

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

Spring, 1970—No. 21

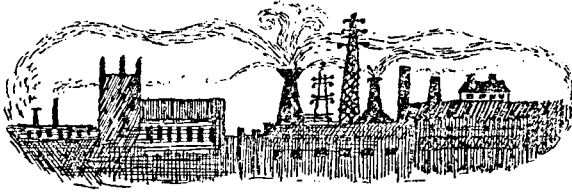


Ablington Manor House

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Inset Illustrations by courtesy of Mr F. W. Baty



EDITORIAL

ONCE AGAIN IT has been my great pleasure to read the essays sent in for the Local History Schools Essay Competition. The only disappointment has been the reduced number of entries to only fifteen. There is a brief review of the three prize winning entries on pages 3 & 4 and we are pleased to have been able to provide illustrations for two of them. Pupils entering should have it in mind that we can more easily make blocks of black and white drawings or diagrams.

With the changing face of our City of Gloucester, excavations will again be the order of the day during the coming summer. It has been pointed out that the students and others who volunteer for this work are often far from home, and that they are left to their own devices during their leisure hours. Anyone willing to offer hospitality or recreation for these willing workers should get in touch with the Assistant Secretary, Mr Beard, at Community House.

Readers should make a note of the 1970 Local History Exhibition which will take place at the City Museum, Gloucester from September 19th to October 17th.

I am very sorry to learn about the resignation of Mrs E. Vowles after twelve years service to the Local History Committee. I am very pleased however, that she has promised to continue to help with her invaluable book reviews in the Bulletin.

MERCEDES MACKAY, *Editor.*

COVER ILLUSTRATION

Ablington Manor House

This was a manor in the time of King John when a moiety of it was purchased by Ralph D. Willington and Olympia, his wife, of Willington Court, Sandhurst, near Gloucester. This good couple built and endowed the Early English Lady Chapel of the Church of Gloucester Abbey, now the Cathedral. When Atkyns wrote his "History of Gloucester", Mr Coxwell owned the Manor and dwelt in the Manor House. Over the doorway of the porch is the following inscription:

PLEAD THOU MY CAUSE OH LORD
BY JOHN COXWELL ANNO DOMENY 1590

This was evidently the name of the Lord of the Manor who built the house and the date when he built it.

REPORTS FROM THE SOCIETIES

FRAMPTON COTTERELL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

THE LOCAL HISTORY Group of the Frampton Cotterell and District Community Association have arranged a series of four lectures to be given at Highcroft School, Lower Stone Close, Frampton Cotterell at fortnightly intervals. These commenced on February 18th. The course is being arranged under the auspices of the Extra Mural Department of the University of Bristol. The Lecturer is Mr B. J. S. Moore, B.A. of the Department of Social and Economic History, University of Bristol.

In midsummer the Group are hoping to arrange a day excursion to the Pendon Trust near Abingdon. This is a recently-established open-air museum devoted jointly to creating a reconstruction of the Vale of the White Horse as it existed in the late twenties of this century and to working scale models in proportioned panoramic layouts of the former Great Western Railway system.

The Group wishes to acquire, for the purposes of reproduction, old photographs of the village, and would like to remind anyone interested that field parties to assist with the exploration and determination of footpaths will be most welcome during the spring and summer months. Offers should be made to Mr D. A. Gazzard, 37 Sunnyside, Frampton Cotterell (Tel. Winterbourne 8469).

SOCIETY OF THORNBURY FOLK

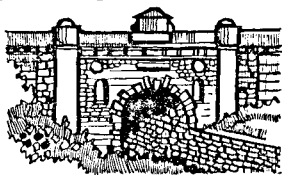
THE SOCIETY HAS one project in mind for the spring and summer which consists of a visit to Avonmouth Docks. This has arisen as a result of a lecture which was given in connection with the Old Dock at Oldbury. The Society is making a determined effort to compile a collection of photographs, drawings etc. of past and passing Thornbury and the countryside, and donors of material would be most welcome.

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FUTURE PROGRAMMES INCLUDE "Family History and How to Discover it" by Brian G. C. Brooks, an all-day tour to Lichfield and Shugborough under the title of "A Midlands Cathedral and Stately Home", in June a visit to Brecon and The Beacons, and in the summer the region east of Bath will be paid a visit and Berkeley and its environments.

