

NEW PUBLICATIONS

METHODISTS AND THE RAILWAY. Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society, Vol. xxxvii, Part I, pp. 20-24. Peter S. Richards.

The author describes the enterprise of the Methodists in setting up a Church and ministry at Wolverton after the coming of the railway, and the generosity of the London and Birmingham Railway Company.

WOODLAND AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDIEVAL CHILTERN, by David Roden. Reprinted from Forestry, Vol. 41, No. 1, 1968.

DEMESNE FARMING IN THE CHILTERN HILLS, by David Roden. Reprinted from The Agricultural History Review, Vol. 17, pp. 9-23, 1969.

FRAGMENTATION OF FARMS AND FIELDS IN THE CHILTERN HILLS: 13th century and later, by David Roden. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Vol. XXI, 1969, Toronto, Canada.

These are valuable papers, based on their author's extensive perusal of documents for the most part unprinted.

RECUSANT DOCUMENTS FROM THE ELLESMERE MANUSCRIPTS, 1577-1716. Edited by Anthony G. Petti. Catholic Record Society. Vol. 60, 1968.

This volume contains many references to Bucks. Catholics, particularly after the attempt on the life of William III in 1696 and during the invasion scare of 1708.

EARLY SCHOOLDAYS IN BEACONSFIELD, by Edith B. Warr. Beaconsfield and District Historical Society. Publication No. 1, June 1968.

The enterprise of this Society in commencing a series of publications must be applauded. Miss Warr relates at length the history of the Church of England School in Beaconsfield from 1854 to 1914, and her account is attractively presented.

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD BEACONSFIELD, by Kathleen Day. Beaconsfield and District Historical Society. Publication No. 2, April 1969.

Miss Day writes with charming simplicity to record her own memories and those of her friends, of Beaconsfield in days gone by. The book is liberally illustrated with nice old photographs, and some excellent drawings by Cassandra Menist. This work should certainly be read by anyone who contemplates making a similar attempt elsewhere, for it is beautifully executed.

LUFFIELD PRIORY CHARTERS. Edited by G. R. Elvey. Buckinghamshire Record Society and Northamptonshire Record Society, 1968.

This work is to be completed in three parts, of which this is the first. It contains documents relating mainly to Northamptonshire. When the work is complete, it is hoped to review it.

BUCKINGHAM, by Muriel T. Vernon and Desmond C. Bonner. Printed by E. N. Hillier, Buckingham, 1969, 12/-.

This is an interesting attempt at a continuous history of Buckingham and a great deal of information has been assembled from many sources; to have it presented as a continuous narrative is a gain and it will be of considerable local interest whilst schools should also benefit from its use. Nevertheless, it has the feel of "scissors and paste" and does not read easily as a narrative. Many facts are repeated (Stowe village pp. 78, 89, Browne Willis' reputation as a spendthrift pp. 82, 91, Bucks. & Oxon Bank, pp. 98, 113, the old pulpit pp. 97, 111 and so on). Whereas other points of interest—the office of High Steward for instance—are barely mentioned. Little comment is made on architecture and the virtual destruction of the west side of Market Place in recent years is not mentioned. The illustrations are interesting and useful except for the poor reproduction of the Jeffery map of 1770.

THE VERNEYS OF CLAYDON. Edited with Preface and Postscript by Sir Harry Verney, Bt. The Pergamon Press. 8½" × 5½". 266pp, 1969.

The two-volume edition of *The Verney Memoirs*, of which this book is an abridgement, contained more than 1100 pages. It is now expensive and hard to come

by, and the present edition will enable a wide public to read an enthralling and finely told story. An end-paper in Sir Harry's inimitable style contains sketches of life at Claydon since the death of Sir Ralph in 1696, many of them from his own personal recollections.

THE CRAFT AND DESIGN OF MONUMENTAL BRASSES, by Henry Trivick. John Baker, £10.10.0. 1969.

Attention is drawn to this sumptuous book for two reasons; Mr. Trivick lives and works in Bucks., and a good proportion of his 271 magnificent illustrations are from brasses from the county. The book is part historical, part technical, but wholly fascinating and the fact that so many plates are in gilt and black rather than black and white of a rubbing adds greatly to the book's value, which even at the high price, will still be a good investment.

Attention is also drawn to **THE MACROLEPIDOPTERA OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** by Sir Eric Anson, 8½" × 5½", 104 pp. with a folding map, 1969, which is published by the Society, 25s.

THE MUSEUM

DURING the year a considerable amount of work was done on certain of the collections and records. The geological collections were sorted, re-labelled and re-housed in cupboards designed for the purpose and made by the Museum carpenter. A system was devised for the storing of information on the distribution of animals and plants and sites of natural history interest. The cataloguing of the lace collection was completed and the systematic cataloguing of the costume collection begun.

Visits were made to a number of archaeological sites, and a trial excavation was conducted on the site of Bradwell Priory to try to discover whether foundations survived and the area which they covered. Bad weather and a lack of volunteers restricted the work done, but the results were useful.

During Museums Week the Museum held an exhibition of Old Prints of Buckinghamshire, which proved most popular, and also arranged a Memorial Exhibition of the work of Miss Winning Read, who lived at Cuddington. Other exhibitions included Art from Bucks Primary Schools, organised by the County Art Adviser, Art by Members of the Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes, Contemporary Pictures in Fabric and Thread, organised by Mrs. Vera Sherman, and the Wendover Art Club Autumn Exhibition.

The most important purchases by the Museum were 291 Roman silver denarii from the 1st-2nd century A.D. hoard of 296 found at Little Brickhill, bought with the aid of a grant from the Victoria & Albert Museum, and a tumbler inscribed Wilkes & Liberty No. 45, and engraved with floral decoration, dating from c. 1770. In addition a number of interesting topographical watercolour drawings and prints were bought.

C.N.G.