

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Parliamentary Representation of Surrey from 1290 to 1924.—By J. E. Smith. London, Wightman & Co., Ltd., 1927.—This is a useful little book and, although the author modestly disclaims any pretension to having produced an exhaustive account of the parliamentary representation of Surrey, is especially valuable at the present time when a Treasury Committee has been appointed to prepare a full history of our Parliaments from the earliest times to the year 1832, with biographies, as far as they can be compiled, of all the members of the House of Commons during that long period.

The work is prefaced with a history of the parliamentary divisions and boroughs of the county, the latter being given in their alphabetical order. This section contains succinct biographical particulars of the more distinguished representatives, especially those who became Speakers of the House. Of these there were no less than six, including the "Great Speaker (Arthur) Onslow," whose thirty-four years' tenure of the office so greatly raised it to its present high standard. No less than three members of the Onslow family were Speakers, but Richard Onslow, the first of these, represented a Sussex constituency. Another well-known Surrey Speaker, though distinguished for other reasons than was Speaker Onslow, was Sir Fletcher Norton.

The greater part of the book is taken up with the tabular lists of the members of the successive Parliaments from 1290 to 1924, beginning with the knights of the shire to 1832, and, after the Reform Act of that year, the representatives of the several divisions of the county and concluding with the members for the boroughs, including Lambeth and Southwark until their absorption, together with certain new boroughs within the bounds of the ancient county of Surrey, created only in 1885, into the new administrative county of London under the Local Government Act of 1888.

The names of the members down to the year 1885 have naturally been taken from the printed Returns made in pursuance of Orders of the House of Commons of 1876 and 1877. These were compiled

mainly from the original writs and returns at the Public Record Office, checked and supplemented by the lists at the Crown Office, and Mr. Smith's service has been to pick out the Surrey representatives and set them out in topographical order. It may be pointed out that since the official lists were printed a few returns which were then noted as missing have since turned up and will be found entered in the Search Room copy of the lists at the Record Office. Some of these contain some Surrey returns which have escaped Mr. Smith's attention, and it may be worth while to notice them here. The very earliest of these, those for the 1275 Parliament, which Mr. Hilary Jenkinson described in the *English Historical Review* for April 1910, do not, it is true, include any return for Surrey, for the mutilated return made by the sheriff of the then joint counties of Surrey and Sussex appears to relate only to the latter county. But there are returns for the second Parliament of the third year of Henry VI (4 March 1415-16), previously missing, which give the names of the following Surrey members, namely John Burgh and William Yerde for the county, Richard Eton and John Hiperon for Guildford, John Hokkyng and John Solas for Southwark, and Roger Eylove and John Meade for Blechingley; whilst the names of the knights of many of the shires in the Parliament of 18 Henry VI (1439) have been found in an entry of the Fine Roll of that year, where Nicholas Carreu and William Sydeneye the younger appear as representing Surrey.

For the period subsequent to 1885 it is to be presumed that Mr. Smith has had access to the lists at the Crown Office. It is unfortunate that, although the description of the parliamentary divisions and boroughs of the country since the Representation of the People Act of 1918 which he gives in his historical introduction is correct enough, his arrangement of his tabular returns that year is confused in places and in one respect has led him into error.

The North-Eastern and Wimbledon division of the county in that year gave place to the Eastern division and the parliamentary borough of Wimbledon, yet on page 58 Mr. Smith continues the representation of the former county division from 1918 to 1924, giving first the representatives of the new county division for the Parliaments of 1918, 1922, 1923, and 1924, and then those of the new Wimbledon borough for the same Parliaments, correctly enough but without indicating the two separate constituencies, whilst on page 121 he gives again the Wimbledon representation during the same years, but wrongly, for Sir Stuart Coats was neither in 1918 or 1922 the member for the borough, and in 1924 Sir Joseph Hood was succeeded by Sir J. C. Power. Again, although in 1918

Kingston became a parliamentary borough, Mr. Smith has continued the list of its representatives down to 1924 as a county division, but has correctly repeated them on page 96 as a borough.

These are small errors no doubt and the criticism is perhaps a little ungracious in view of Mr. Smith's disarming quotation on page 121. Such as it is, however, it must be construed in the light of his own expressed wish that his book may help to the production of some more exhaustive and correct history of the subject, and in conclusion it may be added that the author has increased our obligation to him by the addition of an index.

