

REVIEWS.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, BY
CLEMENT SHORTER, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY F. L.
GRIGGS, 1910.

Mr. Shorter being resident in the county brings this amongst other qualifications which have fitted him to write a most readable handbook, one which should find a place in every Bucks library, and always accompany the tourist or holiday-maker. It is evident that the author has actually gone over nearly all the ground he describes—another necessary, and none too frequent, qualification. The author tells us that his book was written in a cottage in the Chilterns which looks down upon the red roofs of Missenden. He does not go learnedly into early history and archæology, but late history is quite adequately treated for a handbook of its scope. It contains excellent illustrations by Mr. Griggs, which add much to its attractiveness.

On page 175 is a quotation from one of Horace Walpole's letters which might well have accompanied my note on the ancient home of the Russells at Cheney, visited by the Society last year. Whether the neglected painted glass there, coveted by Walpole, was actually removed to Strawberry Hill, or whether still in existence at all, I am unable to say. The only thing we may be sure of is that it is no longer in its original setting.

Of Bradenham Manor-house Mr. Shorter remarks: "A fine mansion which will surprise those who think "of Disraeli the younger as a self-made man. Isaac "d'Israeli lived in this house from 1829 until his "death, at the age of 82, in 1848." . . . "It was "his friendship with Pye, Poet Laureate that led him "into Bucks." Pye, however, came of an old Berkshire family, Wadley, Faringdon, having been their seat.

The house is said to have been described, as "Hurstley," in Lord Beaconsfield's novel *Endymion*. Chapter XXIV gives interesting particulars of the

connection of Sir Gilbert Scott, the well-known architect, and his grandfather, Thomas, the Commentator, with this county. The churches of Hillesden, Tingewick, Chetwode and Maids' Moreton were early loves of the architect, and influenced him in the choice of a profession. Gawcott was his birth-place, his father having been perpetual curate there. The noting of the population of the parishes in 1801 and 1901 respectively tells us more than many words.

In the chapter on Weston Underwood Mr. Shorter remarks on the disappearance of the Throckmortons from this county, and the destruction of their ancient home. He might have added that by the sale of the Buckland estate, Berks, about a year ago, their connection with this latter county, which however only dated, by marriage with the heiress of the Yates, from the 17th century, has also ceased; and Coughton, Warwickshire, has again become the head-quarters of this most ancient family. There is an interesting chapter on Eton.

In the hope that we may see a second edition of this book, a few slips which the writer has noticed in glancing through its pages may be pointed out.

The County Hall cannot with truth be described as one of Aylesbury's "new buildings" (p. 17), for it was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh (1672-1726).

(P. 43) "Pious but painful," of a preacher, gives a meaning to the second adjective quite different from that of the 17th century, when these hour-glasses referred to were set up. By "a payneful preacher of "the truth" was meant—in all seriousness—a pains-taking preacher.

(P. 81) "Wm. Lowndes . . . built Winslow "House in 1700 from a design by Inigo Jones." I. J. died in 1652.

(P. 92) If the date 1635 given as on the brass to Bennett Blacknelle and his wife is correct the inscription—on a post-Reformation memorial—is most unusual. Presumably this is a misprint for 1535.

(P. 200) Of Fawley Court we read: "Bulstrode "Whitelocke's son built it, after Wren's design, in "1685." On the following page: "Bulstrode's son "sold the estate in 1688 to a family of the name of "Freeman, who rebuilt the house." Which is cor-

rect? In books on the life and works of Sir Chr. Wren this house is not included as amongst the authenticated works of this distinguished man—perhaps this is due to oversight, but the discovery of documentary proof of his employment here would be most satisfactory.

(205) Danesfield: "Owes its name to traces of a "Roman encampment in its vicinity." How a Roman encampment (to which this bears no resemblance) could give it its name seems a puzzle.

(263) "George III. made Geo. Grenville Temple, "Marquis of Buckingham in 1822: his son Richd. "was made Duke of Buckingham and Chandos." The date should be 1784, the Dukedom having been created in 1822.

The proofs might have been more carefully read. The good folks of Chesham will be surprised, and possibly even angry, to read that theirs is "a "struggling place"; and it is a little hard on the Dropmore rhododendrons to accuse them of being *luxurious*.

W. N.

THE RECORD INTERPRETER, BY CHARLES TRICE MARTIN, B.A., F.S.A. (Second Edition, Stevens & Sons, 1910, 15s.).

Having spent a lifetime in the Public Record Office no one could be better qualified than Mr. Trice Martin (who since his retirement has come to live in this county) to compile so useful a work as this. To the historian, the scholar, the student, lawyer, it would seem, in the absence of any other work on the subject so complete, to be really indispensable. In 1879 appeared the ninth edition of Wright's "Court Hand "Restored," to which Mr. Martin had added a large Appendix, and of that appendix the present work is an amplification, with the addition of a glossary of abbreviated forms of Latin and old French words used in English records and manuscripts. The former extends to 163 pp. Then there is a Glossary of Latin Words found in Records and other English MSS., but: not occurring in Classical Authors; which occupies 167 pp. Then follow: Latin Names of Places in Great Britain and Ireland; Latin names of Bishoprics in

business life of this town than he. On the title we are told that these Notes treat mainly of the Half-Century since 1857 when Mr. Roundell printed his "Lecture" on Buckingham.

