

NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

THE ANTIQUARIES JOURNAL.—The announcement of this publication—the Journal of the Society of Antiquaries—is of special interest. It “represents a new departure in the history of the Society of Antiquaries,” as Sir Hercules Read, the President of that Society, remarks in his Foreword to No. 1. The new Journal, which is to be published quarterly, and of which the first issue is dated January, 1921, supersedes the “Proceedings,” and appeals to all students and readers in Archæological subjects, whether Fellows of the Society or not. The subscriber of 18s. 6d. per year (or 17s. per newsagent) receives in return a selection of authoritative and up-to-date paper read to the Society with ensuing discussions, well illustrated; excellent reviews and notices of current Archæological publications, and other features of interest. The scheme is admirable, and the venture deserves the warmest support. A copy of the Prospectus, showing the contents of No. 1, is inserted in this issue of our Transactions.

BELLE SAUVAGE YARD (LUDGATE HILL).—“It is strange with what persistence old errors and exploded fancies about the meaning of London Place-names continue to crop up.” With this remark upon a too-familiar fact Mr. C. L. Kingsford, M.A., Vice-President S.A., prefaces a correction in a recent issue of the “Times’ Literary Supplement” of the old “bloomer” anent “La Belle Sauvage” Yard and Pocahontas. He reminds us of the grant in 1453—mentioned by Lysons in “Archæologia,” Vol. XVIII—of “that tenement or inn called Savages-Ynne otherwise le Belle on the Hope in the parish of St. Bride, Fleet St.,” which refers us to a sometime owner, named Savage, of an inn bearing the common sign of the Bell, to which his own name became

attached as a distinction. In this case the repetition of the error appeared in the "Edinburgh Review." The date of the visit of Pocahontas to London was 1616.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.—Another of the many errors of this class which have been repeatedly in print connects the name of another sign, the Elephant and Castle, with another Princess, the Infanta of Castile, and assumes that it is a corruption of her title. It is a childish absurdity from the philological point of view, and on a par with Charing and *chere reine* which used to be so favoured, and which has recently been brought to life again by Mr. Ian Hay; and both these, like the Bell-Savage and Pocahontas, are also anachronisms in date, as in each case the name in question is of greater antiquity than the date of its alleged original. The device of the Elephant and Castle may be seen pictured on MSS. of the 12th and later centuries¹ according to the quaint mediæval notions of the Elephant, on whose back appears a battlemented turret, with or without armed occupants.

The date of the particular Infanta was left uncertain by the exponent of this "etymology," who merely stated that "The 'Elephant and Castle' was named the 'Infanta of Castile' at the time when Spanish alliances were common"; but it could not have been earlier than *temp.* Edward I, and was probably three to four centuries later.

As a London sign, the Elephant in Chepe is mentioned in 1411 in the Guildhall "Letter Book I" (p. 97). The

¹ Mr. G. C. Druce, M.A., F.S.A., has obliged me with the following references to mediæval documents in which the Elephant and Castle may be seen: in a Latin Bestiary of c. 1170, now owned by Mr. Pierpoint Morgan, folio 23 shows an Elephant with 3 mailed men in Castle on its back; also in the following 13th century MSS. at British Museum: Harl. 4751, fo. 8; Harl. 3244, fo. 39; Add. 11283, and 12Fviii fo. 11. Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., has shown me rubbings of brasses of early 16th century showing the device as the Arms of Coventry. Hatton's "New View" (ii, 593 and 601) shows it in the Arms of the Royal African Co. (founded 1672) and of the Cutlers Co. in 1707.

Newington "Elephant and Castle" appears to date from between about 1670 and 1740. In 1707 there was an "Elephant and Castle Yard" off Piccadilly (Hatton's "New View of London," i, 27) apparently from a sign there.

EALING.—Another gem which has recently gleamed on London and Middlesex nomenclature-etymology was thus displayed: "There used to be a spring of healing in the district now called 'Ealing,' and that accounts for the present name." It is scarcely necessary to point out that (a) no such well is recorded; and (b) the records show no such spelling as "Healing," but on the other hand they do show that the present spelling of the first syllable, *Eal*—, is but a late form, dating back only to about the 16th century, and that the earlier forms show a quite different origin.

I have not found the name recorded earlier than c.1127, but its 12th-century forms: *Illing*, *Illinge*, *Ilingis*, *Ylingis*, *Yllinges*, *Illinges*, indicate an Anglo-Saxon (or Old English) "*Illing*" (or *Ylling*) and its case endings, with the sense of "the settlement (or place) of the *Illings*," i.e., of the people of a man named *Illa* (or *Ylla*)—a known personal name. The initials *I* and *Y* represent the same sound, the two letters in such a position being frequently used indifferently for a considerable period before and after the Conquest.

