

REPORT OF SUBJECT SECRETARIES COMMITTEE.

S. ANDREWS. Correspondent.

As correspondent of the above Committee, I have to report that this war time is playing havoc with our special work. County Archæology is not active, and New Forest Natural History has to lie by, Winchester Botany also suffers, but each of these hopes for future work to be reported. Hants Ornithology is quite dormant with Mr. Philip Munn on active service with the troops. The Isle of Wight is at present the most active side of the work, Mr. Colenutt having some useful notes, especially of practical developments of Geology. As to Mediæval Hants History I can report a commencement of making the papers of the Ecclesiastical Court at Winchester tell their tale, and also a beginning of work at the Court Rolls of the Episcopal Manors, which are cared for by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in London. While the anxiety of the National trouble continues little more can be expected in this matter. I append Reports from Subject Secretaries :—

New Forest Fungi, 1915—J. F. RAYNER, F.R.H.S.

In the course of the season two fungus forays were held in the New Forest, one by the Bournemouth Science Society, the other by the New Forest Natural History Society, both being conducted by the Sectional Secretary. On each occasion rainy weather prevented any notable results, except that *Lactarius hyssiginus* Fr. and *Hygrophorus calyptræformis* Berk. were found in fresh localities. On the other hand, a considerable amount of individual work has been done, especially in the Brockenhurst district, and the following 19 species have been added to the Forest list, besides many fresh localities for species already recorded :—*Lepiota holosericea* Fr., *Pleurotus ulmarius* (Bull.) Fr., *Lactarius volemus* Fr., *Russula rosacea* Fr., *Marasmius splachnoides* (Hornem.) Fr., *Pholiota*

ægerita (Brig.) Fr., Cortinarius (Phleg.) decolorans (Pers.) Fr., C. (Dermo.) albocyaneus Fr., C. (Hydro.) priviginus Fr., C. (Hydro.) dilutus Fr., Boletus felleus Bull., Polyporus epileucus Fr., Fomes ulmarius (Sow.) Fr., Clavaria fusiformis *var.* ceranoides W.G.S., Geaster rufescens (Pers.) Fr., Bovista plumbea Pers., Diaporthe arctii Nitschke, Otidea onotica Mass., Humaria melaloma Mass.

Isle of Wight Geology.—G. W. COLNUTT, F.G.S.

Some years ago contractors, requiring shingle for the making of concrete in connection with some neighbouring works, removed large quantities of beach material from the foreshore at Whitecliff Bay. It was pointed out at the time that this removal would probably lead to active sea-erosion of the cliffs of Eocene and Oligocene age. For several years past this has proved to be the case, and lately the rate of erosion has been steadily increasing, as the sea at high water now reaches to the base of the cliffs which formerly were protected by the old shingle beach. Many of the beds, which in bye-gone years have been masked by rain-wash and growing bushes of bramble and furze, &c., are now being exposed in clear section. As time goes on and the effects of sea-erosion become more and more in evidence (which must necessarily be the result of the wholesale removal of the shingle) the whole of the Eocene and Oligocene beds in the cliffs will be rendered capable of being more fully examined and carefully measured in detail than they have ever been, within living memory at all events. It may possibly be desirable in the near future for the Club to again visit this world-renowned section of beds of surpassing interest to all geologists.

Botanical Section, 1915.—The REV. CANON J. VAUGHAN.

There is little or nothing to report during the past season. Owing to the war only one botanical ramble took place, when no plant of special rarity was discovered. But it is of interest to know that, in spite of the military camps around Winchester, the

rare orchid, *Aceras anthropophora*, Br., was again found. The beautiful pheasant's-eye, *Adonis autumnalis*, L., appeared in several localities in the neighbourhood of Alresford. *Helleborus foetidus*, L., was found in some abundance in a wood to the north of Whitchurch, and *Anagallis caerulea* has been reported from Highclere.

