

Surrey is the subject of the new volume in Dent's "County Guides" series (Macmillan). Unlike the traditional guide-book, it makes delightful reading for the stay-at-home; and any tourist who gets hold of it will certainly steal a day or so from London highways to make some of what its author felicitously calls its "intimate excursions" along the by-paths of Surrey County. The book is in three parts, of which the first and most important deals with the story and scenery of the county, grouping its detail in seven itineraries. The author, Mr. Jerrold, is apparently an enthusiastic cyclist and pedestrian, a lover of scenery, and finely appreciative of the literary and historic associations of the county whose quaint chroniclers are all his friends. With equal zest—and always in charming English—he tells us of the yew-lined Pilgrims' Way, of the Thames meadows where Shelley lounged and wrote "Alastor," of the castles visited by Elizabeth in her stately summer progresses, or of Moor Park where Swift flirted with Stella and learned of William III. how to cut asparagus. Then the author drops a hint to the cyclist to avoid a rutted bit of road, or calls attention to a picturesque little coppice with an alluring foot-path through it; so that the reader who finds nothing to interest him must indeed be difficult to please. The second part of the book consists of special articles upon the bird life, flowers, moths and butterflies, geological formations, and cycling tours of Surrey; while the third contains a gazetteer of the county. Maps and illustrations add much to the interest and practical value of the book, which is attractively bound in flexible cloth covers.