

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The most important, for the general reader, of OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS has also a particular interest for members of this Society. Mr. M. S. Giuseppi, F.S.A., whose name needs no introduction to these pages, has undertaken the new edition of the official *Guide to the Public Records*. Mr. Scargill Bird's work, which has been for some years out of print, dealt almost entirely with the Legal Records, and his treatment of the State Papers and Departmental documents was sketchy. The new edition has accordingly been planned on a larger scale, and is divided into two parts. The first volume, covering the Records of the Chancery and Exchequer and other Legal Records, has now been published. This comprises practically all the mediæval documents in our national archives, and, having an index of its own, can be used quite independently of the second volume which is to follow. The price of each volume is 12s. 6d., which is not excessive considering that this work is in so much greater detail and so much more scientifically arranged than its predecessor, which cost 7s. 6d. in 1908.

Another important book just issued by the Stationery Office is the second volume of the *Liber Feodorum* (£2), the new edition of the so-called Testa de Nevill, collated with the original returns of Knights' Fees. This completes the text, but cannot be properly studied without the Index, which is yet to come.

Further volumes in the calendars of *Close Rolls* and *Fine Rolls* have been issued in 1923 at the now standard price of £2. Both of these series of enrolments tend to become more and more full of merely routine entries, and these volumes cannot for individual interest rival the Patent Rolls or the earlier volumes of the Close or Fine Rolls; but the completion of the series helps to build an invaluable framework for further historical research. Mr. W. H. B. Bird's volume of Close Rolls covers the years 1389-92, and Mr. M. C. B. Dawes' volume brings the calendar of Fine Rolls up to 1368.

A new series, not of calendars but of full transcripts, begins this year with Mr. C. T. Flower's *Curia Regis Rolls*, Vol. I. Some of the earliest plea rolls of the Curia Regis were edited by the Record Commission in 1835, and others have been published by the Pipe Roll Society. It is now proposed to print the remainder of the plea rolls of Richard I and John: the present volume goes as far as King John's second year. Although the material cannot be fully appreciated without a certain amount of legal knowledge, the remarkably full and careful indexes of persons and places and of subjects show its value and variety, especially for a period whose archives, compared with those of later centuries, are comparatively scanty.

OTHER SOCIETIES.—The same editor, Mr. C. T. Flower, F.S.A., has also produced this year for the SELDEN SOCIETY the second and final volume of his *Public Works in Medieval Law*, a work whose first volume appeared in 1915. It consists of extracts from official documents, chiefly the plea rolls and indictments of the Court of King's Bench, calendared and transcribed. The arrangement is a topographical one, each group of extracts being fully calendared and followed by a transcript of the extracts themselves. Surrey takes up nearly a fifth of the present volume; among the subjects dealt with are roads or bridges at Woking, Newdigate, Egham, and Battersea. The principal point in dispute in most of these cases is the liability for repair and upkeep, and such disputes often dragged on interminably, as in the case of the Abbot of Chertsey's liability for the maintenance of the high road from Egham to Staines. A commission was appointed to fix the responsibility for this in 1350, but the matter was still unsettled in 1390, and meanwhile many persons were drowned in the flood seasons for want of proper repairs to the road. Other cases deal with drainage: the men of Wimbledon, in 1353, admitted liability to clean the ditch from Combe to Merton. Another subject is the obstruction of rights of way: John Aas was accused in the same year of obstructing the "footpath which leads from Waterlond to le Tyler" in Reigate, and the jury came to the cautious and satisfactory conclusion that there ought to be no obstruction and had been none either by John Aas or anyone else. The volume is one well worth studying by all who are interested in Surrey topography, as well as by students of mediæval law; and it is particularly valuable in that its material is drawn from a class of documents whose enormous bulk makes an official calendar quite impracticable under present conditions.

Our own SURREY RECORD SOCIETY has published during the past year the first volume of *Surrey Taxation Returns*, consisting of a transcript by various hands of the Surrey returns for the Lay

Subsidy in 1332, together with an Appendix of other illustrative documents and a full and most illuminating Introduction by Professor J. F. Willard, of the University of Colorado. The Sussex Record Society has issued a small volume of *Preston Court Rolls* under the able editorship of Mr. C. Thomas Stanford, F.S.A., ranging from 1562 to 1702; while another neighbour, the Kent Record Society, has printed, in *East Kent Records*, a series of Deeds and Court Rolls covering the period from Edward I to James I, and edited by Miss Irene Churchill.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS.—We are glad to be able to record the resumption of the *Victoria County History*, now published by the St. Catherine's Press. Hertfordshire has now been completed, and a second new volume has been published for the North Riding of Yorkshire (completed in 1914, but not produced till now).

