

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Notes on Windlesham Parish Church. By John Cree. 117 pp.—Mr. John Cree has made a valuable addition to the number of the monographs on Surrey Churches, and has produced his work at the very moderate price of 2s. 6d. It is well printed and the paper is good. He gives a full account of the church from its first foundation in the twelfth century, its furniture and monuments, its endowments, its rectors and its fortunes, and there is a chapter on the dependent chapel at Bagshot. There is also a note on the copy of *Fewell's Apology* which is shown in the church, attached by a chain, and on the old yew tree, which is specially mentioned in *Hone's Year Book*. The Churchwardens' Accounts of 1725 are printed, and Mr. Cree is fortunate in being able to refer to notes made by a previous rector, Rev. J. M. Freshfield (1878–1900), and others. In his researches he has consulted almost every printed source of information. He has recognized what writers of parochial history do not always see, that their church was always in some way concerned with the ecclesiastical history of the nation, and consequently mention of it is found, not only in local, but in public records.

The early history of a parish church is always difficult to write owing to scantiness of material. Windlesham Church was appropriated to Newark Priory before 1260, but Mr. Cree's statement on p. 10 that the Priory served the cure by sending out a canon from Newark when they thought fit needs justifying. The quotation from a Chancery suit on p. 10 shows that this was irregular. The ordinary practice of the Austin canons, to which order Newark belonged, in the case of a small impropriated church, was to give the vicar his board at the Priory, forage for his palfrey, and a small sum for his clothes, or a gratuity from the offerings on certain specified festivals, and part of the wedding fees and the second mortuary, etc. If the church were an important one, he would be entitled to a house outside the Priory. This was the established custom at Austin Priories such as Bourne, Elsing, and Bicester, etc. But the vicar had a right to these privileges, at least after the ordination of vicarages in the thirteenth century, and it is doubtful if an Austin canon could be instituted as a parish priest, or even serve a chantry. The advow-

son was acquired on some terms about 1442 after litigation, by the Freemantles, who were lords of the manor, but the first presented rector, Richard Herman, found himself in Guildford gaol by 1457, though for what offence does not appear. The regular succession of rectors begins with Herman and they flourish to this day "in worshipful quality."

There was a chapel at Bagshot before 1262, and a chantry was founded in it before 1464 by Robert Hewlett, who endowed it with half his manor of "Freemantles." The foundation of a gild followed in 1483. Both of course disappeared in the time of Henry VIII. The chantries were, as Thomas Fuller says, "adjectives," not able to stand by themselves; they formed the third course of Henry VIII's great meal of abbey lands, etc., which began in 1545. The stipends were as a rule small, and the chantry priests generally eked out their living by keeping a school. In this way they did a good deal for education. Mr. Leach tells us that there were about 200 schools less in the kingdom after the chantries were abolished.

The fact that the glebe and church lands were formerly in strips among the common fields is interesting, and may point to the church being endowed by the whole community, which surrendered a portion of its common property for this purpose. This was not an uncommon form of endowment.

The book has three good illustrations, showing the church at different stages of its existence. It has also that most valuable adjunct, a good index. The book is well worth perusal, and will enlist a much larger circle of readers than the parishioners of Windlesham, and it is good that it has been written.—J. K. F.

Egham, Surrey : A History of the Parish under Church and Crown. By Frederick Turner, author of *A History of Thorpe*. (Box and Gilham, Egham, 1926.)—This book is a valuable addition to the histories of Surrey parishes already published. As the author tells us in the preface, it is the result of some thirty years' labour, and there can indeed be few possible sources of information which he has not worked through. It is written in a series of chapters which are arranged as far as possible in chronological order, an arrangement which has the advantage of giving a connected and intelligible narration where the facts are sufficient to permit of one, and the disadvantage of collecting in other places a number of somewhat disjointed statements which do not really make a narrative and might perhaps be more conveniently grouped (as the field and place names are in fact grouped in an appendix) under some system of alphabetical headings. But this difficulty is common to all local histories, and there is perhaps no entirely satisfactory solution. Except so far as

he quotes documents in his text, Mr. Turner does not give us any original documents.

The book, as any good book of local history must, covers an enormous amount of ground from the mediæval manor and earlier to poor law administration in the eighteenth century and events in the nineteenth century, and it contains much of varied interest. *Inter alia* it may be noted that Mr. Turner has to a great extent cleared up the story of the dissolution of the nunnery of Broomhall in Berkshire, which held Broomhall in Egham, long the property of St. John's College, Cambridge. The story revealed by the College muniments indicates that the methods of suppression in 1521 did not differ greatly from those employed later in Henry's reign. Mr. Turner's testimony to the humanity and consideration shown at Egham in the administration of the poor law in the eighteenth century is interesting.

