

## REVIEWS

*The Missenden Cartulary*. Part II. Edited, transcribed and printed by J. G. Jenkins (Buckinghamshire Record Society, Twitchells End, Jordans, 1955), being Vol. 10, issued for the year 1946. 10 × 6 inches, viii + 200 pp. Price not given: but obtainable from the Secretary as above.

It is a sad reflection upon the economics of our age and the strange lack of balance between things cultural and material that, in order to get this valuable and serious work of scholarship published at all, its transcriber and editor should have had, in addition, to print and publish it himself.

It is a brave and splendid effort; and in thankfulness for having the material made available one must overlook some shortcomings in the presentation. Mr. Jenkins is well aware of these himself—that the type is uncomfortably small, unevenly inked and often irregularly spaced on the pages. But, this much said, everything else that one wants is there.

The volume is a continuation of Vol. 2 (1938), when the first part of the Cartulary was published, and it follows the same form. Charters relating to Chesham, Amersham, Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Nettleden, Kings Langley, Horton, Beaconsfield, Chenies, Hedsor, Hedgerley, Great and Little Kimble and Owlswick are here found. Mr. Jenkins provides a short introduction, in which he mentions that several interesting points have arisen in the course of his study of the Cartularies. One of these concerns the Windsor family, whose pedigree is discussed by Mr. Michael Hughes in Appendix B. Another is the identity of a certain Walter de Hanley or Henle, who may be the individual of that name associated with a well-known medieval Treatise on Husbandry. There is, as usual, a copious index.

E. C. R.

Two pamphlets published by the Buckinghamshire Record Society deserve notice. The first, printed by Hague & Gill, High Wycombe, in 1954, is an address by Mr. J. G. Jenkins on *The Stowe Collection of Manuscripts in the Huntington Library, California*. The second is a *Hand-List of the Stowe Collection* in the same library by Mr. Jenkins, 1956, who spent three months making a rough calendar of the collection in 1953.

Some may regret that this great assembly of documents relating to the domestic affairs of the Grenville and Temple families at Stowe, near Buckingham, should have crossed the Atlantic where they can have little significance except to the occasional student. But the fact remains that had they not been purchased *as a whole* and sumptuously housed where they are, they would probably have been dispersed to the four corners of the globe, and their value, as a comprehensive record of a great family and its estate, largely destroyed. Mr. Jenkins' summary list gives some idea of the quantity and range of material available to the student and historian in the Huntington Library.

E. C. R.

*Early Man in South Buckinghamshire*. By J. F. Head, F.S.A. 5½ × 7½ inches, xix + 175 pages, 36 illustrations, 8 maps. Bristol, John Wright & Sons. Limited edition, 21s. net. 1955.

This is an important, welcome and long-overdue study of the pre-history of the area, carried further through the Roman and Saxon periods. Up till now the student

of such matters has had to search for his information through a large number of scattered articles in archaeological societies' journals and other antiquarian publications. The material in the *Victoria County History*, and even the *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments*, has been long out of date. Now, thanks to Mr. Head, the results of the latest work and research, not least his own, have been gathered together and illustrated in authoritative and readable form.

Mr. Head's remarks, in particular, on Grim's Ditch, and the Whiteleaf and Bledlow Crosses will be particularly useful in clearing up a lot of nonsense that has been talked and written about these baffling objects. His remarks about the Icknield Way and the part it has undoubtedly played in the early development and culture of the south of the county are also notable. This early trackway formed an "invasion route" from the north-east no less important than the Thames Valley waterway on the south; and the admirable distribution maps show clearly the influence of these two features in the various periods.

At the end there is an excellent gazetteer and bibliography, and the book is adequately indexed and attractively produced.

E. C. R.

*The Church in the Fields: the Parish and Parish Church of Lillingstone Dayrell, Bucks.* By F. H. Mountney, M.A., Rector. Illustrated by J. H. S. Firth and from photographs. 7 × 5 inches, 20 pp. and cover. Published at Lillingstone Rectory. Price 1s. 6d. 1955.

