

NOTE.

"A NEWLY INTRODUCED PLANT."

Communicated by the REV. W. L. W. EYRE.

About Midsummer Day, 1905, a flower was brought to me as found by labourers cutting a crop of sainfoin, and of which they remarked "they had never seen it before." Examination proved that it was no indigenous English plant. Specimens were therefore sent to the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road. The authorities there recognized it as *Muscari Comosum*, one of the Grape Hyacinths, found commonly in Italy and the South of Europe.

How it came into the neighbourhood—a field on Down Farm, Northington, near Alresford—it is impossible with our present knowledge to ascertain. It would seem likely that it came with the sainfoin seed with which the field was sown four years ago. It has not been noticed at previous cuttings of the crop, and from the strength of flower stems one is led to infer that it has been established some little time. No other specimens have been seen in the field beyond the six or seven stems already gathered. It is unlikely to be a garden escape as the distance of the field from any buildings is great. The flower stems are about two feet high, the flowers themselves placed in a loose raceme, the uppermost barren about fifty in a tuft, of a deep violet blue colour; the lower fertile of one hundred to one hundred and fifty, pale brownish olive in colour, urceolate in shape, on short stalks placed at right angles to the main stem. There is a figure of this plant given in Nicholson's Dictionary of Gardening, vol. 2, p. 394.

NOTES ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS
CONCERNING HAMPSHIRE.

BY OWEN GILBERT.

Aflato, F.G. Half a century of Sport in Hampshire, being extracts from the shooting journals of James Edward, 2nd Earl of Malmesbury. Illus., 8vo. 1905. 10/6 net (Newnes).

A very famous diary in the annals of English shooting, quoted in the Badminton volume on Shooting.

Awdry, F. A Country Gentleman of the Nineteenth Century; being a short memoir of the Rt. Hon. Sir William Heathcote, Bart., of Hursley, 1801 to 1881. Illustrated, 8vo. 5/- net (Warren & Son), 1906.

Bigg-Wither, Rev. R. F., Rector of Wonston, Hants. Materials for the history of the Wither Family, A.D., 1189-1889. Illustrated by coat of arms, photographs, and facsimilies, 4to, 42/- (Warren & Son, Winchester), 1906.

A carefully written and well produced work which commends itself to all lovers of family history in general and Hampshire people in particular. Although the family is of Lancastrian origin, it has been connected with Hampshire since the latter part of the 14th Century, and it is to the Withers of Bentworth that England owes that charming poet of Parliamentary fame, George Wither.

Braithwaite, Rev. Canon, P.R.P., and Minns, Rev. G. W. LL.B., F.S.A. The Church Plate of Hampshire, with photogravure and half-tone illustrations, 4to. 16/- net, 1906. (Warren & Son, Winchester).

Clinch, G. "The Isle of Wight," in Methuen's "Little Guides" Series, 12mo., 2/6 net. (Methuen).

Cox, Dr. J. C. "Hampshire," in Methuen's "Little Guides" Series, 12mo. 2/6 net (Methuen).

Curtis, Wm. Alton and Villages adjacent, with illustrations, cr. 8vo. 1/6 net (Warren & Son), 1906.

Garle, Hubert. A driving tour in the Isle of Wight, with various legends and anecdotes, also a short account of George Morland and his connection with the Island, edited by Percy Fairclough, with colored plates, &c., 8vo. 7/6 net (I.W. County Press, Newport), 1905.

Mr. Hubert Garle is a well-known member of the Hampshire Field Club.

Godwin, Rev. G. N. The Civil War in Hampshire (1642-5) and the story of Basing House, revised and enlarged edition, with coloured facsimile frontispiece from an ancient drawing and photogravure portraits, 4to. 21/- net (Gilbert & Son), 1905.

This valuable contribution to the History of the County has been carefully revised and practically re-written so as to include the very latest results of modern research. There is a supplementary chapter on the important excavations recently carried on at Basing House, by Lord Bolton.

Jeans, Rev. G. E. General Editor. Memorials of Old Hampshire, with plates and illustrations, 8vo. 15/- net (Bemrose) 1906.

Comprises articles and chapters on the history and archæology of the County with a general sketch of the history by the editor, and contributions by Revs. P. H. Ditchfield, G. N. Godwin, Prof. F. J. C. Hearnshaw, Mr. Horace Hutchinson, Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett, and others.

