

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

A CALENDAR OF THE PIPE ROLLS OF THE REIGN OF RICHARD I. FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND BEDFORDSHIRE, 1189-1199, By G. HERBERT FOWLER AND MICHAEL W. HUGHES.

The chief reasons underlying the preservation of official records are financial, and it is therefore natural that the earliest of our national archives which should have survived should be those of the Court of Exchequer. Domesday Book, which gives us such a wonderfully detailed account of the country in the last year of the Conqueror's reign, is nothing but a valuation for purposes of taxation. The next survival in point of date is the beginning of the series of national accounts known as the Pipe Rolls. There is an isolated roll for the 31st year of Henry 1., and time may yet bring to light the missing rolls between that date and 1156, when the great series begins which has been preserved, with only two breaks, down to 1832, when the old system of keeping accounts was abolished.

In the volume recently issued jointly by the Bucks Architectural Society and the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society are printed the entries on the Pipe Rolls relating to those two counties for the ten years between 1189 and 1199. As a general rule the objections to the practice of printing extracts from records, even when the selection relates to a particular county, outweigh any advantages to be gained. The significance of the document as a whole is obscured and comparative study is impossible. But when we are dealing with such cumbersome and voluminous material as the Pipe Rolls, the argument is in favour of such treatment, especially as we may have to wait several decades before the originals are printed in full. Translation and re-arrangement are perfectly safe in such scholarly hands as those of the present editors, and the result of their labours, which must have been considerable, is to give us in a digested and most convenient form all that the Pipe Rolls have

to tell us of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire during the reign of Richard I.

Some knowledge of the fiscal conditions and machinery of the period is essential to a proper understanding of the record, and the text is preceded by a very interesting introduction, in which the complicated system of the ancient exchequer is described. There was no distinction in those early days between the public revenue and the private income of the King. Certain payments from very various sources were yearly due to him from every county, and he was expected to "live of his own,"—that is to say, to provide for the expense of the government, the court, and the fighting forces of the country out of his regular income, without additional resources by way of general taxation.

This ordinary revenue, as it may be called, was collected from each county by the sheriff, and rendered yearly at the Exchequer at Michaelmas. It consisted of the "farm of the shire," a fixed payment from the sheriff in lieu of the rents and profits of the royal demesnes and other royal perquisites and rents; the farm of the boroughs, a similar payment which was made directly by the burgesses when they had purchased from the King the right of exemption from the sheriff's jurisdiction; perprestures and escheats—payments due for encroachments on the royal demesnes and the profits of lands forfeited for treason, or felony, or of lands for other reasons temporarily in the hands of the King; the profits of royal justice; certain feudal dues such as scutage, and money owing to the Jews, who had no legal standing, and whose debts were therefore collected by the King, under whose special protection they were.

On the credit side of the sheriff's accounts were certain allowances deducted from his "farm," such as alms to religious houses, tithes due from royal lands, pensions, and other customary or special disbursements of the Exchequer.

From the above list it will be seen that the Pipe Rolls are a mine of information on all sorts of interesting topics. One of the most fascinating, perhaps, is

the administration of justice in those early days. The Plea Rolls of the Justices in Eyre exist only from the reign of John, and extracts from these relating to Bedfordshire have already been printed. Further light on this question at a still earlier period will now be thrown by the present volume. The amercements or fines inflicted by the justices were a valuable source of income to the Crown. The large number of fines imposed on the hundreds for murder is very noticeable. The punishment for this crime was death, and the responsibility for catching the murderer rested on the hundred. Failure to produce him resulted in the infliction of a fine. The other side of the account illustrates some of the expenses of justice, and entries such as payments by the sheriff for repairs to the gaols at Bedford and Aylesbury (p. 54), for taking two thieves from Aylesbury to Bedford and doing justice on them (p. 54), and for the carriage of three prisoners from Aylesbury to Westminster (3s.) (p. 133), should be of great interest to local historians.

The feudal entries contain genealogical and manorial evidence which has been very carefully annotated by the editors. The payments of scutage are also important. William the Conqueror divided England into knights' fees, and on each fee was laid the liability of providing a fully equipped and mounted man for forty days' service in the wars each year. Recent research has shown that before the days of Henry II. the practice of commutation for military service had already begun. The Pipe Rolls afford plenty of evidence as to the extent to which the practice had grown by the closing years of the century.

We get an amusing glimpse of Richard's coronation on p. 36, where the sheriff is allowed £1:5:3 for 2,000 dishes and 200 bowls, and £8:3:1 for 2,200 hens and for "taking, guarding, and delivering them to Westminster," but space forbids the discussion of further points. The book is provided with a serviceable map, but one wishes that it had been possible to give either the boundaries of the parishes or some

indication of the sites of the various townships. Some centres of population may have shifted, but in most cases the village church should be a safe guide. There is a good index, and it is to be hoped that the reader will not be frightened by the apparently formidable system of references, which is easily mastered.