Returning to works of more direct concern to this Society, we welcome the Rev. Thomas Bentham's *History of Beddington* (Murray, 3s. 6d.). Though intended as a popular handbook, not as an exhaustive or scientific survey of local history, it is evidently based on original research by many willing helpers, and prints some interesting extracts from the Carew papers of the Elizabethan period, now in the author's possession. We should be glad if the author had given us more information as to the nature and extent of these papers. He apologizes in his Preface for the book having been compiled in haste, and some inaccuracies appear in the editing of his material: a document evidently belonging to March, 1623-4, is dated 1623, and the words "anno Dei 1623" in the same must surely be a mistake for "anno Domini 1623." The book is well illustrated with modern photographs, reproductions of old prints, and portraits of former incumbents: and both author and publishers may be congratulated on the particularly good reproductions of five brasses of the Carew family and others.

Three other works of special importance to Surrey Antiquaries are mentioned separately below.

Among MINOR PUBLICATIONS OF SURREY INTEREST may be noticed Mr. Uvedale Lambert's valuable historical account of *The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Horne*, published, like his similar account of *The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Blechingley*, by Mitchell Hughes and Clarke at 2s. and 2s. 6d. respectively. Both of these may be regarded as by-products of his admirable *History of Blechingley*, reviewed in the last volume of these *Collections*.

Mr. E. M. Harting's sixpenny pamphlet, entitled *Come now towards Chertsey* (Rawlings and Walsh, Weybridge), is a historical sketch of Chertsey Abbey and the subsequent fortunes of Roman

Catholicism in its neighbourhood, from a definitely propagandist standpoint.

Dr. Eric Gardner has a description of Oatlands Palace and its history in *Notes and Queries* for August 26th, 1922, which is particularly useful as incorporating the results of fresh evidence obtained during recent drainage operations on that site. Colonel Lambert has a query in a later number (July 14th, 1923) on an eighteenth-century print of Bears-den Hall in Surrey, evidently a political skit of some kind.

Finally we must not overlook an interesting note, in the *Send Parish Magazine* for March, 1923, on the camp at Send Heath during the Seven Years' War, from the evidence of the Parish Register.

R. L. ATKINSON.

THE SITE OF THE GLOBE THEATRE.

In 1909 a bronze tablet was placed on the wall of Messrs. Barclay and Perkins' Brewery on the south side of Park Street, Southwark, to commemorate the site of the Globe Theatre, which was believed to have stood on some adjacent spot within the brewery area. The site was fixed as the result of investigations by Dr. William Martin, F.S.A., supplemented by Mr. Braines, on behalf of the London County Council; and Dr. Martin contributed a lengthy article on the subject, with numerous illustrations, to these *Collections*.¹

Mr. George Hubbard, F.S.A., V.P.R.I.B.A., has now written a book in favour of a site on the north side of Park Street, between that street and the river. It is common ground to all three commentators that, in some legal proceedings in the Court of King's Bench in 1616, a lease, dated February, 1598/99, was cited. In this lease the site of the Globe is clearly stated to have been on the north side of Maid or Maiden Lane, now Park Street, and if this piece of evidence stood alone, no controversy would be possible. But it is contended *per contra* that there is a considerable body of evidence showing that the theatre was on the south side of Maiden Lane, and Dr. Martin and Mr. Braines allege that a mistake has arisen, either in the 1598/99 lease or the recital of it in the 1616 case, owing to the fact (as suggested) that the compass was inserted gratuitously and wrongly from a map or plan drawn with the south at the top, as was sometimes done.

Mr. Hubbard states the facts as to this evidence clearly and fairly, and naturally makes the most of the only document which gives an unequivocal statement as to the site. Had he been content

¹ *S.A.C.* XXIII.

to leave it there his case would perhaps have been the stronger; but when he puts forward what he calls "cross-evidence," he only casts doubt upon the value of the recited lease by the weakness of his new witnesses. Most of his new evidence is irrelevant to the point at issue, and corroborates nothing. The one new fact which at first sight does appear to support the 1598/99 orientation proves, on analysis, to be valueless for this purpose.

In 1605 the Commissioners of Sewers made an order that the owners of the Globe Theatre should remove from the sewer or ditch the posts and props which stood under their bridge on the north side of Maid Lane. There is, however, no allegation in the order, or elsewhere, that the theatre adjoined either the bridge or the sewer, nor is there any necessary inference that it did so. If the bridge in question formed part of the footway to the theatre, there is good reason why the owners of the theatre should repair it, even if the theatre was on the south side of Maid Lane. We may reasonably suppose that many, if not most, of the fashionable patrons of the Globe came by water, then the great highway both for the Court and the City. The nearest landing-stage to the Globe was Horse Shoe Stairs or Wharf, whence Horse Shoe Lane led direct to Maid Lane and so to the alleged southern site. If the bridge in question was at the south end of Horse Shoe Lane, it was certainly to the interest of the theatre to keep it in repair.

Mr. Hubbard's proposition of the northern site lands him with two difficulties. It is admitted that there was a Globe Alley and a park to the south of Maid Lane, and he is therefore forced to prove that there was another Globe Alley and another park on the north of the lane. As to a northern Globe Alley, he produces no evidence whatever. As to the northern park, he cites (with other matter quite inconclusive) a Poor Rate assessment of 1609, which makes no mention of compass points, and a statement by a modern writer that the Bishop of Winchester's park had a river frontage. This, on Mr. Hubbard's own quotation, seems to be a misapprehension of what the writer actually did say. The Bishop's property, on which his house stood, undoubtedly fronted the river, but the park, we are told, lay to the south (and west) of Winchester House, which is where we find it on the old panoramic views. The word 'park' was probably used, in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, with its proper meaning of an inclosure for preserving deer, and not, as now, in the loose general sense of an estate.

