

FOREWORD

By SIR ALAN BARLOW

G.C.B., K.B.E., M.A., F.S.A.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

THE Buckinghamshire Archæological and Natural History Society was founded in November 1847. The Council would have wished to mark the centenary by some special celebration, but in face of the difficulties of travel and catering they have perforce contented themselves for the time being with issuing this number of the *Records* in a new format and with larger and more varied contents.

The Society is developing in several directions. With the generous help of the Local Education Authority, a whole-time Curator of the Museum has been appointed, and a Schools Service on lines which have proved successful in other counties is in process of development. His advent will bring relief to the Hon. Secretary, to whose self-sacrificing enthusiasm the Society owes so much; and will enable the Archivist to devote more of her time and learning to the library, muniments and records, and will ease the hard lot of the Hon. Programme Secretary.

More space is now available in the Museum building, and plans are being worked out for enlarging the exhibition galleries and providing more amenities for members.

A Natural History Section has been formed. Our county has rich and varied natural history interests, and there is a wide field for research. The Section has made a promising start, in alliance with kindred societies in the district, and would welcome new members. We are much indebted to Miss K. Price and Mr. H. S. Hayward for the records of the birds of the county which they have contributed to this number.

For many years Mr. George Eland, F.S.A., has been the Hon. Editor of the *Records* and a constant contributor to them. On his departure from the county, his editorship necessarily ceased with the last issue, and all members would wish to pay a tribute to his devoted services. We are glad that the Society will continue to enjoy the benefit of his interest as a Vice-President.

This issue of the *Records* has launched out into advertisements. This is not a mere concession to commercialism. Most of the firms who have

helped us by taking space have been established in the county for as long as, or longer than, the Society itself, and it is fitting that their names should appear in this centenary number.

In archæology and natural history in all their manifold branches, there is much work to be done in the county, and though there has been a gratifying increase in members in the last two years, we need more, both of those who will take an active part in research and the compilation of records and of those who may feel that they cannot make such contributions, but who will enjoy the meetings and excursions and whose subscriptions will help to meet the ever-increasing expenses. Every member should recruit at least one more.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editors wish to thank the following for lending photographs or blocks for the illustrations :

Mr. B. Westwood of Weybridge for Plates 2, 5-9; The Society of Antiquarians for Plates 3 & 4 ; Mr. L. J. Smith for Plate 10 ; Mrs. Katharine A. Esdaile for Plates 11-15, 18, 21, & 25 ; Mr. T. D. Kendrick for Plates 16 & 17 ; Mr. Herbert Felton for Plate 19 ; Mr. G. Eland for Plate 20 ; Mr. A. Vere Woodman for Plates 22-24 ; and Mr. Elliott Viney for the Frontispiece. Plates 26-28 are the property of the Society.