

I hear that a good find of silver coins was made recently near Hawthorn Hill, when an old house was pulled down. Some children took possession of the "bits of tin" and were playing with them when a passer-by discovered their value. Silver coins of Elizabeth to Charles II. were discovered, some almost unique. I regret that I was not passing by at the time of their discovery.

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The Vicar of Warfield tells me that he has found an old register book of his parish which has been lost for generations. It was hidden away in an old oven in the ancient Church House of Warfield. I congratulate him on his fortunate discovery.

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Mr. Cheales has woven a charming Romance called "The Siege of Reading in 1643," based on two diaries of worthy burgesses which have fortunately been preserved. The author has most successfully pieced the narratives together, and given a true picture of the life of a townsman of Reading, and of the stirring scenes that occurred in the most exciting period of its history. All Reading people will read the story with pleasure.

Proceedings of Archæological Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On January 29th, a paper was read by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield on "Berkshire Place-Names." We hope that it will lead to a thorough and systematic study of the origins of the names of our towns and villages in the County. Mr. Harold Peake has communicated some valuable letters to the Newbury papers on the subject, and the discussion is still in progress.

On February 14th, Mr G. Kempthorne read a valuable paper on 'The Devil's Highway in Berkshire, illustrated by magic lantern slides. The lecturer has kindly promised us a resumé of his lecture for the next number of the Journal.

On March 27th, the President will read a paper on the "Tympana of Norman doorways," and the annual meeting will be held on May 1st.

READING LITERARY SOCIETY.—The Rev. Alan Cheales gave an interesting lecture on Saxon Reading before the Society, a full report of which has appeared in the *Reading Standard*.