

nave. In a sense not too remote for the occasion, it may be said that Alfred made Jane Austen possible. To settle English life on the best and surest foundations was his work ; to depict that life centuries later in its most sheltered and civilised aspects was hers. And his city was her city.

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To find time for reading is a difficult matter in this busy age. When the Czar visited France the authorities at Compiègne thought it necessary to provide him "something to read." So they bought 3,000 books, all of which were conveyed to the palace for the Czar's recreation during his brief and crowded visit. I have no doubt that the scent of their Russian bindings would not be wholly lost on His Majesty ; more it seems rash to hope for, though one could wish him a quiet hour with Montaigne.

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The *Athenæum* states that Dr. Hurry, of Reading, is engaged on a work on Reading Abbey which will furnish a historical sketch of the Abbey from its foundation to the Dissolution. It will deal with the struggle between the Abbot and the Guild Merchant, give an account of the endowments and privileges, the library and plate belonging to the Abbey. The work will be embellished with many illustrations and plans, facsimiles of seals, coins, and MSS. Among the latter will be found one of the song, "Sumer is icumen in," which was first written down in Reading Abbey.

Proceedings of Societies.

CONGRESS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.—The annual Congress was held at Burlington House, on July 10th, when the Secretary attended to represent the Berks Society. The following subjects were discussed :—Proposals for a complete list of earthworks in Britain ; the preparation of schedules of objects of particular Antiquarian interest for the use of County Councils ; suggestions for a return to mediæval blazon, and the evils of Ivy.

Only July 30th, the Berks Archæological Society visited Charney, Stanford, Hanney, Buckland and Faringdon. A full report of the proceedings is reserved.

On September 25th, the Society visited North Hants, and inspected the Churches of Bramley, Sherborne Priory, Monk Sherborne, and Sherborne St. John.

On September 9th, the Newbury Field Club visited King Alfred's country—Uffington, Compton Beauchamp, Ashbury and Ashdown House.

The following books have been received for review, but want of space obliges us to reserve notice until our next number :—

DOMESDAY AND FEUDAL STATISTICS, BY A. H. INMAN (ELLIOT STOCK).

THE FRENCH STONE AGE, BY T. CATO WORSFOLD (BEMROSE AND SON).

Oxford Ladies' Brass Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1900-1901.

President :

MISS SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

President :—MISS SWANN.

Hon. Treasurer :—MRS. DRINKWATER.

Hon. Librarian :—MISS GREEN.

Hon. Secretaries :— { MRS MEE.
MISS ROSA BLAKE.

MRS. WHITMARSH.

MRS. G. EVANS.

50 Members.

The O.L.B.R.S. has completed its seventh year.

There has been no falling off in the number of the Members of the Society, which is limited to 50, and there are eight candidates for admission when vacancies occur.