

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The last general survey of such publications was in the volume of *Collections* for the year 1913. To attempt any comprehensive account of the intervening years would be a very large task and one not contemplated here. It is true that the period has not been normally productive, but, even so, a few notes of the more important works are all that can be given.

For the study of Original Sources in print the chief help is, of course, to be found in official publications. Though hindered and delayed by the war conditions, the stream has not altogether failed. The most notable achievement is that the *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, seriously undertaken in 1891, is now complete from 1216 to 1509. Two volumes for Edward III and two for Henry VII have been published since the last review. Taken in conjunction with the Record Commission's *Rotuli Litterarum Patentium* and the monthly abstracts of Patent Roll entries in the *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, now also finished, this calendar forms a complete means of access in print to the large and varied collection of instruments enrolled on what is one of the most important classes of public records. The similar calendar of *Charter Rolls* is carried by one volume, from 1341 to 1417.

The publication of the complete text of the *Close Rolls* of Henry III has reached the year 1247, and the *Calendar of Close Rolls* in English is carried by two fresh volumes from 1377 to 1385. There is an increasing number of private deeds on these rolls as they come to the later dates.

The calendar of the major part of the contents of the *Fine Rolls* now extends to 1347 and is roughly keeping pace with the new *Inquisitions post mortem*, the ninth volume of which reaches to 33 Edward III. The calendar of *Inquisitions post mortem, Henry VII*, has grown to a second volume, and only a very few years of that reign are left to complete this valuable account of the beginnings of so many important families.

The final volume of *Feudal Aids* deals mostly with Yorkshire, but amongst the Addenda there are four pages of the Surrey contributions to an aid in 1412. A further instalment of *Ancient Deeds* (Vol. VI)

is very welcome, for the index helps not only in referring to the deeds described in the volume itself, but in identifying persons and places that occur in private collections.

Two volumes of a calendar of *Miscellaneous Inquisitions*, 1219—1349, deserve special mention for the variety and interest of the information they supply.

The full treatment of the records of the first half of the 16th century in *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, already mentioned above, has been supplemented by a new edition of the first volume, 1509—1513; and the *Calendar of State Papers Domestic* of Charles II now covers to the end of 1680, while one volume of Anne attacks the series at a new date and illustrates in many ways the political changes characteristic of the time.

Amongst the publications of the Historical MSS. Commission, the *Topographical Guide* to the whole collection demands notice; a sixth volume of the *Stuart Papers* unfolds in detail the romantic story of the Old Pretender and the preliminaries of his marriage; and the *Records of the City of Exeter* give a useful account of the rich collection of documents in the possession of that city.

A new series which appears with some official support is that of the *Records of Social and Economic History*, published by the Oxford Press for the British Academy. The latest volume to appear in this important collection is one of documents illustrating the history of the Danelaw, edited by Professor Stenton. A volume of the cartulary of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, edited by Mr. G. J. Turner, is nearer home from our point of view. This series, if it is continued along the same lines, should prove very valuable.

To turn from official works to those of local societies, it is pleasant to see that several of the County Record Societies have succeeded in continuing their publications. Both the Bedfordshire and Lincolnshire Societies have been active and both have been dealing with Feet of Fines; in the volume for the latter county there is a full and interesting essay on the subject. The first volume of the Oxfordshire Record Society, dealing with Chantry Certificates and Church Goods, is a welcome earnest of what is to follow.

Of Publishing Societies, other than those working in the interests of Local History, we have space to mention only two: the Selden Society, which, in spite of hard times, continues to add to the number of mediæval legal Year Books available in print; and the Royal Historical Society, which has published, under the editorship of Mr. C. L. Kingsford, two volumes of the important and interesting letters and papers of the Stonor family in the 15th century.

Finally, to revert to local interests, the Surrey Record Society, though it started only just before the war, has succeeded in keeping alive, and is now issuing a Circular and calling for more Members to enable it to increase its activities. It is about to issue its Fifteenth Part, which will complete one large Register of the *Surrey Arch-deaconry Court Wills*; and has completed an important series of parts in which are printed all kinds of documents relating to *Musters*, drawn

from the Loseley MSS.; it has also issued one complete part of *Carshalton Court Rolls*, and has attacked the famous Cartulary of Chertsey Abbey, now at the Public Record Office; it only needs more Members to enable it to carry on and even to enlarge the scope of its work.

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Turning to general Archæology, we have a field even more impossible to cover. Publication has gone on in spite of the war, and most subjects of Archæological inquiry, from Architecture and Furniture to Place Names, have received fresh illustration. We shall confine ourselves therefore, on the present occasion, to three separate notices of recent publications of special Surrey interest, one closely connected with the war, and two far removed from it; at the same time reminding Members that in future issues we shall be very glad to welcome again all works by Surrey Archæologists or on Surrey subjects.

S. C. R.

SEPARATE NOTICES.

