



The Quarterly Journal

OF THE

Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.



CONFERENCE of Delegates of County Archæological Societies was held at Burlington House, under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries, on July 17th, Mr. J. EVANS, F.R.S., the President, in the chair.

Twenty-seven provincial Associations have now joined the Union proposed by the Parent Society, and there was a large attendance of delegates from all parts of the country. The Berks Society was represented by the Secretary. The first subject discussed was the question of Archæological Maps for the different Counties, and it was proposed that each Society should mark all old field names and identified sites of antiquarian finds on the larger Ordnance Survey Map.

The due care of ancient monuments and buildings, the printing and publishing of parish registers and records, and the custody of provincial records, were the remaining subjects discussed.

This first Conference of Antiquarian Societies ever held, was undoubtedly a most satisfactory and useful meeting, and the thanks of all archæologists are due to the Society of Antiquaries for their new and spirited action.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for a thorough and systematic Inventory of Church Plate in the County of Berks. Mr. ARTHUR J. DASENT and the Rev. E. R. GARDINER have undertaken this important work, and we hope that the Clergy will give them every facility to enable them to accomplish their purpose. A paper of directions has been published by the Society which will be sent to the Incumbents in the Archdeaconry of Berks.

* *
*

The Mayor of Reading, Mr. GEORGE W. PALMER, has most generously offered to print the Municipal Records of our County Town. Few towns in England possess such rich treasures of historical documents as the ancient Borough of Reading. Their interesting nature has recently been disclosed by the extracts contained in the Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and Mr. PALMER's liberality will bring to light a vast amount of historical information which has never been revealed before. The work of editing the three volumes, which will contain the Corporation Documents, has been entrusted to the able hands of our Librarian, the Rev. J. M. GUILDING.

Meetings and Excursions.

The Newbury Field Club made an Excursion in August, to Basildon and Streatley. Mr. WALTER MONEY issued for the use of the Members a pamphlet, giving some interesting notes on the Parish of Basildon, including the Parish Church and Basildon Park, the seat of Mr. C. MORRISON. The Rev. W. T. HENHAM read a paper on the history of Streatley Church.

* *
*

The Maidenhead Field Club have visited Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield, inspecting also the fine Elizabethan Mansion, Billingbear; and the Parish Church of Hurst.