Basingstoke District.—MR. G. W. WILLIS supplies the following :—

Botany. An unusual form of *Convolvulus Arvensis* has been noted as constant for some years past in a single locality. Its general habit is typical of the species with narrow hastate leaves, but the flowers are much smaller, about half-an-inch long; and have the corolla partly divided to about one-third of its length into five unequal petals. The South Kensington authorities described it as probably a first record for Britain, although similar forms had been noticed in France and Germany. Other species of local rarity recently found include the Crimson Vetchling *Lathyrus Nissolia*, the Blue Fleabane *Erigerion Acre*, the Deadly Nightshade *Atropa Belladonna*, the Musk Orchid *Herminium Monorchis*, the Bastard Toadflax *Thesium Humifusum*, the Henbane *Hyocamus Niger*, the "Earth Star" fungus, *Geaster fornicatus*, and the "Stinkhorn" *Phallus Impudicus*.

Isle of Wight Natural History.—MR. FRANK MOREY, F.L.S.

The Report of the Natural History of the Isle of Wight is too full of valuable detail to give here. Its items of local botany, land and marine molluscs, entomology, the lepidoptera, coleoptera, and diptera, and its ornithology are of very great interest, being carefully collected from several able sources. This report is with Dr. Andrews, and can be referred to by any members specially interested in the subjects. Two publications are referred to for the year, viz., "The Ichneumons of Great Britain," Vol. V., by Claude Morley, and "British Ants," by H. St. J. K. Donnisthorpe.

Field Archaeological Section, 1915.—J. P. WILLIAMS-FREEMAN,
M.D.

Defensive Earthworks. Two have been brought to my notice since the last meeting. One, a rectangular camp at Barton Stacey Manor Farm, which Mr. Hippisley Cox in his "Green Roads of England" refers to as Roman. Mr. Tucker, of Chilbolton, who has examined it, tells me he shares this opinion. The second is "King John's Hill" at East Word-le-ham, apparently identical with the "Curious Mound in East Word-le-ham Park" (White, "Natural History of Selborne"). I visited this latter hill last autumn and think it shews unmistakable signs of having been entrenched. It is covered to a considerable extent with wood and undergrowth, the soil is one with which I am not familiar, making it difficult to estimate the waste and spread of the banks and ditches, but at first sight it seems not unlikely to have been a Norman stronghold—a natural hill artificially strengthened. A careful investigation when the leaf is off would be valuable.

Barrows. I have added a few round barrows to the map chiefly taken from Greenwood's map of 1826, lent me by the County Surveyor at the instance of our President. One mutilated Disc barrow adjoining the Quarley Hill group has been pointed out to me; bringing the total number of these rare barrows in Hampshire up to seven—five of the ordinary type and the two anomalous ones on the Petersfield—Portsmouth Road.

Boundary Ditches. Two more so-called "Boundary Ditches" have been pointed out to me on the edge of Salisbury Plain, but within our county. I am glad to say that Mr. Percy Farrer, of the R.E. Office at Bulford, is making a very careful study of these interesting and puzzling banks, ditches and earthworks which can be traced for miles across the country, and are evidently connected with the sites of camps and British villages, and some of which are certainly as old as the Bronze Age. Measurement and study of their cross sections divide them into fairly well defined types, and from the occasional finds of fragments of Pottery and other relics made when they are cut across we shall doubtless

some day be able to place them in their proper periods. At present their use, whether boundaries or cattle fences, or roads, is not agreed upon.

Roads. The old British Road from Salisbury Plain along the South Downs has been diverted in a short portion of its course between old Winchester Hill and Butser Hill with a view to building a large house. The diversion was duly and legally advertised and carried out nobody making any objection. I am told that the new course commands even finer views than the old track, so that the few people who know and appreciate that fine upland have no real cause for complaint. The similar Ridgeway along the North Downs east of Walbury in the Parish of Combe has become overgrown and impassable in a part of its course. The landowner was asked to clear it and replied by disputing its existence—acknowledging only a bridle path. Fortunately the Hungerford District Council (for the road is now officially in Berks) possessed ample evidence of user by waggons bringing corn from the hill farms. They accordingly cut a narrow track along its whole length and cleared a short section for its full breadth. The owner has not challenged their action and the road is saved. May other District Councils take note of their example. Two local by-roads in my own district are in great danger of being lost and forgotten. One runs from Abbots Ann to Foxcotte and forms the boundary between the parishes of Penton Mewsey and Foxcotte. The part in danger is shewn on an interesting old 17th century map as "Mark Lane." The other runs from Fyfield to Chute and Hungerford by Redenham West Lodge and Biddesden. Neither of these roads is disputed but they are so obstructed as to be seldom or never used. I should propose that the Club obtain leave from the County Council to put up a notice where they cross the main road to say that they are public highways.