Kelsall, Rev. J. E., and Mum, P. W. The Birds of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with drawings by G. E. Lodge, and photographs from life by Smith Whiting, and others, also a large scale coloured map, 8vo. 15/- net (Witherby & Co.), 1905.

The above volume supplies a long felt need in Hampshire literature, no complete ornithology of the County having been published, or so far as we know attempted hitherto, in spite of the fact that in this department of natural history it is particularly rich. At the same time all the previous contributions to the subject in the county such as the observations of that benign nature-lover, Gilbert White (whose original M.SS. has been consulted), Col. Peter Hawker, Charles Kingsley, J. R. Wise, and others, have been given their rightful place. While it is unnecessary in a volume of this scope to apply the general natural history method to each bird, complete accounts are inserted of those, such as the Raven and Peregrine, which are disappearing from the list of residents. The nomenclature adopted is that of the "Ibis" list, and the local names of birds are added.

Ray, F. The Mays of Basingstoke, with illustrations. 4to. net 21/- (Warren & Son), 1905.

Shore, the late T. W., F.G.S., author of "The History of Hampshire," &c. The Origin of the Anglo-Saxon Race, 8vo. 9/- net (Eliot Stock), 1906.

A scholarly and able study of the subject. Mr. Shore's name is a by-word in Hampshire for careful and painstaking research, much of his observation and many of his conclusions being drawn from his exhaustive studies of the subject when in the county. This book will possess an especial interest in Hampshire circles.

Tyndale, W., and Holland, C. Wessex, pictorial and descriptive, painted by Walter Tyndale, described by Clive Holland, 75 illustrations in colour, sq. 8vo. 1906, 20/- net (A. & C. Black).

An altogether delightful book. Wessex, as lovers of Thomas Hardy's novels well know, is very largely the County of Dorset, but it includes parts of Hampshire, Wiltshire, &c. Mr. Tyndale's colouring is rich and varied, as will be remembered by those who have seen his charming plates to Mr. Horace Hutchinson's "New Forest." Mr. Clive Holland who writes the text is well known as an authority on this part of the country.

Vaughan, John, M.A., Rector of Droxford and Hon. Canon of Winchester. The Wild Flowers of Selborne, and other papers, illust., post 8vo., 5/- net, (John Lane), 1906.

A collected form of this author's contributions to Literature, comprising pleasing chapters on Gilbert White, the flora of Hants, Isaac Walton at Droxford, Titchfield and Porchester.

Warren's New Official Guide to Winchester and district : Copyright official publication of the City Corporation, with 100 illustrations and a plan, oblong 8vo., 1/- net (Warren and Son), 1906.

REVIEW.

The Birds of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, by the Rev. J. E. Kelsall, M.A., and Philip W. Munn. London. Witherby & Co. 1905.

To write a county history of birds is by no means an easy task, and although nearly every county in England has now found its ornithographer, the number of volumes which can be ranked as first-class specimens of their kind is rare. But there can be no doubt as to the merits of this volume : it is in every way admirable.

It is an eminently readable volume, and this because the authors decided not only to deal "with our birds as they exist at this moment, but to trace the history of at least the less common species in the writings of those who have gone before us, and to associate their names, when possible, with the men and women of mark who have appreciated their society." This tracing out of past history must have involved considerable labour, but it was labour well spent, for some of the most interesting pages in the book are those which record the observations of the older naturalists like Gilbert White, Kingsley, Gilpin, and Wise.

We are glad to note that the authors exercise a wise reticence as to the breeding places of the rarer species ; this is unfortunately necessary for the protection of these birds against the contemptible greed of the "Collector," who apparently is too shameless ever to be exterminated.

This volume is profusely illustrated, partly by some really remarkable photographs by Mr. Smith Whiting, and partly by pictures from the brush of Mr. G. G. Lodge : these, like all Mr. Lodge's bird pictures, have a grace and charm that is not easily expressed in words. It only remains for us to say that very considerable taste has been displayed by the publisher in the matter of type and binding, whereby he has given a worthy setting to a work of real excellence.

W. P. PYCRAFT.

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[P.T.O.]

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