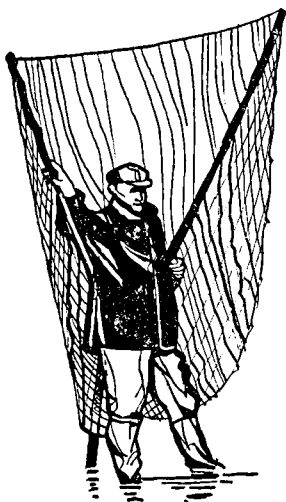
LOCAL HISTORY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION

IT WAS PLEASANTLY surprising to see what a wide variety of subjects were chosen by the competitors, each one choosing something entirely different.



The east end of the Sapperton Tunnel which was open to canal traffic from 1789 to 1927.

The first prize winner, Andrew Smart, aged 15 of Marling School, studied the fascinating story of the Thames and Severn Canal, an obvious choice since he lives in the old port of Brimscombe. He has unearthed some excellent old pictures of the barges and bridges, and did a lot of personal research on foot. We reproduce one of his pictures depicting Sapperton Tunnel.



Marling School got the second prize as well, with Hayden Charles, also fifteen, doing some most interesting research into the dying craft of lave netting. Dying because fewer and fewer craftsmen can either make the nets or use them, and because the salmon themselves are scarcer. The essay is illustrated with some really beautiful photographs, one of which we have managed to reproduce.

The third prize went to Elizabeth Meredith of Berkhamstead School in Cheltenham for her essay "The Story of Prestbury". Elizabeth is only ten years old, and the judge commended her careful work, which is based a great deal on conversations with the local people. There are maps and pictures, and a list of sources at the end.

Severn Lave Netter

Congratulations to the winners, and to all the entrants, with the hope that many more will try in the competitions to be held this year.

M.M.

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS TO GLOUCESTER MUSEUM

FOLLOWING SOME PUBLICITY in the Gloucester *Citizen* a number of interesting local samplers were brought to the City Museum. The first was worked by Mary Margaret Harris at Cranham School in 1848 which was given by Mrs L. F. Piercey, 19 Green Street, Brockworth. This was quickly followed by another worked by Sarah Harris in 182—, the last figure is missing, given by Mrs L. W. Huggins of Witcombe. The Misses Woodward of Bridgewater Cottage, Brockworth, presented a most interesting group of three samplers. The earliest, dated 1801, was worked by Mary Trouncell; the second was worked by her daughter Amelia Chinn in 1826, and the third by her daughter Frances Spencer, who was the mother of The Misses Woodward. Promises of the loan for exhibition of a number of other samplers have also been received.

Mr A. L. Jones of Wellsprings Road, Longlevens, has presented the complete kit of saddler's tools used by his father, the late Albert Arthur Jones. Albert Jones was born in Stepney in 1880 and his apprenticeship indenture dated 1893 is still in the possession of the family. He worked for a time in Northamptonshire and came to Gloucestershire in 1922 where he settled at Newnham-on-Severn as the village saddler and harness maker. Later he was employed by Henry Crawshay & Co. to maintain the harness of the pit ponies first at Lightmoor colliery and then at Eastern United and Northern United. Mr Jones retired in 1950, when the number of pit ponies had dropped to two. He died in 1963.

J. N. TAYLOR.

ADDITIONS TO STROUD MUSEUM, 1969

TO BE CURATOR of a small museum one has to be a man of many parts. This is particularly apparent in the case of Stroud, where I find myself in turn geographer, geologist, archaeologist, architectural historian, technician and lecturer to name but a few. The scarcity of money, staff, space and up to date books of reference are all serious handicaps, but they neither deter nor detract from the importance of the daily work that can and does come to a museum in a small town. Many important finds have come our way during 1969, but sometimes the recognition of their significance has involved weeks or months of work.

We have read elsewhere of the important archaeological finds made by the M5 Research Committee along the line of the motorway. With so much earth moving to follow the examination of the superficial levels, the opportunity was taken to gather a representative collection of fossils from beds not normally available for study in this way. The use of bulldozers and heavy scrapers forbids the measuring of the beds or even the location and study of faults in the strata, and vast numbers of fossils get broken by the compression and contortion of the clay during their operation. In spite of this, a considerable collection of fossils has been built up. This includes no less than 14 species of ammonite, among them the rare *Agassiceras colesi* and large numbers of the brachiopod *Spiriferina*. For a long time it seemed that bones of fish and reptiles were surprisingly absent in relation to the amount of clay moved. A more careful examination has revealed this not to be the case. Scores of vertebrae have now been collected. Almost every good specimen has needed treatment, and it will be many months before these fossils are identified, and their full significance can be assessed. This will be reported on at a later date.