Mr. Christopher Burne, of St. Mary Bourne, has traced a road from Walbury Camp to Tidbury Ring, a distance of some fourteen miles. Sometimes it follows a modern road, sometimes a grass

track, a footpath or a parish boundary, but in one form or another, with two small gaps of about half-a-mile each, it is to my mind quite clear along the whole distance. The Club will agree that this is an interesting and important piece of field work, and ought to stimulate us to try and find the traces of other inter-camp roads. Such tracks constitute important evidence in favour of the camps connected by them having been permanent settlements rather than merely refuge camps in times of danger. Mr. Burne's account will be published in a future number of our Proceedings.

Migrations of Wasps.

Will entomologist members kindly note the migrations of vespa? I have long suspected that an increase in numbers was not always due to local hatching out. Last summer, 1915, we had a great number of wasps—chiefly vespa vulgaris. They suddenly disappeared late in autumn (we have no flowering ivy here). At the same time I noted their disappearance Miss Thoyts was standing on the north-west side of Yateley Grange; she noticed a number of queen wasps coming from the north-west flying 15 to 20 feet in the air, and she afterwards found numbers in the folds of the window curtains on that side of the house. None were found here in the house.—MRS. COPE, Finchampstead Place, Berks.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

The Pottery found at Silchester. A descriptive account of the pottery recovered during the excavations on the site of the Romano-British City of Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester, Hants, and deposited in the Reading Museum. By Thomas May, F.S.A. (Scot.). Published by the County Borough of Reading Museum and Art Gallery, Silchester Department. (E. Poynder and Son, Holybrook Press, Reading. Price £1 5s. od.).

A valuable scientific work on Roman pottery aptly describes Mr. May's new volume "*The Pottery Found at Silchester.*" Few people realise what a magnificent collection—from a scientific point of view—of Roman remains is preserved in the Museum in the Municipal Buildings at Reading—a collection second to none in its classification and arrangement—every kind of find is to be seen there. The study of Roman pottery in England has not found much encouragement, but this new book should stimulate a greater interest in the subject. The first systematic exploration at Silchester was under the Rev. James Gerald Joyce, whose MSS. diaries are full of accurate sketches of what he discovered. After Mr. Joyce's death the Duke of Wellington employed a few old labourers each year, and the "finds" were stored in a shed in the centre of the city; but in 1890 the site was begun to be scientifically worked under the Society of Antiquaries, who issued their reports in book form. A small guide to Silchester was written by the village schoolmaster, and was published at Basingstoke; it was dedicated to the Rector, the Hon. and Rev. W. S. T. W. Fiennes. Later a lecture was written by the Rev. A. L. White, Vicar of Mortimer West, at the special request of Miss Thoyts, and was given at Sulhampstead House; this was privately printed and a small edition sold. These comprise all the books, or rather pamphlets, about Silchester. Not the least valuable is the list of works consulted by Mr. May to compile his book, and a useful glossary of terms is given. The introductory chapter gives a brief *résumé* of the chemical composition of Roman ware and a clear description of the various glazes employed. Then follows the description of each piece and its probable origin and potter's mark. Mr. May considers the Silchester pottery as most comprehensive, as it gives specimens from pre-Roman days until the abandonment of the city about A.D. 409, so that the book will no doubt become a text-book on the subject of Roman pottery and bring forward a subject which has hitherto been neglected for want of definite information.

Every museum contains some specimens of the art of the Roman potter. We find now from Mr. May's book that only common utensils were of local British manufacture, and it is very curious to think that in times when the journey from Italy to Albion was long and difficult it was yet possible to find hitherto fragile vessels of "*Terra Sigillata*" and Samian pottery. Since the time when Wright published his popular book, "*Roman, Celt and Saxon*," much has been learnt on the subject, but there remains more still to be discovered, and Mr. May is much to be congratulated on his compilation, which will be a welcome addition to the literature of this hitherto little-studied subject.

We cannot close this short notice without recording thanks to the Corporation of Reading for issuing a volume at this time, which is of very wide interest. The illustrations are excellent, and give a clear idea of each species of pottery.

