

The Chiltern hills in Oxfordshire were formerly covered with thickets and woods of beech, and afforded harbour to numerous banditti. Hence the office of steward of the Chiltern hundreds, now become a nominal office, the occupancy of which however, as it is held under the crown, enables a member to vacate his seat in parliament. (Capper's Dict.) Box hill in Surrey has received its name from the luxuriance of the box wood growing upon it, and which is to be met with all the way thence to Guildford. The excellence of the soil covering chalk is well known to the frequenters of Epsom and Newmarket. (G. Notes.)

(i) *Phænomena of springs and wells in this formation.*—

The following observations on this head are extracted from Mr. Middleton's memoir in the Monthly Magazine. (C.)

The lower beds of the chalk formation, and every fissure in them, are, with few exceptions, completely filled with water. All the rain and snow which fall upon chalk, percolate downwards to the base, where the water is stopped by a subsoil of blue clay, and that occasions it to accumulate in the chalk, until it rises to such a height as doth enable it to flow over the surface of the adjoining land. In this manner are formed the springs and rivulets which issue near the foot of every chalk hill. In the Cove at West-Lulworth, fine fresh-water streams form the base of the adjoining mountain of chalk, just above the level of the sea. The water which issues from the chalk at Croydon, Beddington and Carshalton, forms the river Wandle, and the same thing happens at other places.

Mr. Hilton Joliffe made a culvert several hundred yards in length, from a level so low as to pass through his works in the chalk at Merstham in Surrey, by which a rivulet of water, sufficient to turn a mill, is constantly running off. It cost a considerable sum of money, all which it is believed might have been saved, by the easy operation of boring a few yards in depth, through the subsoil of blue clay, into the sand which lies under it. This culvert drains the water off in such a manner as to enable him to raise the lower beds of the chalk stratum. (Middleton. Monthly Mag. Nov. 1812.)

We have before observed that most of the rivers which traverse this formation, rise in the older rocks beyond its escarpment, and flow through valleys excavated across its chain; the fissured and porous character of this rock in fact prevents its giving rise to any considerable springs. (C.)

Two exceptions to this general rule have however already been mentioned, and will be found in the section presented by the sinking of Liptrap & Smith's well at their distillery one mile on the east of London, (page 45); by which it will be