Archaeological finds have been fewer than usual. The strangest was a flint^t palaeolith of Acheulian form from the collection of the late Rev. Potto Hicks. Pencilled on the side was the parish name ELKSTONE. At first sight this would appear a most improbable find spot. But allowing for the extent of post glacial change in our landscape, its validity cannot be ruled out. The fact remains that finds of implements of this period within the county are of the greatest rarity.

A bone object, probably part of a Roman comb, was picked up in a field near Frocester, whist from near Harescombe came a portion of a jug handle of 13th century date and of abnormal construction.

The removal of the Quenington water wheel and its allied machinery, as reported in our last issue, has of course eclipsed many of our lesser activities. Folk life and industrial objects are offered almost every week. These have included copies of photographs of Wimberley and Dark mills, taken c. 1906, and an early photograph of a part of the Brimscombe canal basin taken in 1890-1 showing the newly constructed steam launch Windsor. This boat was made by Edwin Clarke & Co. of Brimscombe, whose successors were Isaac J. Abdela & Mitchell Ltd. from whose boatyard have come several interesting engine parts and one of the thick glass porthole windows. From Cranham came three miniature earthenware pans made by the firm of Thomas Richings,

famed throughout the county for his cream pans, pitchers and rhubarb pots. A representative collection of the products of the now defunct Stonehouse Brick and Tile factory has also been acquired.

Glove making is not normally associated with the Stroud area. So a glove maker's 'donkey', used to hold the glove and regulate the stitch sizes, found at Minchinhampton, may have been used for repair work or for the production of some other object of similar construction. A number of printers' blocks have come from differing sources, and our collection of early beer and mineral water bottles has been enlarged still further.

To meet the ever growing demand for space for the custody and ultimate display of these objects the Cowle Trustees, who administer Stroud Museum, are to lease the former Stroud Workhouse from the Gloucestershire County Council. This most interesting building, erected in 1837, has been much damaged by vandals and neglect since it was last used as a warehouse. Much has already been done by volunteer labour to tidy the site, but to get the building in a state of order a great deal of time and money will be needed over the next two years. The cause is a worthy one, and unless it succeeds much of Gloucestershire's industrial and agricultural heritage will be lost for ever in the mad fervour to smash up all outdated equipment that prevails today. Many readers of this Bulletin may feel able to help us, either by way of volunteer labour, money or materials, and it is asked that they might be as kind as to contact Stroud Museum either in person, by telephone or by letter. The progress we have made in our repair work will be reported upon in a later issue of the Bulletin.

LIONEL F. J. WALROND.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS, 1969 GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE

Mr Brian Smith writes:—

There have been several deposits which are of major interest, and which I thought I ought perhaps to bring to your attention. The most important of these are the records of the Hicks-Beach family of Williamstrip Park, which you will see include the political papers of Michael Hicks-Beach, first Earl St. Aldwyn. These latter documents relate to national events and can be considered of some importance.

There has also been a considerable increase in the number of business records deposited and I would especially mention the enormous collection relating to the Severn Commission and Gloucester and Berkeley Canal Company, which came into our care as the result of the activities of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology. Also of importance in this sphere are the records of the old Gloucestershire gas companies, which have been deposited by the South Western Gas Board, and the 19th century account books of Postlip Paper Mills, near Winchcombe.

Family and estate: Codrington of Dodington (addnl.): deeds and a/cs. of W. Indian plantations, 18-19c.; deeds and estate papers of Dodington Park estate, mainly 19-20 c.; maps, chiefly W. Indies, 19c.; building plans of Dodington Park by Jas. Wyatt, c. 1795.

Davies and Hodges of Arlingham: architectural papers for Slowwe House, Arlingham, 1853—1861; family papers and corres. mainly concerning family affairs 1768—1836 and 20c.

Heywood of Haresfield: architectural plans of Haresfield Court (1892—1906 (420)).

