

## BUCKS NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments is charged to make an inventory of the ancient and historic monuments connected with, or illustrative of, the contemporary culture, civilization, and conditions of life of the people of England from the earliest times to the year A.D. 1700, indicating those which they consider most worthy of preservation. Eleven commissioners have been appointed, with Lord Burghclere, whose special qualifications will perhaps appear later, as chairman. The Society of Antiquaries does not seem to have been asked to send a representative, but four of the commissioners are Fellows. The R. Archæological Inst. has nominated Sir H. Howorth; the Soc. for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Lord Balcarres; the R. Inst. of Brit. Architects, Mr. Leonard Stokes. Oxford will be ably represented by Mr. F. J. Haverfield; and the Earl of Plymouth and Lord Dillon are good appointments. It seems reasonable to ask why Dr. Arthur Evans has no place on it, and it would certainly have been strengthened in the mediæval section with such men as Mr. St. John Hope and Prof. Lethaby.

Some gentlemen, evidently well-qualified for the work, have already been touring this county and collecting materials for a report to the Commission.

### VAMPING TRUMPET.

Query: Is there such a thing now in this county? No doubt there *have been* several. An interesting note by Mr. Stephen Wilson on this instrument appeared in "Country Life," July 31, 1909, with an illustration of that still preserved at East Leake, Notts. They were used in the singing gallery of a village church "for the principal singer to sing the bass through, and "to give the tunes for the hymns." These trumpets varied in length and, presumably, strength, but were rarely less than 5 feet long, while this particular

example has a bell diameter of 21 inches and a length of 7 feet 6 inches—an instrument to command respectful attention. The gentleman quoted above supposed there were only four or five examples surviving in England.

#### LANGLEY MARISH.

Mr. H. Avery Tipping contributed an interesting article on the Kederminster Pew and Library to "Country Life," July 31, 1909. It is admirably illustrated with views of Library, Screen to Pew, Interior of Pew, Kederminster Tomb, also the colonade of 1630 which took the place of the 12th century arcade dividing the nave from the north aisle. There is also a good view of part of the older almshouses closely adjoining the church.

#### RADCLIVE.

The same number of the same excellent weekly has a photo-print of the unusual church chest here. The Rector, in sending the photo, noted: "It is thought "to be of Spanish origin, and is evidently domestic. ". . . . The material is mahogany, with strips of "some darker-coloured wood," which are studded with brass-headed nails.

#### THE GREY FRIARS, AYLESBURY.

In levelling a lawn at the residence of Mr. Thomas Field at Rickford's Hill, adjoining the Friarage, last winter, some large stones which had been buried were uncovered. They were not *in situ*. A wide chamfer above the worked face showed them to have been plinth-stones, and their size indicated that they had formed part of a costly and substantial building. Other stones on an equally generous scale had previously been built up to support a walk closely adjoining the house. These are jamb stones of windows of the 15th century. A little walling near the house was found *in situ*, but of indefinite character, and the brick paving adjoining, though at considerable depth, is probably later and domestic. As modern houses with their gardens now occupy the site of the monastic buildings, complete investigation is, of course, precluded.

## OLD SARUM.

The systematic excavation of this site is no mere local matter, but should keenly interest every English student of history and antiquity. The work has been undertaken by the Society of Antiquaries, with the co-operation of the Wilts Society, and, if funds admit of it (the Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, will gratefully accept contributions), will be continued for several years. The work is being directed by Colonel Hawley, Mr. Mill Stephenson, and Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, who tells me (Nov. 5, 1909): "We have had eleven weeks' work on the "upper or Castle site, and have uncovered the Gate-house and a lot of wall. . . . We have laid open "one great wall 20 feet high and 82 feet long with "chambers behind, two of which belong apparently to "a square of 40 feet internal, forming the base of a "postern tower,; the postern itself has also been opened "out." The remains of not only the Norman Castle, but also those of the Cathedral and deserted City and of earlier Saxon vestiges, possibly Roman, and the pre-historic earthworks, will all be scientifically and exhaustively examined.

## FARNHAM ROYAL.

During some excavations round a licensed house here, belonging to Messrs. Wethered, of Marlow, three water or drain pipes were found which the curator of the Brading Villa, on comparison with some there, pronounces to be—the black ware diminishing pipe a "drain pipe proper," and the smaller red ware socketed cylinders "land drains."

## ETON COLLEGE.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings includes in its Report, 1909, the following:—Some works of repair to the stonework of the upper storey of the College Houses, round the two sides of the cloisters, have recently been carried out in consultation with the Society, under the personal supervision of the architect.

First, portions of the walls were treated with lime and baryta, so as to judge the effect and the appearance resulting from the treatment.

After the erection of a detached scaffold, the surface of the walls was brushed down, and the stone, where badly decayed, was cut away and the gaps filled in with hand-made tiles set and fixed into grooves cut into the sound stone, with mortar composed of blue lias lime and sharp Thames sand. The joints of the stone were carefully cleaned out and re-pointed with similar mortar.

After the completion of these repairs, the surface of the stone was treated with several coats of baryta water, well worked in with brushes, which hardens it and arrests decay. After the stone had thoroughly dried from the effects of the baryta treatment, as a further protection, two additional coats of lias lime and baryta mixed together were applied. This fills up the pores of the stone and prevents the penetration of the wet and gases.

Finally, the surface was brushed over with a coat of lime toned with colour, to relieve the white effect of the preceding coats. It is hoped that the lower portion of the walls enclosing the cloisters may have similar treatment.

The stone of the two piers and buttresses supporting the arches is decayed to a serious degree, and should be repaired without loss of time, before it is too late to save what still remains of the old work.

#### HITCHAM.

News has reached me of the finding, at a considerable depth, of a large red earthenware jar resembling an amphora, but not pointed at bottom, during excavations at the old rectory house at Hitcham, which has been bought by Mr. Awdrey. It appears to have been removed by the workmen, but has now been brought back to the house. Bones are said to have been found around it. Further enquiry will be made.

W. N.