

Local History Recording Scheme: Berkshire Branch.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

January 1st to December 31st, 1942.

FROM our Local Correspondents during the year 25 records have been received, and, up to the end of 1942, 606 approved records had been sent in relating to 144 parishes in the county. Three new Local Correspondents were enrolled during 1942 and our Correspondents now number 203, representing 175 parishes. We much regret to report the deaths of several Correspondents. Others are serving in H.M. Forces, or are engaged on Civil Defence work, or other war-time duties, and can no longer give us active assistance. In spite of this loss of valuable helpers, it is encouraging to report that interest in the Scheme is well maintained and that records continue to be sent in regularly, but so much work is waiting to be done that it is hoped that all interested in the Scheme will make a special effort to obtain more helpers during the year.

The Committee would wish to stress once again the importance of collecting local annals of the present as well as of the past. Under prevailing conditions much interesting information will be lost unless it can be recorded without delay. In each parish it is most desirable that a record should be kept of the effects of the War on the district. Notes on such matters as the ploughing up of grass lands, enemy action, evacuees, billeting, etc., are a few instances of material which should be collected while the information is readily accessible, as such particulars will form a most valuable series of records in the future.

Recently our Chairman wrote, "As time goes on during the War, I am more and more convinced that the work of the Recording Scheme becomes of increasing importance if we are to preserve records of the parishes in Berkshire which will prove of vital significance to future historians and economists. Needless to say I appreciate all that is being done, and which is all that is practicable in the circumstances in some parishes, but I hope the Committee will continue to urge Local Correspondents to see that no opportunity is lost to collect more and more material."

With regard to Monumental Inscriptions, eight lists have been received this year, all transcribed by Mr. L. H. Chambers. Up to the end of 1942, lists of inscriptions in 140 parishes had been received, or promised.

In our two last Annual Reports reference was made to the Berkshire Architectural Records Committee. Our Local Correspondents will be glad to know that this Committee continues to make excellent progress and, up to the end of last year, had obtained 3,374 photographs and other illustrations of Berkshire buildings and some 2,500 negatives.

The Hon. Treasurer reports that he now has a balance of £1 6s. 8d.

The Committee again wishes to take this opportunity of thanking the various Affiliated Societies for their interest and support, and also to record its appreciation of the work of the Chairman, the Hon. Director, the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, and to express its gratitude to the various Correspondents who have sent in records during the year and in other ways have helped to further the work of the Scheme.