

MEETINGS

MEDIEVAL TILES.

A general meeting of the Society was held on 19th Nov., 1938, when Mr. Christopher Hohler read a valuable paper which summarized the known facts regarding medieval tiles in Bucks. The methods of kilning and decorating or embossing the tiles were explained, and the total number of patterns used was said to be limited to 300. The uses to which embossed, mosaic, inlaid, or other forms of tiles might be applied,—on walls, floors, or as memorials,—was described; and the possible grouping of our tiles into a few districts, each of which drew from one source of supply, was an important suggestion. It was thought that by the end of the 14th century tile-making had become industrialized, and had to face competition from abroad. The lecture was illustrated with good slides, and some specimen tiles from Notley Abbey and elsewhere were exhibited.

BIRD-LIFE ON THE TRING RESERVOIRS.

Following the above mentioned paper, a most interesting lecture, admirably illustrated with photographs of great beauty, was given by Mr. Oliver Pike, with whom the Rev. C. E. Martin had collaborated. A number of views of the more familiar water-birds which are to be found on these waters was shown, and a great attraction was the series concerned with the black-necked grebe which nested here in 1919. Perhaps the most important slides, from a scientific point of view, were those which showed the nest of the little ring-plover taken last summer; this was the first recorded instance of its breeding in England.