

Notes and Queries

A PALÆOLITHIC FLINT.—This implement was found by Mrs. T. W. Marshall in the garden of 'Littlecot,' Elm Lane, Lower Earley, during August, 1920, within a foot of the surface. Its length is $5\frac{3}{4}$ in., its width $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Its outlines are sharp, and it presents no trace of abrasion by the action of water and slightly only by the atmosphere. One side is flat; on the other, which is somewhat convex, is a cleverly made rest for either the forefinger or thumb for convenience in holding the implement at its lower end or butt. The patination on the convex side is yellowish white, on the flat side grey brown. When first discovered it presented the pinkish ochre tint often observed in palæolithic implements found on or near the surface. Elm Lane is on a plateau at some height above sea level, between the valleys of the Thames and Lower Kennet. The soil in which the find was made consists of clay mixed with gravel composed of pebbles and flints, some sharp, others waterworn. This district was certainly heavily timbered in ancient times. Tools of this kind would be useful in stripping off the hide of large beasts of chase, and hacking up their carcases. The general type of the implement shows it to be palæolithic. The experts at the British and Jermyn Street Museums pronounce it 'a good hand-axe' of 'late St. Acheul' date. Its style and finish show that the savage who fashioned it had acquired great skill in his art. A palæolithic implement in the British Museum, from near Great Gaddesden, Herts, is so similar in make and size that it appears to have been made by the same man as the above specimen.—HUGH S. SPENCER.

ATCHESTER CAMP, HINTON WALDRIST (*Berks, Bucks and Oxon Arch. Jour.*, xxiii. 31, where the name is spelt Achester, the form given in the *V.C.H. Berks*, i. 264; locally it is spelt Atchester).—I have lately (April 25-26) been making some excavations in this earthwork. About five yards from the northern rampart a low bank, about six yards wide, runs parallel to the rampart for a distance of fifty yards. In this bank, and twenty-five yards from the western end of the earthwork, I found a well, a few inches below the surface. The mouth was 1 ft. 8 in. in diameter, the circumference being 6 ft. The well was surrounded for a distance of two feet by a rough

pavement of large flat stones, the gaps between them being filled up by smaller ones. The whole thing was very roughly constructed. I only cleared two feet of the well. East of this, in the same bank, I found traces of a rough stone floor, and east of these again I found more traces of a stone floor. In the latter case, one stone was 1 ft. 3 in. long; the others were smaller. Beyond these I found nothing, with the exception of a very small chip of flint, 6 in. long. I found no other flint in the camp, and there is none in the fields round it. I can offer no suggestion as to the date of either camp or well.—G. W. B. HUNTINGFORD.

WANTED.—Information of the Bagley Family of Bell Founders, more particularly of Matthew or Henry. He is mentioned as 'of Reading' on a bell at Tilehurst. He was originally of Chacombe or Chalcombe in Northants, near Banbury.—T. MORLEY, Leicester House, King's Road, Reading. (Bagley and Bayley are synonymous.—EDITOR).

FINCHAMPSTEAD CHURCH.—Will one of our architect members kindly give the dimensions of circular apse churches? The reason for the query is that I believe the apse of Finchampstead church is a late copy of the idea; its splay is wide and does not conform to the other in Berks. Do any early sketches remain of it before 1856? The church is puzzling, as the nave windows are high. Perhaps the church has been dug out. I should also like to draw attention to the fact that the very picturesque brick tower, early eighteenth century, is doomed to destruction, i.e. to be repointed by a local architect, which will effectually ruin it as contemplated.—C. et T.

SETTLERS IN AMERICA.—Is any list extant of Berkshire people who settled in America in the seventeenth century.—C.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.—From whom did the Crown acquire this property?—MILES.

VALPY FAMILY.—Can any reader supply me with a pedigree of this family?—Miss ALLEN-SHUTER, Mattingley Lodge, near Basingstoke.

DID Charles I or II or James II ever visit Hurst?—M.R.

WILL someone explain how Hampstead Marshall comes to be credited with two castle mounds? Surely someone has blundered; it is not strategically a valuable site.—M.R.

WANTED.—Descriptions of old armorial glass windows.—E. E. COPE.