The name makes numerous appearances in records of 13th to 16th centuries. While the second syllable, *—ing*, is persistent, the first varies in spelling: *Gill*— is given

¹ The bald statement as of a fact, noticeable in these instances seems characteristic of a certain class of errormongers, who, oblivious of the need for research or philological guidance, seem to regard Place Names as a fair target for their etymological shots and their wildest aims as bull's-eyes to be recorded with the utmost confidence and publicity. When such errors are published, naturally they are liable to be repeated—and in all good faith—by readers who do not stop to criticise or investigate.

in a few cases (*circa* 1240-1310), and *Yill*— is frequent during the 14th and 15th centuries, with a variation to *Zyll*— in 1428. These later variations, however, while they interest the student, do not affect the etymology.

THE "ENFIELD DINOSAUR."—About June, 1920, some animal remains were dug out during excavations at the Ponders End works of the Edison Swan Co. The site, which was 100 yards or less from the River Lea, has since been covered by a factory building. The bones, which included a skull of about 20 inches in length, and some teeth and fragments, were found about 25 feet beneath the surface. The usual magnifying tendency of uninformed opinion was well shown in this instance by the assumption of an original of size, antiquity, and fearsomeness of about equal magnificence, and with a proper absence of the commonplace in its character. Seven or eight months later the find was reported in the London newspaper *Press* under the above heading, as "obviously . . . some huge reptile of the dim past." The official who had charge of the bones courteously showed them to me, and at once accepted my suggestion that they should be submitted to expert examination; and they were sent up to the Geological Department of the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington. Dr. C. W. Andrews, F.R.S., examined them, and he has favoured me with the following report:—

"Geological Department, Natural History Museum,
"March 30th, 1921. Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

"Dear Sir,—I have examined the bones from Ponders End and find that the skull, teeth and some of the bones belonged to a small horse. The other bones include remains of a small ox and a fragment of the antler of a deer. None of the remains show any special peculiarities distinguishing them from existing species.

"Yours truly,

"A. Bonner, Esq., F.S.A." "CHAS. W. ANDREWS.

Meanwhile, Dr. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., F.S.A., chief of the Geological Department of the British Museum, had seen an article and illustration published in the "Observer," and had pointed out that the latter represented "the skull, teeth and bones of an ordinary horse."

The official at Ponders End informed me that one newspaper representative compared the bones with illustrations in a volume of H. G. Wells' "History of the World," and thereupon diagnosed their prehistoric, etc., character! While such means of enlightenment might perhaps have satisfied his personal interest for the moment, it was rather unkind to the public to give to the result a publicity and prominence which should be reserved for an authoritative pronouncement.

ST. JOHN AT HACKNEY INSTITUTE.—This interesting old house was badly in need of repair, and a Fair was held there in November (1920), with the very satisfactory result that the amount required was realised; and the necessary work has been put in hand. The London Survey Committee supported the scheme and, by its influence, fortunately prevented the sale of some fine panelling, which had been about to be realised to defray the costs.

A leaflet issued by the Institute in connection with the Fair gives notes on the house, one of which runs thus:—"The linen-pattern panelling on the walls of the room in the West wing is at least as old as the reign of Edward III. A well-known Antiquary believes it to date from the time of Edward I, as the x, the mark of the Crusaders, is distinctly seen on the panels above the twelfth-century fireplace." Even the close of Edward the Third's reign (1327-77) is a century or more too early for "Linen pattern panelling," and in the succeeding sentence one can but assume that its writer misunderstood his informant on each of the three points mentioned. The notes need revision.

CISSBURY RING.—The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest has added to its list of good causes the initiation of a fund for the purchase of this very fine

earthwork. The appeal issued by the Trust, which is illustrated by three large and excellent photographic views of the "Ring," opens thus:—

"Three miles north of Worthing station, upon a hill reaching 603 feet, stands Cissbury Ring, by far the finest of all the camps of the South Downs, both in extent and in the size of its defences.' The National Trust now has the opportunity of acquiring for the sum of £2,000 this famous site, which is not only of the greatest historic interest, but also one of natural beauty. To archæologists throughout the country Cissbury Ring is well known, and it is earnestly hoped that members of Archæological Societies will contribute to the funds required for the purchase of this most interesting resort, so that it may be preserved for the public benefit for ever. Through the public-spirited action of two members of the Worthing Golf Club, the property has been bought and is now offered to the Trust, together with a further tract of land just below the Ring, which will serve to protect its amenities and includes a charming little plantation which is to be kept as a feature of the landscape."