The book is very well illustrated, and contains a number of portraits of Vicars and other persons connected with the parish, and of views of buildings which have now been demolished or completely altered, all of which are interesting. The same praise cannot however be given to the maps. The only maps indeed beyond a sketch map of the parish showing ancient boundaries are a sketch map of modern Egham and a map of the Manor of Milton in 1650. These latter are both very poor maps, being very small and indistinct. A parish history of this calibre really requires a good map, and it is a pity that Mr. Turner did not reproduce the tithe map or some other good map of the parish possessing historical interest, if there be one, on a sufficient scale to help to render the topographical part of the text intelligible to a reader who is not acquainted with Egham.

The book also contains eight pedigrees of families connected with the place, and has a good index.

H. L.

The Three Field System of Farming in Surrey.—In the *Three Field System*, Harvard Historical Studies, by Mr. Gray of Harvard, U.S.A., the author denies that the Three Field System ever prevailed in Surrey. He bases his opinion upon several surveys and terriers, from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries, in which individual holders are tenants of small areas of varying sizes in less or more than three fields, the particulars being incompatible with a tenure of equal or nearly equal portions in three fields. Though the evidence is good enough to show that the system in its complete form, with a yearly distribution of strips, had been abandoned, it is not conclusive that it never existed, in the face of positive evidence to the contrary. As the book commands a certain authority it seems worth while to

examine the validity of this denial of the system as existing in our country.

In the first place Mr. Gray has to treat very unceremoniously the positive assertion of the official agricultural writers, Messrs. James and Malcolm, in 1794, that till recently the Common Fields of Surrey had been cultivated upon the Three Field System of crops for two years and fallow for the third. Certainly they do not positively assert that they had seen it in operation. They as certainly imply that they had. There were large expanses of Common Fields in their time over all the parts of the County which had been under cultivation at the time of the Domesday Survey, but not as a rule elsewhere. They notice that there are no Common Fields in the Weald, and elsewhere they notice that there are no Common Fields in the Weald of Sussex.¹ They are writing about something which they knew in active working of some kind, even though the method of working had been modified of late. If once Common Fields are admitted it is difficult to understand how they had been cultivated, in the Middle Ages at all events, except upon a system of two years crops and one year of fallow. The *villani* of the Middle Ages did not grow turnips, nor clover, nor follow any scientific method of rotation of crops.

But if the round denial of the salient feature of the Three Field System necessitates throwing over Messrs. James and Malcolm, how is it possible to throw over Arthur Young? In 1767, speaking specially it seems of land from "Cobham almost to Westminster Bridge," he says precisely, that there is nothing worthy of special remark in their husbandry; in other words, this is a sample of the common practice, "their course is (1) fallow, (2) wheat, (3) spring corn or clover." Every parish which he passed through on that route had, I believe, its Common Fields in 1767, ending up at Battersea, "almost at Westminster Bridge."²

In the Court Rolls of Wimbledon Manor it appears that there were three fields in the Vill of Putney. They were Park Field, Thames Field and Bason Field. They are depicted in a map of the eighteenth century, which is reproduced in *Bygone Putney* by E. Hammond. They appear in the map accompanying Sir Thomas Dawes' diary in the current issue. The strips are marked, but only one field, Bason Field, is named there. This is of 1626.

In Egham, on the lands of Chertsey Abbey, there were three

¹ See Section on Social and Economic History by the Editor in the *V.C.H.* of Surrey, Vol. IV, pp. 409-10.

² Arthur Young, *Tour through the Southern Counties*. Ed. 3. Letter VI, p. 214. He notices a more scientific rotation by farmers in severalty.

fields, Estfurlong, Midelfurlong and Westfurlong, described in Abbot Rutherwyck's Survey in the early fourteenth century.¹

In Thorpe, I owe to Mr. Frederic Turner's researches in the Chertsey Ledger this conclusive instance. We find, "grant to Thomas atte Clawe of half an acre of meadow lying next le Flete in Thorpe which he had surrendered at the preceding court, with another half acre lying there *as they fall by lot yearly*."² Here is the full system of yearly apportionment of strips by lot; yet even in this Ledger it appears that by the changes of time and convenience the scattered strips of the tenants varied largely in size from a few perches to several acres. Clearly, over and above the parcels distributed by lot, tenants had land with some fixity of tenure. Conditions were similar in Dorking, where the Court Rolls show tenants holding many very small parcels of land scattered about, some in the Common Fields, some elsewhere. It is this variation which Mr. Gray specially adduces as an argument against the whole system having ever existed. It had become modified, and superseded in its entirety as early as the fourteenth century, that is all. I suspect it was changing as early as the Domesday Survey, see my article on Villenage in the Weald, Surrey Arch. Society's *Collections*, Vol. XX. One great reason for the change was the extension of the area of cultivation in the two centuries after 1086. The common fields, and the old system, existed upon the pre-Domesday cultivation, but was not extended when that cultivated area was enlarged.