Hicks-Beach of Williamstrip: deeds, estate and family papers of Williamstrip Park and Witcombe estates, Glos., Keevil etc. (W.); Hicks-Beach, and Cromie family papers etc. 1552—1957; political papers of Michael Hicks Beach, 1st Earl St. Aldwyn, mainly corres. and parliamentary papers relating to affairs in S. Africa and Ireland, late 19c.—early 20c.

Solicitors' deposits: Thomas Cooper & Co.: wills and papers of G. Robbins of Clay Hill, Lechlade 1838, 1868.

Glyn Mills & Co.: c. 125 deeds of Maisemore, Miserden, Temple Guiting and Winstone, 19c.; Minchinhampton 1769—1845; Tewkesbury 1678—1839; Dorsington and other properties (War.) 1752—1853.

Vizard and Son (Mon.): Redbrook Tinplate Company: deeds 1790—1843 and legal papers about water supply 1824—41 and railways 1879—1954; Rooke family of Bigsweir, estate papers, corres., vouchers and a/cs., 19c.; plans of Caldicot (Mon.) and Alstone n.d.; inventories of Bigsweir House 1872—73.

Manorial: Ruddle Manor Court presentments 1791—1819.

Deeds: Ampney Crucis, Ashchurch and Cheltenham, Charfield, Chedworth, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Dodington, Eastington, Kingswood, Moreton Valence, Little Sodbury, Old Sodbury, Tewkesbury, Whaddon, Wickwar 1535—20c.

Ecclesiastical: minutes and papers of Whitstone Clerical Society 1868—1958; minutes of the Dursley Rural Deanery 1922—57.

Parish: (some addnl.), Blaisdon, Bourton-on-the-Hill, English Bicknor, Flaxley, Marshfield, Shorncote, Stow-on-the-Wold, Whaddon, Whittington.

Nonconformist: deeds etc. of Eastcombe Baptist Chapel, Bisley 1728—1800; copies and notes from Quaker registers (many Glos. parishes) (41 vols.).

Education: plans, attendance registers, log books etc., Eastington, Gorsley, Westbury-on-Severn, 19c.

Business: Berkeley area: farm a/c. book, 18c.

Davis of Stonehouse: volume of proofs of Stonehouse and district society programmes etc. by Davis, Printer of Stonehouse.

Forest of Dean: award as to quarries (pr.) interleaved with Ms. additions 1859 (1 vol.).

Edgeworth and Sapperton: farm a/c. book 1750—1869.

Gloucester iron: bills of lading of iron sent from Glos. to Valparaiso 1856—58.

Postlip Paper Mills: a/c. books, 19c.

Severn Commission and Gloucester and Berkeley Canal Co.: committee papers, corres., legal and engineers' papers and ledgers, c. 1835—1930 (250 vols., 95 boxes).

S.W. Gas Board: minutes, managers' reports, memoranda, press cuttings of 10 Glos. Gas Companies 1818—1925 (48 vols.).

Societies: Cheltenham Family Welfare Centre; case papers c. 1893—1920 (sample); Cirencester Citizens' Advice Bureau, day books 1941—60 (17 vols.); Stroud Brabazon Employment Society, minutes 1932—40 (1 vol.).

Maps: Inland Revenue, working sheet maps for Land Values Duties 1910—19, West and East Glos.

Miscellaneous: copy of Herald's Visitation, 1569; sketches and photographs of Frampton-on-Severn and Stinchcombe 1842, 1906—19; photographs, historical and antiquarian notes on North Cerney, Tetbury and Thornbury, 19—20c.

“WYNTER'S COAT”

GLoucestershire, with its long and venerable history, is as rich in ancient coats of arms as any in the United Kingdom.

Some are ornate and complicated, but many are of simple design and with a quiet dignity, as if to suggest that their distinguished holders have had no need of the assistance of eye-catching complexities to establish their places in the history of the County. The arms of Bigland, Clare, Tracy, Trye and Wintour are typical examples.

In this short contribution it is impossible to enlarge upon their backgrounds, but the reader may find some interest in following briefly the history of the arms of Wintour (or Winter, Wynter, Wyntour — the spelling of the name varied with the centuries). These have twice been changed since medieval times but still retain their original simplicity.



The Wintour family is one of the oldest in the County, with a lineage which has been traced back to the Norman Conquest. The pedigree before 1589 was recorded in that year by Clarenceux King of Arms and is set out in the Visitations of Gloucestershire of 1623.