M. S. G.

A History of Thorpe in the County of Surrey. With maps and illustrations. By Frederic Turner. Issued privately, 1924.—The history of Thorpe is so closely connected with that of Egham that it was to be expected that Mr. Turner, whose work on the latter parish was reviewed in the last part of these *Collections*, would collect in his researches so much material relative to it as to make well worth while the following up of a complete inquiry and the embodying of the results in a separate book. Actually the work now under review, which originally appeared in instalments in the parish magazine, was issued a couple of years before the *History of Egham*, although it is well known to the present writer that Egham was Mr. Turner's first concern.

Nevertheless, those who know the author's diligence and patience in research will know that nothing less than a full-dress parish history would have satisfied him before venturing on publication, and as a result we have here for one of the smaller Surrey parishes a history so complete and exhaustive in its materials that no other writer in our times at least is likely to undertake the task again. This being so, it may be hoped that Mr. Turner will eventually see his way to republishing his history in a style and with a dignity more worthy of its importance. He should be assured of a public for it.

The evidences of pre-Conquest history in Thorpe are scanty in the extreme: a single Bronze Age chisel (here figured), two Roman bronze coins, one of Trajan and one of Carausius, found within its boundaries, and supposed slight traces of the Roman road from Silchester to London. After the Conquest, however, Thorpe has the great advantage to the historian of being one of the possessions of the religious house of Chertsey which is unusually rich in surviving cartularies or registers of its deeds and court rolls. In addition to the fifteenth-century one now in the Record

Office, the calendar of which is in course of publication by the Surrey Record Society, there are three others in the British Museum. Of all these Mr. Turner has been able to make full use, whilst the variety of his references to other sources, notably to those at the Record Office and to the muniments of the present lord of the manor to which he has been privileged to obtain access, proves how widely his net has been cast.

Mr. Turner gives with much full detail the early history of the manor of Thorpe under the abbey, using largely the extant court rolls or the extracts from them, and follows this with the later history since its acquisition by the Crown at the Dissolution until it came into the hands of its present owners, the Leigh-Bennetts. There was also a second manor in Thorpe, if indeed it was ever anything more than a putative manor, that of Hall Place or High Graveney, about the fifteenth-century owners of which Mr. Turner is able to tell us much from the numerous suits in the Court of Chancery in which they became involved. One of these suits—there were at least seven of them—has been found of sufficient interest to be included in the Selden Society's volume of *Select Cases in Chancery*. After all this litigation the history of this second manor becomes somewhat obscure, but early in the following century Hall Place reappears, now in possession of the family of Wykes which was connected by marriage with Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex. Afterwards it was purchased by the Dean of St. Stephen's College at Westminster and by him granted to his college. At the Dissolution of the colleges and chantries it passed into the hands of the Crown and being granted out eventually came, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, after a succession of different owners, into the possession of William Minterne, who afterwards had a grant of the principal manor, since which the history of Hall Place as a separate manor comes to an end.

In its later history Thorpe has had a number of distinguished residents. From one of these, the late Mr. G. E. Cokayne ("G. E. C."), to whose memory the present work is dedicated, Mr. Turner has obtained much of the interesting and valuable genealogical information with which his work abounds.

The book contains a full description of the church, the architectural part from the pen of our member, Mr. P. M. Johnston, with an account of its former vicars, its charities, monuments, inscriptions and the like, and of the parish register. Many of the ancient place and field names are referred to in the course of the work, and not infrequently Mr. Turner is able to identify them with their names to-day. An appendix gives all such names which appear in the fourteenth-century court rolls. It is to be hoped

that, if and when the more dignified edition of this history that has been desiderated above appears, it will be accompanied with a good scale map of the parish. The two small plans of the northern and southern halves which are given here are too sketchy to enable the reader to follow the author's identifications of the place names.

M. S. G.

By-ways in the History of Croydon. By Clarence G. Paget. With twelve illustrations. Price 1s. 3*d.* Croydon, 1929.—Croydon is to-day so much in the van of modern progress and in the process has been able to conserve so few monuments of its ancient history that we heartily welcome this attempt to bring home to its inhabitants the fact that it has had a past and one of no ordinary interest. Although from its price the book is evidently intended to appeal to a wide and popular circle of readers and is written throughout in an eminently readable style, it is nevertheless the result of much original research in unpublished documents and has been compiled with no little scholarship.

