

## NOTES.

### RUNNYMEDE.

In August, 1921, it was announced that Runnymede meadows, the property of the Crown, were to be sold. The meadow, amounting to 99 acres, formed part of a large block of the Windsor Estate. A certain amount of public opposition was aroused, and eventually it was announced in Parliament by Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen that "the 99 acres referred to were not sold, and would be retained as Crown property" (10th August). The Minister of Agriculture said "he would not go into the historical questions as to precisely where Magna Carta was signed, or whether it was signed at all." This probably referred to letters which had appeared in the *Times* from Mr. H. E. Malden (8th August) and from Sir Alfred Robbins (9th August). Both these gentlemen pointed out that the Great Charter says itself that it was "given in the meadow called Runingmede," and the first-named thinks that the placing of the scene upon Magna Carta Island was "merely the fancy of an owner."

This will remind members that when our Society visited the district in 1876 the Rev. C. Lowndes (one of the honorary secretaries) read a paper upon the "Facts relating to the signing of Magna Carta" (printed in RECORDS IV., 384-391). He quoted the words "Dat'p' manum n'rum in prato quod vocat' Runimed'," but added "Surely there is something due to tradition, . . . . we may infer that the actual scene . . . . was upon this island." As the Society was at the moment enjoying the hospitality of the owner of the island, this expression may have been due to politeness rather than to conviction; probability supports the wording of the deed in favour of the meadow.