Its two most notable members were, firstly, Sir William Wynter, who acquired the manor of Lydney in 1560. He had a distinguished fighting career in the Navy and was also Surveyor and Master of Ordnance. He was knighted in 1573. As Vice-Admiral to Drake he was Commander of the 'Vanguard' in the action against the Armada.

The second was Sir John Wyntour, his grandson, born in 1597. He was knighted in 1624, and was an ardent Royalist who held the post of private secretary to Queen Henrietta Maria. During the siege of Gloucester he constantly harried the forces of Massey before being finally defeated in 1644.

The original coat of arms of the family was simple in the extreme — sable a fess argent (black with a broad silver band across the middle third). When it was granted is not certain, but it was well in excess of 600 years ago. A William Winter was present at the siege of Calais in 1347, and for his services to Edward II he was knighted and his coat of arms augmented by the grant of a fess ermine in place of a fess argent.

So it remained for the next 240 years. With the coat seems to have been borne one of several crests, and I have found reference to (1) an armoured arm holding a sword; (2) a hawk standing on a tower; (3) a cock pheasant. The third was recorded by Clarenceux in 1589, but endorsed on the pedigree were the words "This is ye right creast to Wynter's coat," and the description (blazon): "Out of a ducal coronet or (gold) a cubit arm in armour erect proper, holding in the gauntlet a plume of three ostrich feathers."

The reason for the discrepancy was the grant of a further augmentation. Following the defeat of the Armada in 1588 Sir William Wynter received the new crest from Elizabeth I. Clarenceux had probably completed the recording of the pedigree before the crest was granted, and the endorsement corrected the entry concerning the cock pheasant.

Perhaps I should make it clear that the 'ducal coronet' bears no relation to the coronet of rank of a Duke. It should properly be called a crest coronet, and it was sometimes granted with a crest instead of the usual torse or wreath, which was a stylised ribbon of two or more colours showing six twists of the material. The crest coronet is now rarely or never granted.

The present arms of Wintour have thus stood unchanged as illustrated for nearly 400 years. They are blazoned "Sable a fess ermine in chief a crescent for difference," followed by the blazon of the crest as given above.

The crescent for difference shown in the illustration needs some explanation. I have not referred to it before as, unlike the fess ermine, it is not an intrinsic charge on the coat but a mark of cadency. It denotes that some bearer of the arms in the line of descent was a second son, and his successors would usually carry the crescent from generation to generation.

Somewhere, therefore, a second son inherited his father's estates instead of the eldest son. Clarenceux recorded the crescent in 1589, and from a study of the pedigree I have little doubt that it occurred in the fifteenth century. Roger Wintour of that time had a number of children, including Gilbert and Robert, the first and second sons. Robert continued the line of descent, Sir William Wynter being his grandson. What happened to Gilbert is not shown, apart from the fact that he did not marry. He may well have died in childhood.

Had not Robert added the crescent of a second son to his arms, this could well have been done by Sir William Wynter, as he himself was a second son. His elder brother, Arthur, was killed in action in the Orkneys.

Here, then, is a short account of arms which, without flamboyancy and literally in black and white, bear testimony of two honourable augmentations granted by different Sovereigns in recognition of services rendered by the family to its country. Nevertheless it must be said that some of its history has been

rather more colourful, to put it politely. Two brothers of a cadet branch, Thomas and Robert Winter, were involved in the Gunpowder Plot and executed, and Sir John Wyntour, in one of his many activities as an ironmaster in the Forest of Dean, almost succeeded in denuding it of its trees.

The manor of Lydney was sold to the Bathurst family by the widow of Sir Charles Wintour, son of Sir John. The present descendant and bearer of the arms still resides within two miles of the town, however, and justifiably but modestly preserves a quiet pride in his long ancestry.

H. W. DRINKWATER.

BRISTOL CASTLE EXCAVATIONS 1968-9

BRISTOL CASTLE IS one of those monuments which despite its importance has never received the attention due either from historians or archaeologists.

There is comparatively little documentary evidence and this has been published (1). To the archaeologist the references of most value are not those concerning the incarceration of a Norman prince in the castle but references to structures. Although he is studying people it is their activities rather than personalities he is disinterring.

Excavations during the last year can to some extent be fitted to the few references that exist.

