

NOTICES OF BOOKS

VICTORIA HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM
VOL.IV

The St. Catherine Press, 3 guineas

This volume completes the topographical survey of the county, and comes twenty-two years after the appearance of the first volume. Like the third volume, it was completed in 1915, and is therefore not strictly up to date. This may be of small consequence in a history which stretches back into the twilight of fable, but it is curious to notice that the parish of Caversfield, which was transferred to Oxfordshire in 1844, is included, as well as the parish of Lillingstone Lovell, which was only transferred from Oxfordshire in that year.

Besides the parochial histories the most important part of this volume is the final chapter on "Political History," by our honoured member and contributor, the Rev. F. W. Ragg. This forms an admirable summary of the events which have acted or re-acted upon our county from the days when defence against the Danes caused Buckingham to be chosen (just as St. Albans was in the case of Hertfordshire) for the chief point of assembly in preference to Aylesbury, which was obviously more central. In dealing with the Civil War Mr. Ragg makes the point of showing how many of our Worthies played important parts in that unhappy event, citing Hampden, Bulstrode Whitelocke, Miles Hobart, Sir Edward Coke, Sir Peter Temple, Ralph Verney, and Sir John Fortescue. Whoever assimilates this chapter, and our President's splendid address at our Jubilee (printed in volume IX of the RECORDS), will gain a good grasp of the political history of our county.

BETWEEN THAMES AND CHILTERNES

By E. S. ROSCOE. Faber and Gwyer, 5s.

This represents the third edition of essays which appeared first in 1891 as *Buckinghamshire Sketches*, and again in 1907 as *Penn's Country*, with certain essays

added or removed. To combine charm with accuracy is not always easy, but Mr. Roscoe knows the secret, and the result is as pleasant to read as his volume in the *Little Guides* series is useful to the explorer of our county. Placing the present volume by the side of the 1891 volume one misses the drawings which added much interest to the original book, the illustrations in the present one being quite unworthy of such a graceful text.

ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE IN A COUNTRY VILLAGE

By ARTHUR H. PLAISTED Longmans, 3/6

This dainty little book by one of our members, the Vicar of Medmenham, must be owned by all who have his well-executed *Manor and Parish of Medmenham*, which was reviewed in Vol. XI of the RECORDS. In this little volume the letter-press is merely a brief *resumé*, and the value of the book lies in the very delicate drawings by Lewis Thomson, which are illustrations of an extremely high order. Each plate has "flimsies" on which is a brief abstract of the essentials depicted in the drawing. Altogether it forms a model of the way in which such things should be done.

ON CHILTERN SLOPES: THE STORY OF HAMBLEDEN

By A. H. STANTON Blackwell: Oxford, 5s.

These unpretentious notes by a former rector of Hambleden form an addition to our parochial histories. Nearly one-third of the book is concerned with the rectors, particularly the two Ridleys, whose lives covered the greater part of the nineteenth century; but the D'Oyleys have a chapter to themselves, and the notable laymen of the parish are not omitted. Mr. Stanton would not claim to be an archaeologist, and we must not complain, therefore, if his treatment of the wonderful Roman villa discovered at Yewden is distinctly perfunctory. Apart from modern history of the parish there is indeed no evidence of original work in such records or documents as contain the actual story of any place.