

NOTES

STOKE POGES: *Baylis House*. A note in Vol. XVI, 2 p. 112 referred to the acquisition and proposed restoration of this handsome late seventeenth-century house by the Slough Borough Council. The Council has, however, resold the building to the Bucks County Council and it is the latter body who have carried out the restoration.

AYLESBURY: *Wotton House*. The future of this house, the old home of the Grenvilles, has been in the balance for some years, and demolition seemed inevitable. We are glad to hear that the house and the north pavilion have been purchased by Mrs. Patrick Brunner and the south pavilion by Mr. Tristram Gilbert. The Ministry of Works has made two grants towards restoration work and, as a result, the house, north pavilion and gardens may be open to the public in 1959. The house itself was originally built between 1704 and 1715 but was reconstructed after a fire in 1820 and again in 1929. The flanking pavilions are contemporary with the house and were not affected by either restoration.

AYLESBURY: *Waddesdon Manor*. The National Trust already owns five houses in Bucks—Ascott, Claydon, Cliveden, Hughenden and West Wycombe—all of importance either architecturally or for the collections they contain or for their historical associations. Now, under the will of Mr. James de Rothschild, who died in 1957, they have acquired Waddesdon Manor. The large mansion, completed in 1883 for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, is more notable for its contents than for any great architectural distinction, although its site is a splendid one and the gardens of great interest. But the collections within are outstanding; in announcing the gift Lord Crawford, Chairman of the National Trust, said: "Besides the collections of portraits by Gainsborough and Reynolds, which are of the first quality, and the pictures of the Dutch, Flemish and French Schools, it contains a collection of 18th century French works of art which can be compared with only one other in the world, and that is the Wallace collection."

It is most gratifying that this splendid collection is not only to remain intact but also in the county. Mrs. de Rothschild will continue to live on the estate. It is expected that the house will be open to the public some time in 1959.

HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST. Reference was made to the formation of the Buckinghamshire Branch in last issue of the *Records* (p. 113). Mr. Serby is Hon. Treasurer of the Branch and Canon Bale and the Hon. Secretary are among the Trustees. Following the considerable success of the initial appeal, grants have already been made to the following churches: Edlesborough, Ivinghoe, Willen, Wingrave and Whitchurch.

ERRATA. Two errors must be noted in Vol. XVI, part 2. The captions of Plates 2b and 3b should read "*Margaret Lady Verney*" and "*Mary Lady Verney*".

The appendix to the article *Buckinghamshire and Parliament* was unfortunately transposed to p. 104 following the article *Romano-British Sites and their Communications*.