Mr. Hubbard's book, with its 13 plates, is beautifully printed, but it is doubtful if it will convince any unprejudiced reader who chooses to analyze and weigh the evidence.

W. P. B.

THE ROAD-BOOKS AND ITINERARIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1570 TO 1850: A CATALOGUE WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY, BY SIR HERBERT GEORGE FORDHAM. *Cambridge, at the University Press.* 1924. 7s. 6d. net.

This book is an expansion in xv+72 pages of an article contributed to the Bibliographical Society's Transactions in 1916. The author "excludes all topographical matter in which road-distances, with the stages of ordinary travel, are not included as a distinctive feature"; and of maps includes "those only of which the object is to set out individual roads": while almanacks containing lists of roads are not catalogued after 1600, except for some typical examples. Even within these necessary limitations the Catalogue contains 246 original titles, to say nothing of numerous reprints, re-issues, and new editions.

For the local historian who wishes to visualize the travels and travelling practices of our ancestors the book forms an invaluable guide, covering all the period for which printed material is available, until the point is reached where railways and their time-tables introduce entirely new features. It is interesting to see the needs which governed the publication of these books, starting with the purely commercial, which required lists of Fairs and some information as to the means of getting to them, and so coming down through the mid-eighteenth century, which introduces us to fashionable health resorts like Bath, till we reach the period when travel for pleasure in Wales, the Highlands, and the Lake District becomes prominent about 1780. Books of this class relating to our own county (or, indeed, to any special county) are rare, and we possessed, apparently, no health resort whose celebrity called for a special guide to the roads in its vicinity. On the other hand, since nearly all the books start from London, Surrey roads and places figure in a very large proportion of them.

Sir George Fordham has added considerably to the matter contained in his original article; one notable case being that of the tables of roads from Grafton's *Abridgement* (1572, etc.), a page of which is shown in facsimile, and another that of the information drawn from almanacks. The book is beautifully produced. We commend it, with the succeeding item in these Notices, to the attention of our readers; and could wish they might stimulate some to volunteer aid in the preparation of a bibliography of Surrey Maps and other topographical works. Place-names we have already in hand.

H. J.

WHITWELL'S MAP OF SURREY.

Messrs. Ellis, of 29, New Bond Street, were able some time ago to announce the discovery of an unique copy of the map of our county, drawn by Norden and engraved by Charles Whitwell, *impensis Ro: Nicolsoni gener.*, about 1604, and they have now published at 10s. 6d. an admirable collotype facsimile. The discovery was made in a copy of the 1527 edition of Higden's *Poly-cronicon*, which¹ "was given to Robert Nicolson, of Bramley, Surrey, by his aunt Helen, wife of Sir John Branch, Lord Mayor of London in 1580, who on her death in 1594 was the subject of several volumes of elegiac verse, among them being Josuah Sylvester's 'Monodia,' 1594, one of the rarest pieces of Elizabethan literature. Nicolson himself was a book-collector of considerable learning, and from his MS. notes in the present volume it is evident that he was a careful and assiduous reader. It is recorded by Manning and Gray that in 1615 he gave a donation of books to the Library of Guildford Grammar School."

The map, a beautiful piece of engraving, measuring $15\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ inches, can best be described by the obvious comparison with Speed's; which, it will be remembered, was "described by the travills of John Norden," "augmented" by Speed, and engraved by Jodocus Hondius in 1610. It is embellished, like Speed's, with shields of arms, and closely resembles it in general style, but has no pictures. The hundreds are given in a table and shown on the map by figures, while another table of "carecters distinguishing places" includes market towns, parishes, hamlets, "Howses and places of Kinge Iames," castles, chapels, noblemen's houses, houses of gentlemen, monasteries, "decayde places," and mills. The whole is well worth study, and forms an important addition to Surrey cartography.

H. J.

POSTSCRIPT: A HISTORY OF BANSTEAD.

As this number goes to press we have received a copy of *Banstead: Three Lectures on its History*, by Sir Henry Lambert, K.C.M.G., C.B. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co.; 79 pp.: 2s. 6d.); and we feel that we must not delay in recommending this excellent work to our Members. It is of course based on Sir Henry Lambert's larger book, published in 1912; but many readers will find it

¹ We quote from Messrs. Ellis' Catalogue.

attractive who might not have time for the other. The first lecture takes the history of the place through the medieval period; the second deals with it in 'the new world of the sixteenth century' and brings it down to the nineteenth; and in the third we are taken for a tour through the Banstead of the present day, with frequent divagations into the past. All who know the first book know it for an example of scholarly and thorough work; and the second is an example of the presentation of technical and detailed information in a simple and interesting form suitable to the general reader unequipped with technical knowledge. The first lecture strikes us as a particularly successful essay in this very difficult art and might well serve as a model for other writers on similar subjects.

H. J.