

PREFACE.

With the fourth number of the Proceedings, the Hampshire Field Club completes its first volume. It will be seen that with the growth of the Club the publication has yearly increased in bulk and importance, and it is hoped that further improvements may be made. The Editor is not responsible for the size and arrangement of the first part, which being cut does not quite range with subsequent numbers. It was projected with no idea that the Club would meet with the success it has done. The first published list (April, 1885) numbered only 51 members, whereas we have now over 250. In the way of publications nothing was contemplated by the original promoters, but in 1886 it was suggested that "a respectable pamphlet" annually might be attempted. It was soon found, however, that ample material was forthcoming, and it became necessary to adopt the style and size of similar works, with which it is hoped that our "Papers and Proceedings" will favourably compare. The present limited subscription (5s.), which has to cover postages to members and expenses of management, precludes the introduction of numerous or costly illustrations, and but for generous helpers, so many plates could not possibly have been introduced.* Some of the writers have borne the entire expense of illustrating their papers, others have furnished drawings, while the services of the executive officers have been entirely honorary. Now that the Club is fully established, so much gratuitous help in these various ways can hardly be expected in the future.

*In this way our thanks are specially due to the Rev. W. L. W. Eyre, and Messrs. G. W. Colenutt, F. Fane, J.P.; B. W. Greenfield, F.S.A.; R. G. Pinder, E. C. Poole, A. H. Skelton, and others who have kindly assisted with the illustrations.

With a very small increase in income, a new volume may witness additional features of interest, and the objects of the Club be further promoted. We think there should be some permanent record of our excursions, when facts and objects of great interest are often brought under notice, and, in the absence of any such authorized report, which in future will be included in our "Proceedings," a list of meetings, with programmes of the excursions, may prove useful. With this view, those that have been projected by the Club during the first five years of its existence are here given.

The Editor wishes it to be understood that the selection of Papers devolves upon the Committee, who will be glad to receive matter suitable for publication; such communications should be addressed, in the first instance, to the Corresponding Secretary. He also wishes to thank contributors to this first volume for their courtesy, co-operation, and patience; and hopes that the Members of the Club, however varied their interest in matters relating to the county, will find something suited to their particular study in these pages, which extend over a wide field of research, embracing papers on Antiquities, Botany, Entomology, Genealogy, Geology, Numismatics, Ornithology, and other branches of Archæology and Natural Science.

He would also thank the printers, both managers and operatives, for their liberal co-operation and interest in the work, which in the matter of scientific names and arrangement presented considerable typographical difficulties.

G.W.M.

October, 1890.