

Local History Recording Scheme.

BERKSHIRE BRANCH.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THIS third Annual Report of the Committee of the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme covers the period from the date of the last Annual Meeting on the 17th of March, 1926, to date.

Our Local Correspondents now number 252, representing 151 Parishes, and from these Correspondents 214 approved records have been received relating to 71 Parishes, an increase of 62 records in the number received since the last Annual Meeting and 18 in the number of Parishes represented. The Parish concerning which the largest number of records has been received is Long Wittenham regarding which we have 17 records. Caversham is second with 14 records, whilst 5 or more records have been received relating to each of the following Parishes :—Abingdon, Chieveley, Cookham, East Hanney, Hurley, Reading St. Laurence, Reading St. Mary, Shottesbrooke, Sonning, Wallingford, Waltham St. Lawrence and White Waltham.

From these figures it will be realized that valuable series of records are being formed relating to many Parishes in the County. A number of the records are of considerable interest. Included amongst those recently received are several dealing with old customs and legends, place and field names, ancient houses and cottages, churchyard inscriptions, and interesting discoveries of old sites, coins and pottery, etc. With regard to the Caversham records, several of the finds of Roman remains recorded have been collected and, to enable them to be exhibited, Mr. A. W. Carter of Caversham has kindly presented a case to the Caversham Branch Library in which the finds have been deposited.

With reference to old deeds. The Hon. Secretary of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Incorporated Law Society has kindly undertaken to advise members of his Association that the

Berkshire and Oxfordshire Branches of the Scheme and the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society will be glad to receive any old deeds relating to their respective Counties—apart from Court rolls, etc., arrangements for dealing with which have already been made—which whilst of no legal interest may be of local historical value. It is hoped that the result will be that many interesting old deeds will be saved.

With regard to the finances of the Scheme. It is regretted that there is a small deficit. This will, however, be liquidated when all the Societies to which the Berkshire Branch of the Scheme is affiliated have paid their annual subscriptions. As, however, there will still be required a small balance for the year's expenses and shortly, owing to the number of records received, additional record ledgers will be required, which will cost about £8, our Hon. Treasurer would be very grateful to receive donations from those interested in the Scheme.

Such is a short account of the work of the Berkshire Branch of the Scheme during the past year from which you will be gratified to learn that satisfactory progress has been made. Considerable interest is being taken in the Scheme by many Correspondents, who are chronicling facts of local history which will be of great value to historians in the future. If all who can do so will help in this way an exceptionally valuable collection of records will shortly be obtained and much, which might otherwise have been lost, will be saved.

The thanks of the Committee are due to our Hon. Secretary, Miss Maslen, for all the work she has done in connection with the Scheme during the past year, including the copying of a number of records, and also to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. T. Morley, who has kindly again financed the Scheme pending its being placed on a satisfactory financial basis.

C.B.W.