

**LOCAL HISTORY RECORDING SCHEME : BERKSHIRE
BRANCH.****TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

This Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Committee of the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1948.

From our Local Correspondents during the year 11 records have been received, and up to the end of 1948, 687 approved records had been sent in relating to 152 parishes in the county. Two new Correspondents were enrolled and our Local Correspondents now number 153, representing 140 parishes. We much regret to report the deaths of several Correspondents during the year, and other Local Correspondents have left the district and can no longer give us active help. In spite of difficulties, however, it is encouraging to note that interest in the Scheme is being well maintained and that useful records have been sent in during the year and others are being compiled.

The important collection of Berkshire Local History Records which is being formed is proving of considerable assistance to students of local history and will be of increasing value in the future. More active help, however, is required and it is hoped shortly to launch an appeal for more Local Correspondents throughout the county. In this connection the Branch has noted with interest the work of the Standing Conference for Local History, which has been established by the National Council of Social Service and of which our Hon. Director is a member of the Executive Committee. The Conference, which has drawn up a plan for the study of local history on a national basis, is preparing a series of helpful publications on the subject. It also proposes to give general publicity to the study of local history, which activities will be of great assistance to societies such as our own.

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting was held on March 6th, 1948, when a lecture was given by Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, the Director of Reading Museum, and Mr. A. E. P. Collins, on the first season's work of excavations on an iron age site at Blewburton Hill. The lecture was of great interest to our Correspondents, many of whom had visited the site during the course of the excavations.

With regard to Monumental Inscriptions ; up to the end of 1948 the memorials in 148 parishes had been received, or promised, and one list, relating to Ruscombe, was sent in during the year by Mr. L. H. Chambers.

Concerning finance ; the balance in hand at the end of the year was £9 15s. 6d.

The Committee again wishes to thank the various Affiliated Societies for their continued interest and support, and also to record its appreciation of the work of the Chairman, the Hon. Director, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary, and to express its gratitude to the various Correspondents who have sent in records during the year and in other ways have helped to further the work of the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme.

After the adoption of this report at the Annual Meeting on March 12th, 1949, it was unanimously decided that the Local History Recording Scheme should, in future be known as the Berkshire Local History Committee, which would seem a more fitting designation for the extended sphere of work contemplated by this body in the future.