The illustrations, of which there are 37, add much to its interest. In 1725 there was a disastrous fire here which is said to have destroyed about half the town, and thus accounts for the scarcity of mediæval buildings. Of the Castle some remains were uncovered in 1877, while opening the ground for a new building, and these are here illustrated. Twenty years previously the Vicar, the Rev. H. Roundell, had stated in his lecture that he knew nothing of any remains of foundations. The chapel of St. John, Bapt. was illustrated in our last issue. The old parish church (of which only the churchyard now remains) is illustrated by means of a reproduction of an old engraving showing it before the fall of the spire, which was of wood, in Feb. 1698. Supporting this spire was a square tower, which, judging from the small but careful view, would seem to have dated from the 12th century. The lower part of an ancient cross and plinth now in this churchyard, was formerly, as Mr. Harrison explained to us during the excursion this year, the market cross. The interior views (1780) of the modern church are also of interest. It was Palladian in style. Above the altar was a picture of the Ascension, and above this a window of the type known as Venetian, containing in painted glass nothing more appropriate than four coats of arms. Miss M. E. B. Burrowes kindly gave the use of two blocks illustrating two specimens of Bucks lace. We are told the "thread, of almost "cobweb fineness, made at Nottingham, was drawn "at a slow, regular, pace through a flame of gas, to "remove all extraneous film." St. Andrew is the patron saint of the craft, and his anniversary is observed. The municipal mace, of the time of Charles II is illustrated. The Swan and Castle Hotel has an interesting "cock-loft" fitted with ranges, on either side, of wooden bedsteads which Mr. Harrison tells us would have accommodated a regiment of the garrison of this loyal town. A company of them could certainly have been so accommodated.

W. N.

ENGLISH CHURCH BRASSES, FROM THE 13TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY, BY E. R. SUFFLING (L. Upcott Gill, 1910).

The author rightly claims for this book that its list of these memorials is "by far the most comprehensive yet published;" but, as he adds, no *complete* list has yet or ever can be compiled, because, even now, many must still be covered up or buried by pews or otherwise. Mr. Suffling tells us that he has travelled in this pursuit "7,000 miles, of which 2,000 have been done on foot." He has indeed been a most industrious rubber of brasses, and from these rubbings photoprocess reductions are given of no less than 237 examples; and as anyone may possess this handbook for the very moderate cost of half-a-guinea, we must all admit our indebtedness to him. Examples illustrated range from the fine memorial to Sir John Daubernon, Surrey, which still holds its place as the earliest (1277) to some as late as the 17th century. The Rev. H. Haines was the first (in 1848, not in 1861, as the author says) to attempt a general review of these memorials; and his later and fuller "Manual," 1861, was until now the most complete guide to the subject; but this is a scarce and expensive book. "Church Brasses" is, of course, not a very definite or scientific title for what were, primarily, not brasses or lattens, but memorials of the dead engraved on metal plates, the metal used during the Middle Ages being, in fact, very different from what we now call brass; and other things in a church are made of this or a somewhat similar metal; but long use has given some sanction to the use of the term.

In another edition a list of the illustrations should be added, or an indication in the general index of the items illustrated. Separate chapters describe palimpsests, heart brasses, foreign brasses in England (which, referring again to the title, seem a little outside the limits there indicated), forms of inscription, varying with the prevailing religion, etc. On the subject of ecclesiastical vestments the author does not seem to be an entirely safe guide, and he is mistaken in supposing that the cross-staff was in practice borne by an archbishop. It was shown as an emblem of his rank, but borne only by his cross-bearer. Chrysom

is not correctly defined as an unchristened baby. According to a good authority, Mr. Aymer Vallance, "chrysons" were not meant to convey any significance beyond the fact that the child in question died in infancy.

Of course, it was impossible that every interesting memorial of this kind should be illustrated in one octavo volume, but one would have liked to have seen the fine Trotton brass of Lord Camoys, Knight of the Garter, 1424, and his lady, their hands joined; also the highly decorative heraldic wall brass at the back of an altar tomb to one of the Medes in the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Though so late as 1649 the wall brass to Johanna Strode at Shepton Mallet is a remarkable memorial in design and execution. The plate measures as much as 4 feet long by 28 inches in height, the whole surface being engraved; but neither Shepton Mallet nor Strode figure in the index.

Of Bucks the author says that the county "contains more than seventy brasses of the 14th and 15th centuries." Of churches containing 14th century brasses he names 10; of the 15th, 47; of the 16th, 73; of the 17th, 33 churches.

W. N.