

## NOTES BY MEMBERS AND OTHERS.

WALBROOK.—I beg to place on record the following:—On the eastern side of Tokenhouse Yard, new buildings are being erected. Until recent years this was a one-storeyed building and in ancient times was I believe a yard for the Corporation work. At a depth of 27 feet the contractors have found the bed of the River and at 60 feet east of the site seemed to touch the bank of the Brook or River, and they think that the western side of the Bank represents its middle. If this be correct the brook at this point was above 120 feet wide when full of water.

WM. C. EDWARDS.

TOKENHOUSE YARD AND THE WALBROOK.—I remember very well some forty and more years ago when my Firm erected Tokenhouse Buildings opposite the buildings alluded to in Mr. Edwards's note that we had the water running like a river through the lower part of the excavations which were about 40 feet deep. I obtained from the excavation immediately above the gravel several coins and a skull, which I still have. My impression is that this particular branch of the Walbrook came through from near the Swan's Nest Public House, under Huth's Bank, turned across by the Bank of England, under Freshfield's Offices, down Old Jewry and under Potter's map-shop in the Poultry (where some fragments of Samian ware were dug up), and so across under the Safe Deposit Building. There were, I believe, several small streams which ran out of Finsbury Fields, and which combined to form the Walbrook.

The late Mr. Price, the antiquary, published a work on the finds under the Safe Deposit Building, and included in it a very carefully prepared plan of the Brook.

FREDK. L. DOVE.

SOME ACCOUNT OF BYGONE HANWELL and its Chapelry of New Brentford. By SIR MONTAGU SHARPE. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  x 8, 99 pp. Brentford: Printing and Publishing Co. 5s. n.

"It is thirty years ago since Sir Montagu Sharpe, who has done so much for the history of Middlesex, first drew attention to the extensive defence works still existing in the bed and north bank of the Thames at Brentford, and urged that this was the site of Cæsar's crossing in 45 B.C. It is over forty years since a palisade of stout young oaks, with sharpened ends pointing outwards was laid bare in the reach opposite "Old England," Hanwell, where the ford that Cæsar crossed still is. That these are the defences of which Cæsar spoke in his narrative and that Brentford was the scene of his crossing few probably doubt to-day. Over 274 stumps, six to ten feet of which were embedded in the river bed, often a foot in diameter and blackened with age, have since been extracted from this spot by the Thames Conservancy.

These facts make the Roman part of the author's work on Hanwell the most impressive, perhaps, of the story he has to tell. But the whole is interesting, and from the records which he has been able to assemble a detailed and vivid picture emerges of Hanwell in the time of Domesday Book and down through the ages. The maps are especially valuable, and Sir Montagu's discussion of various historical and manorial terms will be of value to the student. We miss a complete list of rectors; the compilation of such a list would have disclosed the fact that Robert Harris, mentioned on page 31 as having in 1643 been appointed to the "Assembly of Learned and Godly Divines, to be consulted by the Parliament for the Settlement of the Government of the Church" had nothing to do with this Hanwell. This celebrated Puritan, President of Trinity College, Oxford, was rector of Hanwell, near Banbury, Oxfordshire." *The Times Literary Supplement*, Thursday, November 13, 1924.

THE MOUNT HOUSE, MONKEN HADLEY COMMON.—The mound from which the house takes its name closely abutted on the north west corner of the original house. At some subsequent date the house was extended on the north side with the result that the doorway on the west side was on a level with the ground instead of being as on the south and east sides approached by seven or eight steps.

On the top of the mound there was a large cedar tree, probably 200 or 300 years old. At the time I came into possession, the root only of the tree remained, as the tree was blown down in a great gale on March 26th, 1916. The mound, as far as I could judge, (it was greatly overgrown with bushes, etc., when I moved here) seems to have had a gravel path winding round and over it together with a roseary. For domestic reasons, I removed a portion of the soil further north and on the exact site of the old cedar I planted another one at the level of the surrounding ground, making a bench-mark on the house at the former level of the top of the mound as far as I was able to distinguish it. I was informed that a former resident, Mr. Oscar Berry C.C., drove a heading into the mound but was not rewarded by making any discovery and I interviewed him with regard to finds in the garden generally, as some of the local people stated that he had dug up numerous articles in the garden. He informed me however, that he found practically nothing.

