

Notes and Queries.

STAINED GLASS FROM OLD ARBORFIELD CHURCH.

What has long been thought to be some pieces of old Flemish glass in the new church of Arborfield, near Wokingham, have been found to be the work of an 18th century glass stainer of Reading. It appears that when the old church was abandoned in 1863, an attempt was made to take down the stained glass window over the altar. In the process the glass was badly damaged and only a head (Aaron) was saved. The other fragments were thrown away. The true story of this window is as follows. Among the lesser worthies of Reading in the 18th century was John Rowell, by calling a plumber, who also practised the more artistic craft of painting on glass, first at High Wycombe and afterwards at Reading. While it cannot be said that his skill was equal to that of the glass stainers of the earlier and glorious epochs, he is reputed to have discovered the wonderful red which was so conspicuous a feature of ancient work. His secret is supposed to have died with him in 1756. The window at Arborfield had two compartments in which were represented in half-length, the figures of Moses and Aaron holding the two tables of the law. In 1802 it was stated that "the colours of the drapery are crimson, blue and purple; all very rich; the breastplate of Aaron remarkably brilliant." Under the window was an inscription in the Latin and Greek tongues stating that the work was done in the year 1744, when John Waterman was rector. He also bore the cost, as well as that of beautifying the chancel of the church.

ROMAN REMAINS FROM UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD, MAPLEDURHAM.

As reported at the meeting of the Society on Saturday, March 10th, remains of what appears to be a Romano-British building have been unearthed in the garden of Mr. J. W. Honey's bungalow, "Hillingdon," (opposite Blaggrave's Farm) on the Upper Woodcote Road. For years the finding of coarse Roman pottery in Farthingworth Green gravel pit and the presence of

pot fragments, tiles, 4th century coins in the fields close by, have given reason for local archaeologists to consider the presence of a Roman villa in the immediate vicinity. From time to time Mr. Honey has recorded finding Roman pottery in his garden and in November 1933 his gardener discovered what appeared to be a wall of flint crossing the path at the bottom of the garden, together with a number of fragments of coarse ware, cooking pots, dishes, a mortarium, and tiles, attributable to a period between the 1st and 4th centuries A.D.

Excavation by members of the Reading Museum staff revealed that the wall was about 3 feet wide and 1 foot in thickness and was resting on the gravel about 2 feet from the surface. The wall was composed of large flints, quarried from chalk and not taken from the gravel, and they appeared to be uncemented. The wall did not seem to continue more than 3 feet 6 inches to the S.E. of the garden path. About a dozen very small sherds of pottery were found including one piece of slip ware. This was associated with a black humus layer immediately above the flints. A piece of split bone and a fragment of dressed oolitic limestone also came to light.

W.A.S.

TREASURE TROVE : GOLD COINS AT YIELD HALL, READING.

On the 16th April, 1934, a little to the north-west of Yield Hall, Reading, workmen discovered a small hoard of gold coins two feet nine inches below the surface. The receptacle that contained them, if any, had perished. Seventeen coins were recovered. All are of the reigns of James I. or Charles I. and date from between 1604 and 1632. They include three "laurels," three double crowns and two crowns of the reign of James I. ; and four "unites" and four crowns of Charles I. All the pieces were struck at the Tower Mint, London. It is possible that the hoard was buried just before or during the Siege of Reading in 1643.