

EDITORS' NOTES

THESE notes are an innovation which it is hoped will win approval. They are designed for several purposes. One of them is to bridge the gulf which the editors suspect may sometimes exist between the ordinary member of the Society and some of the contributions which follow. Conversation with members suggests that many of them put the *Transactions* on the shelf unread, and that they are not using the set of volumes as a familiar and handy reference work, to be consulted before excursions, looked up after a lecture, used to settle a query. The *Transactions* of any local society should always contain articles of scholarly quality, with the necessary apparatus of footnotes, etc., required to support them. The scholars' apparatus may at times deter the reader who is not specially interested in the subject or acquainted with the field of knowledge it embraces. The editors purpose to make certain that any author's purpose is quite evident ; if more seems to be required than the author can be asked to provide, these notes will attempt to give background to the article. In this way we hope that the proper standard of the *Transactions* will be maintained, and that every member will get as much out of them as possible.

The second purpose of these notes is to provide comments on matters of more than passing interest to members of the Society : historical or archæological questions arising out of a lecture or an excursion which cannot be dealt with in a formal annual report ; significant items of local news and the like. The editors would like to be reminded of matters which seem to call for inclusion.

Roman Coin Hoards from Calverton

The first paper in this volume contains a brief report on two hoards of Roman coins which were found by chance at Calverton in 1959-60. Numismatists will expect fuller publication in one of their specialist journals. Mr. Mattingly has attempted to indicate for our members the social and historical significance of the hoards. We believe that this is

something new in accounts of such finds, and we are grateful to Mr. Mattingly for responding to the ideas mentioned in the first paragraph.

Sherwood Forest

The second paper deals with a subject somewhat neglected by Nottinghamshire historians — Sherwood Forest. The essential basis for its study is the *Forest Book*, a medieval collection of records relating to Sherwood of which several copies have survived, including one in the Society's possession. It is hoped that the Record Section will in a few year's time put into our hands a printed edition of it. In the meantime the account of excavations of the royal hunting lodge at Clipstone focuses interest on one aspect of the history of the Forest.

Nottingham Museums

The editors are glad to be able to print the witty and stimulating lecture given to the Society by Mr. E. J. Laws, Curator of the Castle Museum. It signalises the close and happy relations which now exist between the Society and the Museum. Members will certainly hope that the plan to turn Newdigate House into a local history museum may come to rapid fruition. It may be pointed out that whereas Nottingham spends on its museum services about £37,000 a year, the city of Leicester, which has the same population, spends about twice that amount. Birmingham spent last year almost a quarter of a million pounds, the equivalent of a 4d. rate. Norwich spends the equivalent of a 4d. rate, which produces almost exactly what Nottingham spends, though Norwich is not much more than a third of the size. Moreover, Nottingham has never made full use of the powers it obtained in the Nottingham Corporation Act of 1938, which authorised the creation of an art fund not to exceed £20,000. Recently contributions to the art fund have been £1,500 per annum.

Worksop Archæological Society

County societies such as ours are, fortunately, enduring institutions. Others, drawing their membership from a smaller area, tend to come and go. We are happy to note that one, the Worksop Archæological and Local History

Society, is at this time flourishing again. The members are engaged in excavating a most important site in Senatta Wood, west of the town, a primitive native settlement of Roman date consisting of a few huts within a walled enclosure. We hope that when the work is completed an account of it will appear in the *Transactions*, to serve as a contrast with the more sophisticated farmsteads of the same age, like Mansfield Woodhouse (Volume LIII, 1949), Barton in Fabis (Volume LV, 1951) and Thurgarton (now being excavated) in more fertile parts of the county. We must welcome the existence of such societies, maintain close relations with them, and hope that they will help to maintain the *Transactions* as the proper county publication for material of substantial interest.

Excursion to Hablesthorpe and North Leverton

One of the most successful excursions in 1960 took members to several villages in the north-east of the county. There was an opportunity to visit the windmill at North Leverton, recently saved by the enlightened intervention of the County Council, and after representations by the Society. The mill was set up as a co-operative venture by local farmers, and is to continue as a working mill. The society also visited the site of the vanished church of Hablesthorpe, a hamlet adjacent to the parent village of North Leverton. Hablesthorpe may have been part of the archbishop of York's manor of Laneham, which would explain why land there became the endowment of the prebend of Apethorpe in York Minster. The interests of the York chapter were strong enough to have a church built there, although North Leverton parish church is only about one mile away, and to give Hablesthorpe church the status of a vicarage, thus diminishing to some extent the rights of the prebend of North Leverton in Southwell Minster. Hablesthorpe church disappeared in the first half of the 18th century. The small manor house (for the estate naturally ranked as a manor) has a mullioned window and a panelled room, both of early 17th century date; the house must have been rebuilt by the then lessee of the prebendal estate. Throsby's *Nottinghamshire* (III, p. 291) has a note about the very unusual arrangement of holdings in the one open field system shared by the two townships; each church had its own tithingmasters to collect tithes from the appropriate land.

Lectures and Exhibitions

Members who have not been in the habit of attending the Society's lectures may like to note that objects or records relevant to the lecture, or new finds of general interest, are now exhibited on the occasion of each lecture. The most important exhibit this winter was the medieval brass discovered in the church at Holme Pierrepont, in the course of restoration work. It is a brass of very good quality, dated c. 1390 ; it represents an unknown woman, and any inscription it may have had is missing. The brass has been repaired and is to be relaid in the church.

East Midland Archæological Bulletin

Members may like to know that an annual record of finds and excavations for the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland is produced yearly, under the above title, by the University of Nottingham Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Its purpose is to make available promptly a brief report of all new material, and to enable those interested to take note of discoveries in adjacent counties. It appears during the summer following the year covered.

Doubleday Index to Nottinghamshire Local History

Nottingham City Libraries have now acquired a remarkable collection of 300,000 index cards compiled by the late W. E. Doubleday, whom many will remember under the pseudonym of John Granby, writing regularly as a contributor to the *Nottinghamshire Weekly Guardian* for many years. This Index is a most valuable source for all those interested in the history of the city and county. It is arranged in alphabetic sequence, and is now being accommodated in special catalogue cabinets. Portions of the Index are still, however, housed in cardboard boxes, making access difficult, but anyone wishing to consult it should give prior notice to the Local History Department at the City Library, when full facilities will be given.