The Chancels of English Churches. By Francis Bond, M.A. 229 illustrations. (Published by Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1916. Price 7s. 6d.).

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare said, and one is tempted to regret that Mr. Francis Bond has not given his book a more comprehensive name than that of "*The Chancels of English Churches*." No such important work has appeared since Mr. Charles Cox's "*English Churches*," a similar publication, but the illustrations in Mr. Bond's book are from photographs, not wood cuts, and are therefore of greater value to the student.

Mr. Bond is a practised writer, and has wide knowledge of the subject, both English and Foreign, which makes the subject matter particularly valuable. One of the most interesting chapters is "Communion Table," illustrated by fine examples from all parts of England. A whole volume might be written on this subject, for it has not long come under the observation of antiquaries. No doubt superstition prevented the secular use of altars of stone or tables once consecrated, for the old stone slabs remain in most churches either whole or in fragments, often converted into memorial slabs. On Sedilia Mr. Bond has much information to give, and his pictures of aumbries opens up another subject for future study. Few reliquaries exist now in England, but the Easter sepulchres may have been built up from remains of the side altars. The Squint, so long a subject of discussion, occupies another chapter, also the Holy Water Stoup, so often mistaken for a font.

There is no chapter on old chests or vestment receptacles, so that one hopes later Mr. Bond will give us a further volume on this and on the churchyard crosses; in fact, another similar work dealing with the "Nave of English Churches" and kindred subjects to complete the Church in two volumes. All clergy and those interested in our old Churches should read "*The Chancels of English Churches*" attentively. They will find in it much new to them of very great interest, and all will be struck by the extraordinary versatility of the early ecclesiastical builder, who evidently strove to make each Church, and each part of a Church, beautiful and unique. It was not contract work, but work of the best, undertaken from religious motives to beautify the House of God, in which everything was of the best. We may well take this lesson to heart when we compare the Churches built before and after the Reformation. The genius and originality of the former, the durable work, in which no effort, no expense of time or money was spared; contrast this with the cheap scamped work of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and one realises the difference between work undertaken for religion and without it. Mr. Bond's beautiful illustrations shew what the Early English Churches contained in stone work and sculpture, and makes still more regrettable the destruction of so much pious labour. Books such as this help much to prevent wilful destruction in the name of restoration by showing the beauty of the old work. Among the books on Churches this present volume should take its place as a text book of value.

The Festival Book of Salisbury. Published to commemorate the Jubilee of the Museum, 1864-1914. Edited by Frank Stevens, Resident Curator of the Museum. Price 5s.

The Salisbury, South Wilts and Blackmore Museum was founded in 1864 by Dr. Blackmore, whom we are delighted to know is still able, after the

long period of half a century, to take an active part in the management of the Salisbury Museum, and this work not only deals with an account of the Museum but contains articles connected with the archæology and natural history of the County of Wiltshire. Amongst the contributors are Dr. Blackmore, who deals with the prehistoric remains of Salisbury, Mr. Heywood Sumner, F.S.A., while Professor Haverfield writes on Roman isolated bath buildings. Another article tells of some of the old County newspapers. There is a short notice of that most loveable man and devoted son of the Anglican Church George Herbert, a contemporary of Bishop Andrewes of Winchester, and of Laud, the last Archbishop of Canterbury to die the death of a martyr. As far as we know the Salisbury Museum is the only one in the South of England that has ever attempted to celebrate its Jubilee; but what has been done by one can be done by others, and we hope that the Salisbury example will be followed by several museums.

Rise of Monasticism. Four sermons preached in Winchester Cathedral by the Archdeacon of Winchester in 1905, with notes of three lectures on this subject. (Warren & Son, Winchester.) Price 1s.

Though this subject has been dealt with by many writers, Montalembert, Gasquet, Hannay, Taunton, etc., we very much doubt if their books have been read by many, but in this small publication anyone who reads it will find much instruction. Each sermon deals with one phase or period—beginning from the earliest times—of the rise of monasticism. These treat of the religious side of monasticism. In the lectures the historical growth of the monastic system is described. On page 45 Titchfield is described as an Augustinian House. This is hardly correct, elsewhere in this number of the Proceedings it will be seen Titchfield was not an Augustinian Priory; but an Abbey of the Premonstratensian Order.