The Early Life and Education of John Evelyn, 1620—1641: with a Commentary by H. Maynard Smith (Oxford Historical and Literary Studies, Vol. XI): Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1920. 16s. nett.

We commend this work very heartily to Surrey readers, and would like to think it might inspire Members to take up the hobby of biography for the benefit of some of our less known Surrey worthies. "Of all literary hobbies," says the Editor of the volume before us, "nothing can compare with the pleasure of annotation." He himself frankly proposes to edit Evelyn in this spirit, and we are here the spectators of his preliminary canter; if at the same time he desires to stake a claim, no one, we think, will venture to dispute the field with him.

It is, indeed, high time that "Evelyn's Diary," which by its nature, and his nature, lends itself particularly to such treatment as Birkbeck Hill gave to Boswell's *Johnson*, should receive that attention. It is also, as appears from Mr. Maynard Smith's Introduction, time that we had an authoritative text. The labours of Upeott, Bray, Forster and the *Abinger Monthly Record* have not exhausted the possibilities in this respect; and perhaps we may be permitted to hope here that the great Surrey Diarist's work may yet come before the world in a definitive form.

Meanwhile we have an excellent foretaste and example of Mr. Maynard Smith's skill as an annotator. His method is to take any word, suggestion and place or personal name in the text which may arouse speculation and proceed to explain it in a note. But there are ways and ways of explanation, limitations on the extent and frequency with

which interpretation may be stretched to the proportions of an excursus; and the lines upon which an excursus is conducted form part of the merits or demerits not of the original author but of the Editor. We think most readers will agree that in this work they have the advantage of meeting not one but two very agreeable personalities—those of both John Evelyn and his latest Editor. “Beards,” “Declines,” “£4,000 a year,” “Father and Son,” “the Standsfield Family,” “A Religious Melancholy,” “A Woman’s Economy,” are headings to Notes almost consecutive: and if we add that the first receives sixty lines, the second five and the third twelve, we may perhaps give a notion of individuality in treatment as well as variety of subject.

It is inevitable, of course, that every reader should think of points he would have treated differently, further authorities he would have cited. We ourselves must venture to protest against the use of the word “Gothic” to describe a secretary hand (Note 136); the general history summary in Note 169 struck us as an attempt at almost impossible completeness; and we had a misgiving (probably unfounded) that the writer had not met the General Index to early volumes of these *Collections*. To say this is not to detract: indeed, it is a merit in such a work if it stimulates the reader to research upon his own account or to make suggestions.

The form of the work (a section of text followed by a section of notes) is a little difficult, but probably the best possible. The Index is good, but might with advantage have been fuller; we had some difficulty in identifying the reference to Gothic writing after losing it once.

Croydon and the Great War . . . together with the Croydon Roll of Honour. Edited by Alderman H. Keatley Moore, assisted by W. C. Berwick Sayers, Chief Librarian. Prepared under the direction and at the cost of the Corporation of Croydon, and published at the Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, 1920.

We have nothing but praise for the spirit in which this work is conceived and the efficiency with which it is carried out. The title speaks for itself and for the knowledge and ability of the Editors. We may add that the volume contains 437 pages, 59 pages of varied illustration (covering events from the beginning of War to the celebration of Peace), and 36 further pages of portraits illustrating the Roll. The headings are: “Introductory,” “The Military Record” (this includes *ante-bellum* military history and details of all war units connected with the borough), “Semi-Military Services,” “Civilian Forces” (everything from Special Constabulary to Flag Days), “Food and Fuel” (a most valuable economic section), “Victory,” and the Roll of Honour. From this last we find that Croydon had 2,506 killed casualties, the names being arranged in alphabetical order with biographical details given; 499 decorations are recorded; and 207 returned from German prisons. The book is a very worthy presentment of a very fine record.

Our Clapham Forefathers: being a list of Inscriptions from the Tombs, Monuments and Headstones of the Old Parish Churchyard; with Notes and an Index of Names. Compiled by the Rev. T. C. Dale, with a Preface by R. de M. Rudolf. A. Bachoffner, 204, High Street, Clapham. 5s. nett.

These inscriptions cover a period between the 15th and the 19th centuries, for though the Church was abandoned in 1775, the use of the Churchyard continued till 1855. The list before us records 847 names, and contains information taken from various sources, including the work of the late Mr. Ridley Bax, whose collections (now in the possession of this Society) are described in a note in the present volume; in which, by the way, attention is called to the great desirability of undertaking work such as that here noticed.

We may remark here that Mr. Dale first published his work in the local newspaper. A subsequent reprint has been a comparatively easy matter, and the process is one which might be recommended to genealogists in other parts of the county. There are many Surrey Papers and many interesting Churchyards in the vicinity of all of them. Who will turn to and produce further work on the present model? In this connection we may perhaps give a caution: it is desirable to lay down a careful scheme under which the graves to be recorded shall be visited and numbered. Our only criticism of the Clapham work is that it is not always easy to identify readily from the texts the site of each tomb.

H. J.