It is satisfactory to know that the Pipe Roll Society is shortly to resume its activities. In the meantime other counties would do well to follow the lead given by Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

MARRIAGE REGISTERS OF NEWPORT PAGNELL, LATHBURY,
BROUGHTON, AND MOULSOE.

Vol. IX. of Phillimore's Marriage Registers, 15s.

This latest reprint of Bucks Parish registers contains all the entries of marriages in the above-named parishes down to 1837. The present volume has been edited by the Rev. Ronald F. Bale, now rector of Adstock, and the care with which he has transcribed from the original is made clear by the way in which attention is called to doubtful spellings (*e.g.*, "Ruff [or Buff]," p. 12, "Bryse [or Bryste]," p. 13) or to actual errors (*e.g.*, "Mary Capel [but the mark is of Mary Davis]," p. 84, "William Gadson [signs Gadsdon]," p. 85).

During the last quarter of the eighteenth century descriptions were usually appended at Newport Pagnell, and sometimes at Lathbury; between 1754 and 1798 over 900 marriages are recorded at Newport. Quite a large number of these relate to Militia-men, but in nearly 600 cases an actual trade was noticed as follows:—

Apothecary	1	Joiner	3
Attorney	2	Labourer	185
Baker	19	Lace-man	7
Barber	10	Lace-maker	11
Basket-maker	1	Lace-merchant	4
Bellman	2	Leather-dresser ...	1
Blacksmith	18	Linen-draper	2

Book-seller	1	Maltster	3
Brazier	1	Mason	7
Breeches-maker ...	2	Mat-maker	4
Brewer	1	Miller	12
Bricklayer	3	Millwright	2
Brush-maker	1	Ostler	10
Butcher	24	Paper-maker	1
Cabinet-maker	1	Pattern-maker	1
Cabin-joiner	1	Pedlar	1
Carpenter	16	Peruke-maker	1
Carrier	2	Ploughman	2
Chaise-driver ...	6	Plumber	1
Chimney-cleaner .	1	Postboy	6
Clock-maker	1	Printer	1
Coachman	1	Publican	1
Collar-maker	1	Ribbon-weaver	1
Cooper	5	Saddler	1
Cordwainer	21	Sawyer	1
Currier	1	Servant-man	6
Dairyman	2	Shepherd	4
Dissenting minister	1	Shoe-maker	16
Draper	4	Shop-keeper	1
Drawer	1	Stableman	1
Drover	1	Stays-maker	1
Excise officer	4	Stone-cutter	2
Farmer	13	Surgeon	4
Farrier	1	Sutt [soot]	
Fellmonger	8	merchant	1
Framework knitter	2	Tailor	24
Gardener	13	Tallow-chandler ..	1
Ginger-bread		Tanner	6
maker	2	Turner	1
Glazier	5	Victualler	2
Glover	12	Waggoner	1
Grazier	1	Watchmaker	1
Grocer	2	Weaver	1
Hair-merchant	1	Wheelwright	7
Hog-merchant	1	Whitesmith	4

Horse-keeper	3	Wool-comber	2
Hostler	1	Wool-sorter	1
Husbandman	8	Wool-stapler	2
Innholder	1	Yeoman	3
		Total ...	591

This exhibits a fairly self-contained community, with occupations enough to exhaust the alphabet. One of the ginger-bread makers rejoiced in the name of John Truelove; he married Susannah Smart, a lace-maker, on 7th August, 1763; on that one page of the register as printed 11 women are described as lace-makers; on the next page 9 women were lace-makers and one (Ann Byway) is a "scourer."

Out of our 900 marriages 62 wives came from other parishes in the county, and 55 from parishes in other counties.

On the 15th April, 1638, is recorded the marriage of Mark Slingsbee and Susan Rider; this Slingsby is one of Newport's benefactors, having left property which provides an annual sum for the distribution of bread according to a minutely specified clause of his will. Perhaps his greater title to fame is afforded by the fact that he was one of those who was buried in un-consecrated ground, and the Rev. Ronald Bale himself gave us an interesting account recently¹ of the discovery of Slingsby's apparent burial-place. There is a full account of Slingsby in Mr. F. W. Bull's "History of Newport Pagnell," p. 268-273.

This most interesting book has one serious blemish,—not easily to be forgiven; it is not provided with an index, which detracts from the usefulness an accurate transcript of a church register must always possess.

¹ Pages 88-90 of the current volume of the "Records."