



## “Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

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### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent to the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the Paper.*

*It is requested that all MSS intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

A correspondent suggests that it would be advisable to make a collection of the curious signs of the Inns before they disappear under the County Council regime. He notes the following in the neighbourhood of Wokingham :—

The Wo'od a' thought it ?  
The Spotted Cow.  
The Crooked Billet.  
The Rest and be Thankful.  
The Tin and Bowl.

During the construction of the Lambourne Valley Railway, in addition to the Saxon cemetery at East Shepperd, a great quantity of British and Roman pottery has been found at different portions of the route, showing that this valley was extensively peopled in early times.

Mr. G. W. Webb, architect, of Reading, has had a drawing selected for exhibition at this year's Royal Academy, the subject being a design prepared for a new chancel in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Reading.

### Queries.

Why are the carved or painted Dedication Crosses found in ancient Churches of the Maltese form?—E.E.T.

What was the pigment used in the old dark red wall frescoes?—E.E.T.

What is the origin of "the City," Tilehurst? Are there any ruins near there?—E.E.T.

It is said the Communion Plate belonging to Mapledurham Parish is of gold; by whom was it presented and what is its date?—E.E.T.

What was "the Hareway" in Englefield named in a *terrior, temp.* Edward VI., also at Tilehurst in "Harefield"? Does the name occur nearer Newbury? If so, is it not suggestive of a Roman Road? Surely the Bath Road dates from a very early period?—E.E.T.

STRATFIELD MORTIMER.—Will the correspondent who stated that some notices of this village appear in the volumes of the Historical Society kindly mention the number of the volumes in which these notices occur?—P.H.D.

### Replies.

DOLE.—DOLE-BOUNDARY.—The common pasture was divided into lots or doles and each changed hands yearly. Each dole was distinguished by a dole mark and at the harvest feast a number of apples, each bearing a corresponding mark and agreeing in number with the doles, were thrown into a tub of water, and dived for by the farmers. The particular dole was allotted to the owner of the apple bearing its mark.

HAUNTED HOUSES.—An enquiry was made in the Journal for January whether Southcote House was haunted. I think not. A ghost was attributed to a house in Southcote, near the Manor House, but pulled down about 40 or 45 years ago. This house, which was built by one of the Blagraves, was very white and had a garden the width of the house, enclosed on two sides by high thick yew hedges and fenced off from the road on the third side or frontage. It was, I believe, never wholly occupied after the death of a Miss Wall who lived there for years. The whiteness of this shut-up dismantled house (which, however, was occupied by a labouring family) gave it a ghastly look which was increased by the sombre look of the high yew hedges. In its *appearance* originated the idea of its being haunted. The Manor House was then tenanted by Mr. Lutgens. Sometime in the latter part of the last century—on the 29th of March, 1762, according to Burke—Sir George Cobb, a Baronet, aged 90 years, was drowned in the Moat at Southcote, but as he fell in accidentally, as is said, and was not *pushed* in, there seems no reason why he should *walk*, though certainly he was the last of his race.—M. T. PEARMAN.