



Review

REGISTERS OF A CITY CHURCH¹

MR. FARRALL has rendered yeoman service in a worthy cause. Cheshire cannot claim to be in the forefront of those counties which have paid due attention to their old parochial records. The present volume is not quite the first of its kind. It is certainly the most important. The parish of the Holy Trinity contains within its border the ancient port of Chester, as well as the chief residential quarter of the city, and in its registers are to be found the names of all the leading families of the county.

The transcript of these registers occupies some 700 pages of the book, and deals with nearly 5,000 surnames. It is followed by no fewer than nine indexes. The first index contains 50,000 references in alphabetical order. The next five are indexes of titled persons; of clergy; of nonconformist ministers; of officers of the army, navy, etc.; and of physicians and surgeons. The seventh is an index of diseases and causes of death. It may be remarked here that in the years 1598 to 1604 the average number of burials was twenty-one. But in the following year, 1605, no fewer than seventy-eight persons were buried, of whom sixty-four died of the plague. Two

¹ *Parish Register of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the City of Chester, 1532-1837*, transcribed, indexed, and edited by L. M. Farrall, M.A., St. Catharine's College, Cambridge; Rector of the Holy Trinity, Chester; formerly Minor Canon of Chester Cathedral. Chester: Printed for the Editor by G. R. Griffith Ltd., 1914. Price 25/- net, post free.

centuries later the average number of burials was fifty, from which it may be inferred that the population of the parish had more than doubled itself. The eighth index deals with professions, trades, and other descriptions, and includes such curious callings as cannoneer, fletcher (arrow-maker), peckadilly-maker, tidesman, and a "Welsh wench." The ninth is an index of place names. The whole of these are of absorbing interest to the historian, the antiquary, and the genealogist.

In a book of such magnitude an occasional slip is only to be expected. On page 114, "Badder after Batha" should obviously be "Badder *aliter* Batha." The christian name of Canon Slade, page 848, was James, not John. The printing and general get-up of the volume are excellent, and the whole work redounds to the credit alike of the editor, who is a member of this Society, and of the firm of printers who have for so many years produced the Society's *Journal*. The number of copies is strictly limited, and fellow-members, who have not yet obtained possession of the work, will do well to make early application to the REV. L. M. FARRALL, Abbot's Grange, Chester.

F. G. S.

