

## NOTICES OF RECENT BOOKS.

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[*The Editor is prepared to accept for review books that may be forwarded to him for that purpose, provided such books deal with subjects either of special interest to the county of Surrey or are of general archæological interest. Before sending books, authors and publishers are recommended to communicate in the first instance with the Editor, Castle Arch, Guildford.*]

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### FONTS AND FONT COVERS.

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By FRANCIS BOND, M.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A., Author of *Gothic Architecture in England*, &c., &c. Published by the Oxford University Press.

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Mr. Francis Bond has increased the already great obligation under which he laid the architectural and antiquarian public by his *magnum opus* on Gothic Architecture, by issuing additional volumes—the first of a series dealing with the fittings and furnishings of our ancient churches—on “Fonts and Font Covers,” and “Screens and Galleries.” It is with the former that the following remarks are concerned.

Were it only for the 426 excellent photographs, drawings, and diagrams, admirably reproduced, our debt would be very great, but the carefully sifted mass of information contained in the letterpress is deserving of the warmest gratitude of all who take pleasure in ecclesiology and its sister studies. Mr. Bond digs deep, where others have but scratched the surface. Paley’s work on Fonts, published by Van Voorst in 1844, was practically the only general work on the subject. Mr. Bond makes ample acknowledgment of indebtedness to other writers, including Dr. Fryer and the late J. Lewis André, in his useful Bibliography.

The book is divided into four parts: the first dealing with the Rite of Baptism and the evolution of the Font proper from the Baptistery Tank; the second with classification; the third with a chronological account; and the fourth with Font Covers. Finally Mr. Bond wins the approval of all good bibliophiles by his excellent *Indices Locorum et Rerum*.

Inevitably such a work as this, involving the sifting of a mass of information largely obtained at second-hand, must contain errors and misprints, as well as omissions. So far as the writer's knowledge goes, these are of no great moment, and a second edition, which is sure to be soon called for, will easily rectify all such.

It may be more to the present purpose to see how our Surrey fonts are dealt with. We have only a very few ancient or specially interesting examples, and of these it is disappointing to a Surrey archæologist to find no description or illustration in the cases of Alfold, Thursley, Albury, Womersley, Merstham or Chelsham, several of which are of exceptional interest and have been illustrated in our Society's *Collections*. Mr. Bond mentions, but does not illustrate, the Thames Ditton font, with its symbolical carvings, so excellently dealt with by our member, Mr. G. C. Druce, in Vol. XXI. Among the later examples unrecorded are the fonts of Waringham, Epsom, Ashtead, Letherhead, Stoke d'Abernon, and Mortlake, two of which appear in our volumes. Nor is mention made among the post-Reformation fonts of the dated example in Sussex marble at Hascombe, inscribed, THE GIFT OF RICHARD HOLLAND RECTOR 1690, possibly by the same hand as those at Lurgashall (1661), and Northchapel, over the Sussex border. Another curious coincidence that has escaped Mr. Bond, but which may as well be recorded here, is the almost identical design in the widely separated fonts of Caterham, Surrey, and Henfield, Sussex—both of early-13th-century date. The curiously small and similar Sussex marble fonts of 13th-century date at Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, and Horley, are not noticed by Mr. Bond.

On the other hand, Mr. Bond describes and illustrates, among leaden fonts, our one Surrey specimen at Walton-on-the-Hill, and the good late-12th and early-13th-century stone fonts of Compton, Shere and Gatton, with the font-base happily preserved at Capel. A similar relic to the last, by the way, is to be seen at Ockham. We in Surrey can boast the unique position of being able to show two wooden fonts—those of Ash and Chobham—both of late-15th or early-16th-century date, the former here described and illustrated. The latter is somewhat vaguely mentioned as "a lead font with wooden panels." As a matter of fact, there is a lead bowl, enclosed within an oak octagonal panelled body, with stem and plinth, also of oak.

Among the ancient covers, that of Lingfield, of 15th-century date, might have been recorded.

These criticisms and grumbles are small things, however; for the work itself Mr. Bond is to be cordially congratulated and thanked.

PHILIP M. JOHNSTON, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

## THE GENEALOGIST'S POCKET LIBRARY.

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- Vol. 1. { I. *American Emigrants*. By GERALD FOTHERGILL.  
 II. *The Quaker Records*. By JOSIAH NEWMAN.  
 III. *The Genealogy of the Submerged*. By CHAS. A. BERNAU. Walton-on-Thames. 1908. Price, 2s. 6d.
- Vol. 4. { *The Churchyard Scribe*. By ALFRED STAPLETON. Walton-on-Thames. 1909. Price, 2s. 6d.
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We can recommend the study of these books, which are lucid, practical, and upon well-chosen subjects. If we were to find a fault with them it would be that they are almost unnecessarily complete, the provision for every type of mind in their readers extending to the most complete ignorance or inexperience. But it is perhaps ungrateful to speak of this characteristic, which has given great clearness to their manner, and has not taken anything from the conciseness of their treatment of material.

The first section of Vol. 1 is, naturally, not of so much interest to members of this Society as are the remaining two, but is a very adequate *résumé*.

