

PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR.

“The Registers of Newton Reigny, 1571-1812,” transcribed by Colonel J. F. Haswell, C.I.E., M.D.; indexed by C. S. Jackson, Esq., Hazel Bank, Yanwath. Privately printed for the Parish Register Section of the Society (pp. 143; uniform with the series of which it forms Vol. 22).

The Committee for the publication of Parish Registers is to be congratulated upon the efficient manner in which it performs its useful work and upon the punctuality of the appearances of its annual volumes. This, the Committee's latest publication, thanks to the care bestowed upon it both by transcriber and editor maintains the excellent standard of work we have been led to expect from our experience of the preceding volumes to the series.

Though at no time a very populous place, Newton Reigny—the second part of its place name would appear to be derived from some personal name such as Regenwig—is a village which presents several points of interest. The families of de Regny and Lowther are associated with its manorial history, while the fact that Catterlen with its beautiful hall is included within the boundaries of the parish brings it into connection with the Vaux family of Catterlen and the Richmonds.

Before the Reformation the parish was deemed a chapelry and served from various places, including Penrith and Greystoke, the list of its incumbents going back to Edward Nicolson, who died in 1593. The registers go back to 1571. No burials were to be found, but fortunately, as Colonel Haswell informs us in his preface to the volume, all these, except for 1682, occur in the Bishop's Transcript.

An interesting entry under the date 1598 is the baptism of “Brigeat Musgrave d. to Mr. John Musgrave, land sergeant.” This John Musgrave, land sergeant of Gilsland, who married one of the Dudleys, was a man of note in Border affairs, and from a letter of Lord Burghley, printed in the Calendar of Border Papers, we learn that he had only that very year been appointed to that office. He is elsewhere described as a younger brother of Musgrave of Edenhall. There are several entries in the

register referring to members of this Catterlen branch of the family.

No fewer than 31 burials are registered in the year 1587, when the village apparently suffered from the outbreak of a plague, and 30 of its inhabitants died in 1596, two years before the great plague recorded in the inscription in Penrith Parish Church.

Among the interesting items set down under the heading of miscellaneous entries are various collections, such as one amounting to 1s. 2d. in 1665 "for a fire and 20 hours burning at Flek-booth in Loncaster," and another amounting to "the sume of one pound and three shillings for the distressed French Protestants" in 1686. Under the date Feb. 14th, 1724, is the entry, "John Nicholson of Catterlen and Mary his wife was denounced excommunicat." Among the most commonly occurring surnames are Bearpack, Dawson, Hodgson, Ion, Nicholson or Nicolson, Ruper, Todd and Watson.

Excavations at the Roman Fort at Brough, E. Yorkshire, 1934. By Philip Corder, M.A., F.S.A.

Our member has added another to the list of his admirable excavation-reports on Roman sites. This pamphlet (37 pages, with 8 illustrations) describes work undertaken on the defences of the important site at Brough-on-Humber; the excavation of a bastion of rectangular plan and another of semi-circular plan; and some exploration of an occupied area outside the ramparts. The defences, at any rate on the east, are dated to a time not earlier than Trajan, and the rectangular bastion was added later. The site proves to be very extensive; perhaps a fortified town rather than a fort.

A New Light upon the Londonderry Air. By Anne G. Gilchrist. Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, vol. I, No. 3, Dec., 1934.

The famous "Londonderry Air" has long been a puzzle to the more scientific students of folk-song, who have recognised that, in the form in which it has been recorded and handed down to us on paper, it corresponds to no known pattern of Irish folk-song metre, and also that (unlike all ordinary folk-tunes) it is a Melchizedek among airs, without father or mother, sisters or cousins or aunts, or any kith and kin however distant. Our member, Miss Gilchrist (if a mere amateur may make bold to say so, not unfortified by the chorus of praise with which the professional critics have greeted her paper), has solved the

problem, by conjecturing that the tune should be written in triple, instead of quadruple, time; which brings it by a stroke of the pen into line with a well-known type of Irish song. Miss Gilchrist's inclusion in the small and distinguished band of women Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries may be regarded as setting the *imprimatur* of the learned world upon her discovery.