This excellent scheme deserves hearty support, and contributions will be gladly received by S. H. Hamer, Esq., Secretary, the National Trust, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

STAPLE INN AND "THE STAPLED HALL."—In reference to my handling of these names on pp. 141-7 of this volume, Mr. Elijah Williams, F.R.G.S.—to whose work on Staple Inn I there referred—writes in support of his view that Staple Inn "acquired its name from some connection with the King's Staple." He urges that as "the Mayor of London was ordained Mayor of the Staple of that city in 1326, and as such he was bound by the regulations to provide houses for those coming to the Staple 'where the wools and other merchandises shall be put,' " this "accounts for the three Stapled halles at the gates of the city." He thinks that Ric. Starcolf, mercer, who owned and tenanted the Holborn Stapled Hall c. 1328-33, "must have been a merchant of

the Staple," and he states that some later occupants were certainly so. He regards the name, "le Stapledehalle" as French and not English in origin.

I agree that *prima facie* there seems a reasonable case for this view; but I submit that it is rendered untenable by the following facts:—

1. The records show that in 1285-6 the name of "Stap(e)ledehall(e) was already existing in London as a house-name,¹ and that in 1292 it was existing there as a personal name, viz., "atte Stapledehall."²

2. The English word "staple" as connected with merchants and merchandise, which came from the late Latin and the French, is of much later date, and is first found written in 1423.³ "Merchants of the realm" is the official designation of *temp.* Ed. I-II; and documents of the 14th century have the Latin *stapula* or the French *estaple*, which by later translators have been rendered as "staple."

For the origin of the 13th-century name Stapled Hall, therefore, we must look to O.E. (i.e., Anglo-Saxon) words then in use, as set forth on p. 144 above, and not to words which came into our language at a later date.

The final *-e*, which in most of the entries was added to both the adjective and the noun, merely represents the obsolete case-ending, which was very long in dying out, so that the M.E. word *halle* may to the modern eye look like

¹ Guildhall "Hustings Rolls" of 1285-6 (Roll 16/56), also 1295 (24/38), 1331 (59/8), and 1361 (89/30 and 89/54); in each case referring to a tenement in the parish of All Hallows, Barking, which appears to have had frontages to "Berewardeslane" (now Beer Lane) and Tower St. (Hust. R. 38/92, 3 Ed. II = 1309). Another house of the same name in St. Botolphs without Bishopsgate is mentioned in 1330 and 1346, and the Holborn house in 1333 (pp. 141-3 above). In each case the name may be much older than these entries.

² "William atte Stapledehall" (Letter Bk. A, 144), and again in 1303 "Willelmus atte Stapeledhalle" (p. 193 above) and 1309: "Wm. de Stapeledehalle" (Hust. R. 38/92). The last entry identifies him with the parish of All Hallows, Barking. Again, the name may be older than these entries.

³ New English (Oxford) Dictionary.

French,⁴ especially when *le* or *la* precedes it. These French "articles," however, were frequently attached by mediæval scribes to English place-names—such as, for instance, the well-known London names, Strand, Stocks, Kentish Town, and Marylebone (Marybourne, later Marybone),⁵ and the village-names Worth, Wick, Downe, Rye, etc.—none of which are of French origin.

OLD LONDON BRIDGE.—As this issue of our "Transactions" was on the point of completion, an arch was uncovered beneath the site of Adelaide House, near the northern end of the present bridge. It lies in a line with and south of the tower of St. Magnus Church—through which, as is well known, the footway passed to the old bridge. The portion seen is of old stone, water-worn on the soffit, and strengthened by modern stone ribs. Three of these ribs are now exposed; the easternmost has fallen during the digging; the central one has the inscription 17W03 at its crown. Portions of the butts of the piers are visible. Beyond the northern pier a narrow channel has been cut into. The structure is evidently the northern end of the old bridge; and opportunity for proper examination will be afforded when it is more completely cleared of earth and debris.

THE CHISLEHURST CAVES.—These interesting excavations, which were taken over by the Government in November, 1914, for storage of munitions, are now opened again by the well-known caterers, "Trust Houses Ltd.," who advertise them in connection with the adjoining "Bickley Hotel"—now one of the long list of "Trust Houses." The new proprietors specially invite antiquarian societies to visit the Caves—and, incidentally, the hotel, which caters for teas, etc.

ARTHUR BONNER.

⁴ The Fr. *halle* (a hall, or roofed place, and later, a market place), by the way, seems to have been written *hale* c. 1250-1330 (Godefroy's O.F.Dicty., Littré's Dicty.).

⁵ See pp. 80-81 above.