The second, dealing with "Quaker" genealogy, forms a convenient guide to a mass of muniments little explored up to the present, but exceedingly rich and very well kept. The Society of Friends was early established in Surrey: Fox mentions a meeting at Reigate in 1655, and about the same date Capel, among other places, was a centre of the sect; and in 1656-7 there were "Quakers" in Horsham Gaol, imprisoned for conscientious reasons. Mr. Newman, after dealing with the history of the Records of the Society, describes the Registers of births, marriages and deaths—the Surrey and Sussex ones begins in 1640, 1645 and 1659—together with the wonderful Index kept at Devonshire House. The entries in these Registers are in many cases extraordinarily full, and their search, thanks to the Index, is so easy that "it is no unusual thing for a Member of the Society of Friends to "be able to trace *all* his direct ancestors from the present time back "to the middle of the seventeenth century out of this one set of "books," and that in an hour or two. Other classes of documents are mentioned, for instance, the "Minute" and "Sufferings Books"; and the writer concludes with an appreciative bibliography.

In the third section Mr. Bernau, the publisher of the series, discusses the material available for working out the genealogy of paupers and others brought into contact with the parish authorities set up by the Acts of 14 Charles II, c. 2; 3 Wm. and Mary, c. 11, etc. From the collection at Walton-on-Thames he has extracted very interesting examples of bonds to secure the parish against charges, certificates to

prevent settlements, removal orders, examinations, affiliation orders, apprenticeship indentures, and other documents, some dating from so early as 1654, and all full of genealogical matter: poor-rate lists form another class of considerable importance. It would be well to know in what other parishes in the county, and to what extent, records such as these are available.

In the second of these volumes Mr. Stapleton treats minutely, but concisely, and with great enthusiasm, of a subject which has already been brought before Members of the Society, but which we are glad to recall to their notice—the interesting hobby of copying inscriptions in churchyards and the important results which may be obtained: as he says, “there is urgent need that this kind of work be taken in hand “all over the country”; and he shows the easiness, fascination and utility of such employment, especially for residents “in country districts.” The book deals fully with the methods to be employed; the rival claims of complete transcription, calendaring, etc.; the importance of this kind of record; the various classes of burial grounds; the arrangement and disposal of the collection (the latter a very important point); and many other topics: and is altogether of great interest. It concludes with a section of “Typical and authentic examples,” some of which are very amusing: we would add to them an old friend of our own, “John son of the other-side-mentioned Thomas.”

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#### THE CANTERBURY AND YORK SOCIETY.

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- Part XI. { *Diocesis Cantuariensis. Registrum Matthei Parker.*  
*Pars Prima.* London, 1907.
- Part XIV. { *Diocesis Cantuariensis. Registrum Johannis Pecham.*  
*Pars Prima.* London, 1908.
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We are very glad to bring to the notice of Members the excellent work that is being done by this Society in the publication (in full) of various Episcopal Registers. These contain much matter in the highest degree interesting to the student of History—Ecclesiastical, General, or Local and Parochial. As the Society's Prospectus justly says, the fact that “they contain Lists of Ordination Candidates, Wills, Papal Bulls, Dispensations by the thousand, Formation of Vicarages, Erection of Chantries, Episcopal Letters, Licences of every kind, Lists of Pluralities, Reconciliation of Churches, Records of Visitations, Summonses to Convocation, Royal Briefs, Injunctions to Monasteries, and hundreds of other things,” is sufficient to give some slight idea of the importance of these records from an historical and legal aspect.

Perhaps to Members of the Surrey Archæological Society the most interesting Registers would be those of Winchester. It will be remembered that the Hampshire Record Society published, some years ago, those of three Bishops, covering the periods 1316—1323 and 1367—1404: but it may be hoped that the Canterbury and York Society will soon be able to turn its attention to other Registers of that diocese; at present it is dealing, or has dealt, with those of Canterbury, Carlisle, Hereford, Lincoln, London, and Rochester.

Meanwhile it is hardly necessary to mention the interest of the Canterbury Registers for Surrey Antiquarians. Of the two Registers now before us (in part), the second, (Part XIV), is the oldest Canterbury Register now in England; nor are there many in other dioceses of an earlier date. It will be remembered that this Register (Bishop Pecham's) was published in three volumes in the Rolls Series. A glance at the Index of that publication will show the value of its contents, but it was by no means complete; the present work supplies all the omissions of the former. Apart from the number of references to Surrey matters, the character of Pecham himself, at once a scholar famous at Oxford, Paris, and Rome, a successful Archbishop, and a strict Franciscan, is enough to make his Register interesting. It deals with the period 1279—1294.

Matthew Parker, Archbishop in the early years of Queen Elizabeth's reign; Master of his College at Cambridge and twice Vice-Chancellor; brought into contact during his life with the Cambridge Lutherans, the theologians of Mary's reign, the Elizabethan Reformers and the Puritans; and one of those responsible for the famous Bishops' Bible, is a character no less striking. The present part of his Register is concerned with the election, confirmation, etc., of various Bishops, including himself, from 1559—1569. It contains the most important "Order of Ceremonies" for his Consecration.