

surely such an interest existed before. The title was borrowed from the well-known Tragedy of Euripides, which we read in our youth, and which gave the first hint of the situation of the foundling youth educated in a temple and assisting in its services ; but otherwise there is little resemblance between the two tragedies.

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Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd was born in Reading in 1795. He was educated at Reading School, and he represented Reading in Parliament (1835-41, 1847-49) till his elevation to the Bench. As an orator his utterances were weighty rather than winged, as a Justice of the Common Pleas his work was thorough rather than brilliant, and as a Member of Parliament he did much quiet and useful work, though his language was too ornate to suit the fastidious palate of so critical a body. But it is emphatically as a man of letters that Talfourd deserves to be rescued from the waters of oblivion. He numbered Wordsworth, Lamb, Hazlitt, and many other brilliant essayists of the day among his intimate friends, and he himself contributed to many Magazines, but he was above all a dramatist, and though the demands made on his energies and thought by his profession left him but little time for literary work, in his "Ion" he has left what deserves to remain an imperishable memorial of his genius.

## Proceedings of Societies.

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BERKS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On account of the turmoil of a general election, it was not possible to hold the usual meeting in January. On February 1st Mr. Andrew Oliver lectured on "Flemish Brasses in England," giving an exhaustive study of all the examples which have been discovered in this country. His lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. On February 15th, at the fourth meeting of the winter session, an admirable and learned lecture was given by Mr. W. F. C. Anderson, Secretary of the Berkshire Education Committee, on "An Antiquary's Studies in Dalmatia and Montenegro." The lecturer conveyed his hearers to a little known part of the Continent, and ably described with the help of excellent lantern slides the antiquities of the shores of the Adriatic and the

excavations in which he took a leading part. The fifth meeting of the winter session was held on March 15th, when an interesting lecture was given by Captain Henderson on "A Tour in Belgium." It was illustrated by an admirable series of lantern slides taken from the lecturer's own photographs, which showed wonderfully clearly the architectural features of the Flemish churches and other buildings. Tea was kindly provided after the lecture by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Strange.

A lecture will be given on April 26th by Mr. Petrocokino on Buddhist Temples in Java and the Malay States, and the annual meeting will be held in May, when after the reading of the Annual Report the Rev. Alan Cheales will describe the recently discovered St. Edmond's Chapel, and the Hon. Secretary will read a short paper on the ceilings of Walsingham House.

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## **Flemish Brasses in England.**

*By Andrew Oliver, A.R.I.B.A.*

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**F**LEMISH Brasses may be distinguished from English by the employment of diapered and canopied backgrounds, which form part of the brass. In English brasses this feature is altogether wanting, and the stone slab, in which the brass is laid takes the place of the background seen in the Flemish brasses.

There are three ways in which Flemish brasses are composed :—

1. Those which are made of several plates joined to make one complete brass.
2. Those which are cut out and laid in a slab similar to the English examples.
3. Those which are composed of a single plate.

It will be found that the greater proportion of brasses fall under the first head. Of these there are eight.

Of the second there are but three.

The third includes four, which are single plates of small size.

The examples in this country are few in number, and scattered in various parts. In the north of England, at Newcastle, is the brass of Roger Thornton and his wife, 1411. In Yorkshire, there