

## Local History Recording Scheme : Berkshire Branch.

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1932.

**T**HIS, the ninth Annual Report of the Committee of the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme, covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1932.

From the Local Correspondents enrolled under the Scheme 367 approved records had been received up to the end of 1932, relating to 108 Parishes in the County. Our Local Correspondents at the end of the year under review numbered 287, representing 198 Parishes, as compared with 282 Correspondents representing 196 Parishes at the end of 1931. Berkshire is divided into 203 Parishes for recording purposes, thus all the Parishes of the County, except five, are now represented.

More assistance is, however, required in all districts, as it is desirable to have two or more Local Correspondents in each Parish so that nothing of importance may be left unrecorded. The Scheme is so comprehensive in character that useful work can be accomplished by all those interested in local history. As an indication of the wide scope of the Scheme, it may be mentioned that records received during 1932 include accounts of curious details relating to fonts in two Berkshire churches, the Whitley Mummers' Play, unrecorded earthworks on Easthampstead Plain, interesting old buildings recently demolished, memories of old inhabitants and ancient parish customs. The Hon. Secretary will always be glad to ascertain for Local Correspondents whether any work they contemplate doing has already received attention.

The work of recording Monumental Inscriptions is making good progress, and some exceedingly valuable lists of memorials have been received during the past year. The inscriptions in 86 burial grounds have now been received or promised ; but much additional assistance is needed in the work, and the copying of

inscriptions in many Parishes is waiting to be allotted to those willing to undertake this most useful task.

A considerable number of deeds have been deposited under the Scheme during the year. Those relating to Berkshire have been calendared and indexed, and the remainder carefully searched for Berkshire references.

With regard to the finances of the Scheme, the Hon. Treasurer reports that there was, at the end of 1932, a credit balance of £2 14s. 9d.

The Committee would again wish to take this opportunity of appealing to Local Correspondents to spare no efforts to collect, whenever possible, any unrecorded information relating to Berkshire folk-lore. The changed conditions of rural life have obliterated many of our Berkshire customs, legends and traditions, and it is urgent that much information should be gathered before it is too late.

During the past year, many queries relating to Local History have been received from Local Correspondents and others. These enquiries indicate the live interest in local history which exists in the county, and, together with the reports on their work sent in by various helpers, show that much useful work is being undertaken under the Scheme, and that valuable facts of local history are being chronicled.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the Rev. Dr. Attlee, our Chairman, to Mr. C. B. Willcocks, the Hon. Director, and to Miss M. Swadling, the Hon. Secretary, for all the work they have done for the Recording Scheme during the past year, and also to Mr. H. T. Morley, our Hon. Treasurer, for again looking after our finances.

*18th March, 1933.*