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County Muniments

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tive areas in order, if proposals concerning reconstruction are made, that particulars of their historic interest may be ready. The observations of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Gosling) when receiving a deputation in regard to Clopton Bridge have no doubt suggested the usefulness of this information being scheduled. In his reply to the deputation Mr. Gosling pointed out that in this particular case the representations made were too late, and he urged that all buildings which it was considered desirable to preserve should be scheduled, and that the schedules should be deposited with the County Council concerned, the Office of Works, and the Ministry of Transport, so that when any such building was brought under discussion authorities might be warned of the attitude felt by societies concerned with its preservation.

Much can no doubt be done by Archæological Societies but a far more complete knowledge of the various bridges is surely possessed by the County Surveyor, who through his district surveyors, must, or can be, in full possession of the information required. In the case of Gloucestershire an inquiry has already been set on foot by the County Surveyor, Colonel E. S. Sinnott, who has every sympathy with the views expressed by the various bodies concerned in this matter and is prepared to receive any information as to bridges which appear to deserve consideration before alterations are undertaken. In one case, that of the bridge over the Avon at Clifford Chambers, he has inquired of our Society whether the bridge has any archæological interest as there are proposals for its widening in consequence of the danger which its narrow roadway presents to traffic.

Members of our Society will do service by giving attention to this matter and communicating with the Hon. General Secretary if they consider any bridge in their district should be scheduled.

COUNTY MUNIMENTS.

The importance of the proper preservation of local records is receiving attention, though even now more might be done in this direction. To those concerned with their custody, and to all interested in local history, may be commended "*The Care of County Muniments*," by G. Herbert Fowler, C.B.E., F.R. Hist. Soc., F.L.S., published (1923, 3s. 6d.) by the County Councils Association at 84 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Mr. Fowler, Chairman of the County Records Committee of the Bedfordshire County Council, with the experience gained by the systematic arrangement of his own county muniments, gives the benefit of advice in the difficulties which present themselves in

such work, and his book is full of useful hints and methods which will save trouble to those who may be confronted with a similar task.

The general principles of custodianship of county records and the definitions of different kinds of documents, with suggestions as to the comparative values of "records," are followed by hints on their reception and classification, cataloguing, making up for storing, repairing, and the final deposit in the muniment room.

The necessary rules governing the use of the records when required for consultation are carefully thought out and one is glad to note the emphasis laid on the importance of having a County Archivist who should be responsible for their care, and also be qualified to make them of use to students. A succinct account of English County Institutions by office and subject will be useful to those not acquainted with the varied classes of documents relating to local administration.

ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES.

An English Place-Name Society has been founded (1923) to carry out the survey inaugurated under the auspices of the British Academy in 1922. Its primary work is to collect from historical documents of every kind, whether printed or in manuscript, the early forms of all names to be found on the six-inch Ordnance Survey map, and of all linguistic, historical, archæological, and topographical information relevant to their interpretation. The work is under the direction of Professor A. Mawer, M.A., of Liverpool University, where the organisation of the Society is established. A special feature will be the use of early unpublished material deposited in the Public Record Office and elsewhere.

A further development of the Society's work will be the publication of the material collected in a series of volumes dealing with the place-names of a county or other convenient area, and the co-operation of all the chief scholars, both English and foreign, has been secured. It is proposed to begin with an "Introduction to the Survey of English Place-Names" which will indicate the present state of our knowledge, and the lines where the possibilities of future progress lie, and also deal with the meaning and distribution of the elements most commonly found in our place-names. A pamphlet setting out the objects of the Society, with its rules and list of members, has been issued from the Secretarial office at Liverpool University, where all inquiries should be addressed.