Firstly the motte and its attendant ditch have been located. It was probably 140 feet in diameter and over 200 with ditch. The ditch had already been located in previous excavations but unrecognised (2). In Cock and Bottle Lane it was found to be 20 feet deep and about 40 feet wide. The motte edge was located and it was clear that the mound which may have had a stone tower at its peak had been shovelled back into the ditch when "the flower of English keeps" was erected on the north-west quadrant of the motte. Part of the ditch was left open under the keep (which was built by Robert of Gloucester) to act as a rubbish pit. The pottery found there in 1949 was at least a century later than that found in the recent excavation. The motte was constructed by Geoffrey Bishop of Coutances in the 1080's A.D. Probably contemporary with the motte was the east gate, a footway, of the castle found before Christmas in works preceding the construction of an artificial castle mound. This structure was very complicated but had a bank associated which was contemporary with the first of several gates.

Further work recently in the North-west corner of the castle has revealed part of the curtain wall, a huge 90 feet wide rampart, evidence of the rebuilding of the wall and a fine semicircular solid bastion probably for a catapult.

Buildings too have been located in Cock and Bottle Lane, over the filled-in east gate (probably 1223 which is when the Old Market or Castle Gate was constructed by Henry III), with a small oven, and on the tail of the rampart, all dating from the early thirteenth century and all probably storehouses or minor buildings, partly constructed of timber. This period was the most important development phase in the castle.

A good sequence of pottery development has helped to sort out the various periods and from this it should be possible to produce a good basis for dating further excavations. Small finds include dice, bronze objects and vessel fragments, a quarter-penny of Henry I (1134-35) which dates a refurbishing of the rampart to the time of the Anarchy, a gold-plated spur and a bronze ring with set stone. The most curious find was part of a green-glazed jug with the cancerous leg bones of a cockerel deliberately placed in it. The find suggests witchcraft, and a connection with later witch bottles, but more research is needed.

Further work is planned in which it is hoped to excavate more buildings, in particular the castle hall where the entrance still stands, the last monument of a castle which at 15 acres was one of the largest in England.

(1) History of the Kings Works. Vol. II, pp. 577-581.

(2) Trans. B. & G.A.S. 70, pp. 13-21.

SEVERN SALMON FOR THE APPRENTICE

THE ONSET OF another fishing season brings to mind the old idea that apprentices in the neighbourhood of salmon rivers at one time insisted upon a clause in their indentures protecting them from being fed with too much of this fish. Twice, or thrice a week was the alleged limit.



A statement to this effect appeared in Bennett's History of Tewkesbury (1830), and it is to this source that most enquiries lead. Unfortunately Bennett offered no firm evidence, and extensive search has, apparently, failed to produce any indenture containing such a clause.

Very careful investigation by Mr I. Cohen, of the Woolhope Club failed to uncover any real support for the (?) legend. While a number of people said they knew of such

indentures, none could produce an example.

There is a temptation to regard the whole thing as a joke, likely to appeal to those for whom fresh salmon would indeed be luxury. On the other hand, children living near the lower Severn often surprised health visitors during the last war by answering "Salmon" when asked what they had for dinner. And I understand that the same situation arose in parts of Ireland when the answer was "Chicken".

An elderly fowl has something in common with a spent Salmon that may be seen drifting down the river after spawning, specially when the fowl has been caught, killed, dressed and cooked between breakfast and dinner. Also, fish that have been damaged in the traps, by crows or other predators, are not very saleable, so there may have been good reason for setting a limit.

Another point to be remembered is that salmon were much more plentiful at one time, with fewer people to eat them. Domesday Book tells us that there were more than ninety fish weirs in the Tidenham region of Severn and Wye in Norman times, and while there are no records of catches it is probably safe to assume that salmon were the main objective. It is true that a much wider range of fish was being taken from the Severn in earlier times, including herrings, but fish weirs are made specially to take salmon as they make their journey upstream for spawning.

If the salmon situation has changed with the years, so has that of apprenticeships. During the five, or even seven, years served at one time, mostly living in the master's house, there will have been plenty of time to contemplate the menu, and perhaps to wish that some protective clause had been included in the articles.