I will add evidence from the *Inquisitiones post Mortem* of Laurence de Hastings, Thomas de Sidlesham, and Joanna Bachelor, 22 and 23 Edward III, for land in the Manors of Paddington, in Abinger, and of Westcote, in Dorking.³ Here we have 80 acres of arable land of which two-thirds can be sown every year if properly cultivated, in the first case; 100 acres in the second, and 80 acres in the third case, all similarly described. The original is, so many acres *terrae arabilis de quibus due partes possunt seminari per annum si bene coluntur*. In the first case *terrae nativorum* is specified. If this is not the Three Field System of two crops and a fallow, what is it? It is needless to multiply examples. A sweeping statement of "did not ever exist" is sufficiently invalidated by one exception. Incidentally, I suppose that the three subjects of these *Inquisitiones*, and William son of Laurence Hastings, all died of the Black Death. They died at any rate in the Pestilence Year. The Three Field System in Surrey took some 750 years to die, 1080 to 1830, about.

¹ *Lansdowne MS.*, 435.

² *Lansdowne MS.* 434. 14 Ed. III.

³ The old numbers of the Chancery I.P.M. are 47, 22 Ed. III, 137 & 147 Pt. 2 23 Ed. III.

In all such investigations as these it is well to bear in mind a weighty sentence by the late Sir Paul Vinogradoff: "The growth of population, of capital, of cultivation, of social inequalities led to a considerable difference between the artificial uniformity in which the arrangement of the holdings was kept, and the actual practice of farming and ownership."¹

H. E. MALDEN.

The Arts in Early England. By G. Baldwin Brown. Vols. I and II. (Second Edition, Murray. 21s. net.)—The second edition of Volume I contains comparatively few changes; there are a new preface and some slight alterations in the Notes, but in the text itself the only re-writing appears to be in the pages dealing with place-names ending in *ing*. Volume II contains far more radical changes, as a very great deal has been re-written in the light of further knowledge of the social history of Anglo-Saxon times and the relations between the Church and the community.

Surrey Guide. By J. Charles Cox, LL.D., F.S.A. Revised by Philip M. Johnston, F.S.A. With Illustrations by Edmund H. New. (Methuen & Co. 5s. net.)—A revised edition of this excellent little guide to Surrey has been issued. It outlines the various Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Mediæval finds which have been made, and there is an interesting section devoted to Monastic Buildings and many of the Parish Churches. In the Appendix Mr. Philip Johnston gives a valuable summary of the chief features of unique or exceptional interest to be found in Surrey Churches.

Windmills in Surrey. By J. P. Paddon. (Oxford: Oxonian Press. 1s. net.)—This is a collection of drawings and lino cuts illustrating those windmills which are still standing in the County of Surrey.

The Work of the Surrey Record Society.—Since our last number was issued this Society has produced very important work. Readers of these *Collections* may remember that the Record Society projected a *Guide to Archives and other Collections of Documents relating to Surrey* upon a scale more ambitious than anything which has yet been attempted in this kind—the *General Introduction*, by Mr. Hilary Jenkinson, was reprinted in our volume XXXVI. A large and very important section of this has now been published in the shape of a treatise by Mr. M. S. Giuseppi, on the *Public Record Office*, from the point of view of the Surrey Antiquary; and it is

¹ *Villainage in England*, p. 258.

hardly necessary to say that the Society has here had singularly good fortune in securing for its contributor the author of the large official *Guide* published not long ago. In the present work Mr. Giuseppi gives a quantity of detailed Surrey information which is not available anywhere else in print: the volume is in fact an essential tool for anyone working upon the history of our County.

We understand that several more sections of the *Guide* are in progress, and in particular that a section dealing with *Parish Records*, both Civil and Ecclesiastical, is actually in the printer's hands. This has been made possible by extensive work done by the Honorary Secretary of the Record Society (Miss D. L. Powell), under the auspices of the Surrey County Council.

In addition to its work upon the *Guide* the Society has been enabled by private generosity to issue to its members during the past year an edition of the *Parish Registers of Abinger, Wotton and Oakwood Chapel*: this fine volume of over three hundred pages is intended primarily as a memorial to the late J. H. C. Evelyn, of Wotton, and to Mrs. H. E. Malden, on whose transcript the text is based: it has been admirably edited and indexed by Mr. A. W. Hughes Clarke.

Finally we are informed that a second part of the *Chertsey Cartulary*, one of the Society's earliest ventures, is in the press and should be ready before the end of the year; and that a volume calendaring the eighteenth-century *Apprenticeship Registers* should be available for issue not long after. It is altogether a record of work with which the Society's friends may be very well satisfied.

D. G.