The twelve chapters of which it consists deal with a variety of incidents of local interest largely gathered from the legal proceedings of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer, the State Papers and other manuscripts at the Public Record Office, from wills at Somerset House, from the MSS. at Lambeth Palace and other sources. In the first two chapters the writer treats of Bygone Croydon generally, the first dealing with the town itself and the second with the more rural part of the parish which lies outside the town. In the latter, Mr. Paget has made good use of the valuable MS. collection of terriers and surveys of the archbishop's lands dating from the year 1493 preserved in Croydon Library. The chapter entitled "A Cardinal's Intervention" shows how a former vicar of Croydon in 1529 stood up against the redoubtable Wolsey in defence of a widow's rights. There are three chapters dealing very thoroughly with different aspects of Croydon history during the Interregnum in which Mr. Paget has been able to make use, amongst other materials, of that little worked source known as the Commonwealth Exchequer Papers at the Record Office. The association of William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, with Coombe in the parish is interesting. In such chapters as those on "A Gravestone with a Story" and "A Domestic Drama at Coombe" the author happily illustrates the very human interest often lurking in the old proceedings of the Court of Chancery, whilst the same source is mainly drawn upon for the account of Archbishop Wake's water supply at the Palace. The events

resulting in the foundation of the charity of an earlier archbishop, the Whitgift Hospital, now the great archæological glory of the town, form the matter of the concluding chapter.

In spite of its modest title this little book contains much that is a real contribution to the history of Croydon and with its interesting and well reproduced illustrations may be recommended as extraordinarily good money's-worth.

M. S. G.

A Little History of the Abbey of S. Mary of Waverley. By Etienne Robo. E. W. Langham, printer, Farnham, 1928. Price 1s. This is an interesting sketch of the history of the abbey in which such scanty material as exists is carefully collected and commented on in popular style. It is illustrated by four pictures. The writer is a zealous defender of the monks, but some of his conclusions are clearly not covered by his evidence, *e.g.* his conclusion that Waverley cannot have been decadent in 1533 because two letters which he quotes recommended the abbot for promotion. The scanty facts which are given are unfavourable to the monastery. It had been in debt already in 1290 and 1330, there were defalcations in 1341, the monastic lands (contrary to the rule of the Order) were already in the fourteenth century being leased, and at the time of the Dissolution not only was the abbey in financial difficulties, but the number of monks, to say nothing of lay brothers, was not nearly half what it had been in 1187. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 gives the charitable expenses as only £4 10s. 5d. (that is tax-free alms: see Savine in *Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History*, Vol I, chap. iv). With regard to the monks after their dispersion, those who remained in religion no doubt ultimately got pensions and probably as many as possible were put into livings. For it was usual to saddle the new owner with the burden of the pension, and presentation to a living was a convenient way of escape (see "The Dispossessed Religious" in *Essays in History* presented to Reginald Lane Poole).

H. L.

The Strip Map of Oakley Reynes, 1795: with an introduction to the study of Field Maps. By G. Herbert Fowler. This, which forms Part I of Vol. II of the Quarto Memoirs of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, is a most interesting and valuable work. The map is about two-thirds of the size of the original (which measures 6 feet 5½ inches by 3 feet 5 inches) and has been photo-

lithographed from a tracing made by Dr. Fowler. It reproduces nearly everything in the original except the colours and a few items of information which are accessible in a Terrier of 1799. It need hardly be said that a detailed map of a parish on this scale made before enclosure had obliterated the traces of the old system of agriculture is of very great historical interest, and Bedfordshire appears to possess no less than sixteen such maps, though none like this has ever been published before. We in Surrey can only envy such wealth. The map shows all the separate strips, and the terrier the number of "lands" or sections in each strip, and from their size and situation and the nature of the ground Dr. Fowler is able to attempt a reconstruction of the agricultural history of the parish. His introduction, though being necessarily short it makes statements which are open to controversy, is admirably clear and helpful to those who desire to study the problems of early agriculture and village settlement.

H. L.

A few Notes on Banstead Downs, with some remarks on the Epsom races in olden times, and a short description of Nonsuch Palace and its surroundings, with a view of the Palace, by H. B. Sutton, William Pile, 1928. Price 6*d.* (Later Edition, 1929, by Harold Bawtree. Price 1*s.* 6*d.*)

This little pamphlet contains some interesting suggestions as to old roads and tracks over the Downs, with remarks as to pre-historic river-courses, and to tumuli, hillocks and mounds. A caveat, however, with regard to the present surface of the Downs is necessary, as it was terribly cut up at the time that the railway was made, and some of the existing irregularities of surface may be due to the proceedings of those who constructed the line. The parts of the pamphlet relating to Epsom races and Nonsuch are mostly based on printed authorities. The reproduction of Hoefnagle's print of Nonsuch Palace is, considering the size and price of the pamphlet, remarkably good.

H. L.