable communications by expert antiquaries. It has saved from oblivion much that would have otherwise been lost. In the production of the Victoria County History, constant references are found to its pages, and without its aid the task of the compilers of that work would have been extremely difficult, if not hopeless. It has found its way to the national and university libraries of America, of Sweden and other countries, and it has been the means of preserving those valuable illustrations of Berkshire churches with which it has for many years been enriched.

With the co-operation of the readers and Members of the Societies in the three counties the present Editors will endeavour to increase the interest of its pages and to promote its usefulness.

P. H. DITCHFIELD.

Notes on the Churches of Ruscombe, Shottesbrooke, Waltham St. Lawrence, and Hurst

By C. E. KEYSER, M.A., F.S.A. (President).

*Communicated to the Berks Archaeological Society,
October 29th, 1918.*

FOR the past three years I have endeavoured to describe some of the churches in the northern and western portions of our county, and by means of the lantern to point out to my audience the salient features of the interesting structures in that part of Berkshire. To-day I propose to come back to the eastern division, and though on the whole the churches there are not, with the exception of Shottesbrooke and Warfield, of equal merit with those on the west, e.g. Uffington, Sparsholt, Childrey, Stanford-in-the-Vale,