It is always a pleasure to note the appearance of really good church or parish guides. Such is the present account of Lillingstone Dayrell by the Rector, the Rev. F. H. Mountney. Here is a sensible and readable summary of most things the ordinary visitor or sightseer will want to know. A plan of the church is included, eight pleasant line drawings by J. H. S. Firth, two photographs of the north and south sides of the chancel, two reproductions of brass rubbings, and the Dayrell arms.

The title on the cover is somewhat misleading, for there are several Buckinghamshire churches (like Tattenhoe) which would qualify equally well. But that is a minor point. The pamphlet is divided into six sections dealing respectively with the Place or Parish; the Church (in this, it is a pity more use, for structural description, was not made of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Inventory); the Rectory; Luffield Priory, which once stood partly on the edge of the parish; a vanished Chapel of St. Thomas; and a list of Rectors. The author is to be commended for his restraint in not yielding to the temptation of claiming his list of Rectors to date from 1198 or 1208, based on an unspecified source quoted by Browne Willis. But in the church history section, one can note a strong anti-protestant prejudice. It is a sad reflection that the remains of a medieval chapel which had stood east of Luffield Priory certainly since the fifteenth century, and perhaps in part since its foundation in 1174, was demolished in 1943 to make way for Silverstone aerodrome, now superseded by roaring racing cars.

E. C. R.

*The Laudian Church in Buckinghamshire.* (Offprint from the *University of Birmingham Historical Journal*, Vol. V, No. 1, 1955.)

Mr. E. R. C. Brinkworth, of Birmingham University, has thrown considerable light on the history of the Church in Buckinghamshire in the time of Charles I and full references to his sources are given with his article. With the accession of Charles I, Laud's real predominance in the Church of England began. James's sympathies with Laud were mainly evoked by the breadth of his theological judg-

ments, Charles also sympathised in his advocacy of authority over the external actions of Ministers and congregations. Within a year of becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, Laud announced his intention of visiting the diocese of Lincoln metropolitanically. This was, of course, part of a continuous programme of activity during the years 1634-37 and was aimed at forcing conformity.

Mr. Brinkworth shows that the clerical standards were high, only one incumbent being entered as non-resident and only one solitary instance of drunkenness or indeed of any of the grosser sins is found. This latter concerned Robert Evans, vicar of West Wycombe, who "was so distempered with drink that coming to Church for evening prayer on St. John's Day last he could not read evening prayer". There are a number of cases of neglected services on Wednesdays and Fridays; of omission to wear the surplice; and thirty-six cases in which it was questioned whether curates were licensed to serve cures.

It is interesting to note that the fabrics of sixty-two churches were in need of general repair and whilst the bulk of the trouble was quite routine matters of floor and roof, it is recorded that at Moulslœe the windows suffer from children "that play at catt and stoole ball in the Churchyard Sundaies and holidayes usually".

Several examples of defectiveness of the Holy Table and communion cups, Font covers, pulpits and poor boxes are reported.

The laity came in for considerable criticism on matters of Church attendance, indulgence in sports and games during service time and misbehaviours in Church such as not kneeling at the required times; not standing at the Creed and Gospel; leaving a hat on the Holy Table; sitting in service time with hats on and sleeping. Quarrels over rights to seats seem to have been frequent, and mild forms of brawling are also mentioned. Striking, swearing, cutting a seat, scolding, disturbing the church wardens and fighting in sermon time occur. Profanation of the churchyard is found at three places; at North Marston, where two men strike each other with cudgels; at Okeley, where a quarrel arises out of a game of dice; and at Risborough, where a man is arrested as he comes out of Church. Almost a quarter of the cases mentioned concern incontinence. For the more serious misdemeanours penance was usually ordered.

As the author rightly points out, the years of Archbishop Laud's rule saw a remarkable tightening up of discipline and his visitation was far from being "like a passing wind and no more".