



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

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WITH this number begins the fifteenth volume of this Archæological Journal. Fifteen years is a long period, and we may well take stock of our progress. This magazine was called into being by the request of the Oxford Antiquarian and Historical Society and the Berks Archæological Society, for the publication of the official reports of those Societies and of general archæological intelligence, the recording of "finds" and discoveries, and of papers of special interest on the antiquities of the three counties. All the Societies in the three counties, with the exception of one, responded favourably to the invitation to co-operation. Since then the Oxford Society has decided to publish its own Journal, but friendly relations exist, though active assistance from the local Societies is not always forthcoming. The work of editing and collecting material is sometimes burdensome, especially when time is precious, and other literary tasks press upon the little leisure of an active life; and it is probable that this periodical would have passed into other hands, or been abandoned, but for the active interest and co-operation of the President of the Berkshire Society, Mr. Keyser, whose articles on the church architecture of the county with their admirable illustrations have for some time formed a feature of the Journal.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal has justified its existence by the assistance which it has afforded to the compilers of the Victoria County History. The constant references to it which appear in the pages of those volumes show that it has been of signal use, and indeed most of the results of the work of our local antiquaries would have been lost, but for the permanent record of their researches contained in these pages. It is rightly regarded

as the duty of local archæological societies to publish transactions ; when Societies are too poor to undertake that obligation, it is well that some means should be found to supply the deficiency, and to preserve papers read at meetings, archæological discoveries, and the patient work of scholars who have devoted themselves to the study of ancient records, the results of which would otherwise be lost. For fifteen years this Journal has attempted to do this, and we should like to make a fresh start. It already is known in many parts of the world, in America and Africa, and throughout England. We should like to secure the aid, in the editorial work, of some gentleman of leisure who is able to devote a little time to the developing of the Journal. We should like to find able correspondents in various parts of the three counties who will send us notes on discoveries, on new architectural projects, and on all matters appertaining to the study of the past history of our towns and villages. We should like to enlist the interest of the presidents and secretaries of all Societies in the three counties, in order that some record of their work may appear. We need also new subscribers. The financial responsibility of this periodical falls on the Editor. As far as we can ascertain it pays its way when subscriptions are paid, which is not always the case ; but old subscribers pass away, and unless new subscribers take their places, it will be impossible to continue the publication. So at the beginning of our fifteenth volume we invite the active interest of all those who venerate antiquity in the three counties, and hope that this periodical may be increasingly useful in recording not only the treasures that time has spared, but the triumphs of modern art and architecture.

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WE have pleasure in calling attention to the urgent appeal for the restoration of Ashbury Church, Berks ; £800 is needed for the repair of the roof. The Bishop of Oxford and the Archdeacon of Berkshire support the application.

The Church is one of considerable interest and beauty. The oldest existing features are of late Norman date, and comprise the fine South Aisle Doorway, portions of the respond piers at the west end of the Nave, and those of the cross arches to the Transepts. Portions of the Transepts, with the foliated recess for the Founders' Tomb at the south end, the lower part of the Tower, and the West Window of the South Aisle, date from the 13th Century. The Chancel and upper part of the Tower are of late 13th Century work. Of the work of the 14th Century the North and South

Windows of the Transepts and the Windows of the North Aisle are the chief examples. In the 15th Century the Nave Arcades were rebuilt, the Tower was completed, the North Porch was erected, and new Roofs of handsome character, covered with lead, were put upon the Nave, Aisles, Chancel and South Transept.

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## Proceedings of Societies.

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**BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—On January 21st, Mr. Harold Peake lectured before the Society on "Pre-historic Trade Routes in Britain," and in a learned lecture traced the history of the early roads of this country from the tracks along the downs to those improved roads used by the Romans. He dealt with a fascinating subject in a most interesting manner.

On February 22nd, Mr. Philip H. Newman, F.S.A., F.R.S.L., lectured on "Notes, Literary, Artistic and Historical on a Tour in Spain," illustrated by lantern slides.

On March 11th, Mr. Arthur Sutton gave a most interesting and enjoyable lecture on "A Tour East and West of the Jordan, with some account of the Excavations at Gezer." Mr. Sutton said the tour was taken last year by himself, his wife, and daughter, and Miss Newton, of Derby, who had given up a great deal of her time to missionary work. Mr. Sutton then gave a vivid account of his journey, which was illustrated by some beautiful lantern slides made from the lecturer's original photographs, the lantern being manipulated by Mr. H. Lewis, of London Street. At the close of the lecture Mr. Sutton was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and on his invitation the members of the society and their friends were entertained at tea.

On March 25th, the President, Mr. Keyser, gave one of his valuable lectures on "An Architectural account of the Churches of North Moreton, Brightwell, Long and Little Wittenham," illustrated by a large number of lantern slides from photographs taken for the lecturer by Mr. Walton Adams. His lecture will be published in this and subsequent numbers of the Journal, to which he has generously presented plates. Mr. and Mrs. Keyser kindly entertained the members to tea.

On April 22nd, the last lecture of the session will be given by Mr. Taverne-Perry on "The Towers and Spires of Mediæval Rome." This will be the annual meeting, when reports will be read and officers elected.

**READING LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.**—At the last meeting of this Society Mr. Fred Turner, F.R.H.S., of Brentford, gave an interesting lecture on "Homes and Haunts of Sir Walter Scott." The lecturer dealt with the principal events in Scott's life, and gave illustrations (many of them from his own photographs) of some of the scenes referred to in the poems.

**NEWBURY DISTRICT FIELD CLUB.**—We understand that this Society is about to publish a new volume of Transactions under the able editorship of Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A.