F. W. BATY.

100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

IT WAS IN 1832 that about fifty medical gentlemen, including a Dr. Conolly of Cheltenham, met at Worcester at the instigation of a local physician, Dr. (later Sir) Charles Hastings to found the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. It was to be an association 'both friendly and scientific', and it evidently filled a need, for its membership throughout the country rapidly grew. At first London doctors were excluded from membership, but in 1853 an invitation was extended to them to join. It thus became a national body, and two years later its name was changed to the 'British Medical Association'.

During the early years the only occasions on which the members of the Association foregathered were the Annual Meetings. Cheltenham was one of the earliest of the places chosen for these meetings, for the sixth was held there in 1837. As the membership increased local branches of the Association were gradually formed. Thus it was that on October 22nd, 1868, seven local doctors met at the Bell Hotel, Gloucester, and there resolved that "a Branch of the British Medical Association be formed called the 'Gloucestershire Branch of the British Medical Association.'"

The meeting had been convened by Alfred Fleischmann, Esq., of Cheltenham, who for the following three years filled the office of Hon. Secretary of the Branch. The six other doctors who attended were Dr. Thomas of Gloucester, who became the first President, Dr. Batten and Mr Ellis, both of Gloucester, Dr. Rumsey of Cheltenham, Dr. Blagden of Minchinhampton and Dr. Boughton of Tewkesbury. Those who lived elsewhere than in Gloucester probably travelled to the meeting by train, and one can picture them as staid and prosperous looking gentlemen, bearded or bewhiskered, and dressed in frock coats and silk hats.

The Minutes of the meeting are preserved and make it clear that the business was efficiently conducted. Thus was born the Gloucestershire Branch of the B.M.A., which last year reached its centenary. At the end of its first year its membership totalled 47; now it is nearly ten times that figure. In 1869 the Hon. Secretary was directed 'to cause a dinner to be prepared at an Hotel for such members as may desire to dine — the cost of such dinners not to exceed four shillings'. One hundred years later, whilst the number of meetings a year has increased from two to nine, they continue in the main to be held alternately in Cheltenham and Gloucester and they are almost always followed by a dinner 'for such members as may desire to dine', though no longer at a cost of four shillings!

Early meetings consisted almost entirely of discussions about patients suffering from conditions of interest or about portions of those patients removed at operation or at post-mortem examination. But the Branch was alert to current problems and was often forthright in its expression of opinion. For example, as long ago as 1875 a discussion took place on the entry of women into the medical profession, and a resolution was passed stating that 'this meeting believes the exclusion of women from the Medical Examinations to be wrong in principle and useless in practice; and would therefore urge on the various examining bodies the importance of making every examination perfectly open'.

During the succeeding years the Branch has become involved from time to time in the upheavals that have affected the medical profession, particularly the introduction of the National Insurance Act in 1912 and of the National Health Service Act in 1948. It has sometimes come to the assistance of individual members who have been involved in disputes or difficulties; at other times it has served as the means of formulating and of making known the opinion of a large proportion of the local doctors. But of more importance than these, it seems on the whole to have been successful throughout the hundred years of its existence in being an association 'both friendly and scientific' and also in carrying out the objects of the British Medical Association as set out in its Constitution, 'to promote the medical and allied sciences, and to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession.'

H. G. DOWLER.

BOOK REVIEWS

PREHISTORIC BRISTOL : THE PREHISTORY OF THE LOWER BRISTOL AVON

By L. V. Grinsell. Bristol Branch of the Historical Association pamphlet 23 (1969)

WHEN DID HISTORY begin in the Bristol region? Archaeologists like to think that it began in prehistory with the chipping of hand-axes before the last glaciation, and they are grateful to the Bristol branch of the Historical Association for extending the scope of its Local History Pamphlets into this remote period. L. V. Grinsell, having already published separate studies of the prehistoric monuments and the prehistoric finds of the Bristol region, is supremely qualified

to bring these two types of evidence together, and in this pamphlet he does so with the aid of detailed and hitherto unpublished distribution—maps of the district, measuring 8 miles by 15, which he has chosen as his field. But when we have read his masterly assessment of every piece of evidence in this small area we are left with the impression that until the Roman conquest only a few hundred people lived there at any one time and that they had no history other than that which was determined by international changes in climate, trade and population. The value of this pamphlet is rather that it provides for the Bristol district that wealth of local detail on which any wider survey of history must be founded.

J. F. RHODES.

CHELTENHAM SETTLEMENT EXAMINATIONS, 1815-1826, ed. I. Gray
(Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc., 1969), 20s.