After I moved here, I excavated a stretch of garden, following the line of the circumference of the mound, some eight to twelve feet down and at a depth of eight feet I found the trench was half on virgin gravel and half had been previously excavated, I did not disturb the excavated ground further but in the virgin gravel I sunk some few feet further until I reached water. In order to clear up the matter, I have lately sunk a shaft within three or four feet of where the cedar tree stood, i.e. practically close to the centre of the mound. I found the soil as follows:—about two feet six inches of ordinary soil and six inches

of a grayish white sand which on exposure turned a deeper colour. One of the navvies engaged on the work thought there was a smell in this, but as his mate failed to notice it I am inclined to think he may have given play to his imagination. Below this, about nine inches of dirty gravel and, below this, a loamy bright yellow virgin sand. I sunk into this about four feet nine inches: water was reached at about three or four feet from the surface. So much for this mound.

Another small mound exists in the garden of Col. Bentley at the house called "The Grove" and I am told that two more small mounds formerly existed on the Monken Hadley Common. These last two were removed many years ago and a local builder who remembers them very well informs me that they were about twelve feet in diameter and about eight feet six inches high and were composed of mortar rubble and brick bats. Personally I am inclined to think that the mounds at The Mount and at the Grove consisted of the soil excavated from the adjoining ponds. The same remark would apply to those on the Common, but for the fact of their being composed of the substances before-mentioned. I have heard or read somewhere that the four mounds were probably archery shooting-butts, but this does not correspond with the old archery butts in Hoxton, Kingsland, and lower Islington which were, I believe, all stone or wooden marks. One or two of the former were still existing in the early part of the last century and are mentioned in Nelson's and Lewis's Histories of Islington.

A man I know (one of our Foremen) about 60 years of age, and a native of Barnet, tells me that as a boy he played on the Common and the boys always used to allude to the numerous small hillocks there as the "Soldiers Graves." Personally I am inclined to think that they are nothing more than earth, etc., thrown on one side when people have dug sand on the Common; but at the same time I am a great believer in oral tradition. FREDK. L. DOVE.

CITY STREET NAMES. By LOUIS ZETTERSTEN. Second edition. London: City Kotteriet. 8vo. viii and 86 pp. (15s.).

That a second edition of this work by one of our esteemed members has been called for is a testimony to its value to all lovers of our great City. Arranged in alphabetical order, the names of the Streets, Lanes, Alleys, and Courts of which we may be in search are easily found and their derivations succinctly stated in so far as modern study has made known those derivations. In addition, many interesting notes concerning the thoroughfare under notice are frequently given.

The opening pages deal with the origin of the word 'Londinium' and quote the opinion of Mr. Henry Bradley who, in 1910, pointed out that "All we really know is that the name of the City is derived, by the addition of suffixes, from a word *Lond*—the meaning of which is still obscure."

Enough appears in the book to make us wish for more; but then it might have lost its handy form. We could also have wished for other opinions as to derivations, but even so it might not have satisfied us for we know well that among philologers themselves unanimity has not yet been reached. Pleasing features are the series of views of about the year 1830 and the charming sketches by E. Angell Roberts which adorn the pages of the book. Upon the cover, Miss Jefferies' fine etching of the "Old Cheshire Cheese," Fleet Street, attracts attention. For frontispiece, we could have desired a copy of the original of the plan of the City rather than the far-descended derivative which is reproduced. The slips in the text are readily perceptible and are easy of correction.

The book is admirably printed and well got up, and if we should not be studiously inclined we might still find in it much to beguile pleasantly our odd moments of leisure.

W.M.

CASES FOR BINDING.—In response to several enquiries as to the provision of cloth cases for holding loose parts of the

Transactions of the Society, the Council has decided to provide a limited number. These cases, which are eminently suitable for binding completed volumes, may be obtained from Mr. C. W. F. Goss, F.S.A., Hon. Librarian, at a cost of 1/3 each.

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MEMBERS' NOTES.—For inclusion in the *Transactions* of the Society, the Editor will be glad to receive from Members and others notes of archaeological and antiquarian interest concerning London and Middlesex.

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