THE ACT of Settlement, 1662, empowered the magistrates to remove poor persons to their legal dwelling place. Legal settlement was acquired in various ways, for instance by birth, apprenticeship, marriage (for a woman), a year's hiring, or payment of parish rates. Before making a removal order the pauper was examined before two magistrates, and these settlement examinations, providing brief biographies of some of the poorest people in the land, are of considerable historical and genealogical interest.

In this volume Mr Gray, lately County Archivist for twenty years, publishes 653 examinations of Cheltenham paupers from the period when that market town was suddenly growing as a fashionable spa. Its population rose from 8,325 in 1811 to 22,942 in 1831. Not all the newcomers were 'the lame and lazy, gourmandising and guzzling' visitors condemned by Cobbett and recorded in the Visitors' Lists in the local press. There were also hundreds of labourers and servants seeking work in the boom town. Some of the unsuccessful ones appear in this book. Their life stories are mostly short, and the majority were attracted to Cheltenham from homes within twenty five miles. Those from farther afield included some of the many Scottish and Irish paupers, a young man from Canada and a West-Indian servant who was probably a negro.

The examinations have been summarised to cut out repetitive legal verbiage. A typical example is that of William Sterry in 1822. "Born in Longney. At Gloucester first Mop about 11 years ago he was hired by Mr Butt of Norton for a year at 5 guineas and also served the following year with the same master. About 5 years ago he was married to Hannah his present wife in Hempsted, and has now living two children, Mary and Eliza. (signs)."

The introduction is excellent. Probably only an editor with such a wide knowledge of Gloucestershire history as Mr Gray could, in so economical and readable a fashion, explain the main developments of the settlement laws and comment on these Cheltenham examinations. The index is comprehensive and accurate; some more unidentified place-names might, however, have been traced.

Settlement examinations have not been printed by record-publishing societies, so this volume has a wider interest beyond Gloucestershire. It should certainly be included in the reading lists for Gloucestershire students of 19th century English history.

B.S.S.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS

THE COTTESWOLD NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

FIELD MEETINGS 1970

1. May 5 Tuesday: Gloucester Cathedral.
2. May 21 Thursday: Kentchurch Court : Llanthony Abbey.
3. June 2 Tuesday: Selsby : Leonard Stanley : Frampton Court.
4. June 17 Wednesday: Spetchley Park Gardens.
5. July Ludlow and Stokesay.
6. July 20 Monday: Forest of Dean.
7. August 11 Tuesday: Forthampton Court : Tewkesbury Abbey.
8. August 27 Thursday: Frocester : Berkeley.
9. September Luton Hoo.
10. September 23 Wednesday: Kempley : Hellen's.

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting — May 9th, :

Visit to Kilpeck and three other churches under the leadership of Professor George Zarnecki, C.B.E., who will give a lecture on "The Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture."

Summer Meeting — July 15th-18th:

Places in Dorset will be visited, using the College of Education at Weymouth as a centre.

Autumn Meeting — September 19th.

Annual General Meeting will be held on April 18th in the Mansion House, Bristol.

FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

April 4th:

“Family History and How to Discover It” — Brian G. C. Brooks.

May 2nd:

ALL DAY TOUR — Lichfield and Shugborough. “A Midlands Cathedral and a Stately Home”.

June 6th:

Brecon and the Beacons. “An old Welsh Town and a Mountain Centre”.

July 4th:

“East of Bath” — A glimpse of Old England.

September 5th:

“A View of Berkeley” — The Revd. Canon E. Gethyn-Jones.

October 3rd:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Elections. “The Chairman’s Choice”.

November 7th:

“Some Tombs and Monuments” — Bernard C. Smith.

December 5th:

“The Changing Forest” — R. G. Sanzen-Baker, B.Sc., J.P.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 29th: Horton Court and Hawkesbury Church.

May 27th: Bath — To visit Roman Baths.

June 24th: Chastleton House or Snowhill Manor, Broadway (Half-day).

July 29th: Clevedon Court or Westwood Manor, Bradford-on-Avon.

August 12th or 19th: St. Fagan’s Castle, Cardiff (Half-day).

September 16th: Dyrham Park or The Local History Exhibition.

CIRENCESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 20th: Dress and its Foundations — Mrs Sayer (Nancy Bradfield, author of “Historical Costumes of England”), Cheltenham.