

**BURGESS HILL AS A
HEALTH RESORT: HINTS TO
THOSE IN SEARCH OF A
HEALTHY COUNTRY HOME**

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Burgess Hill as a health resort: Hints to Those in Search of a Healthy Country Home by T. F. I. Blaker

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T. F. I. BLAKER

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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BURGESS HILL.

From a Photograph by Peters.

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[ILLUSTRATED.]

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[SECOND EDITION REVISED AND IMPROVED.]

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Preface to Second Edition.

IN bringing out the Second Edition of this little book, the author has been encouraged to try, to the utmost of his ability, to improve the work.

Not only was the First Edition most favourably received by the public at large, but it was also criticised very leniently by that portion of the press which was good enough to take the trouble to review it, as may be readily perceived by a perusal of the "Opinions of the Press" published on another page.

Those alterations in the text, necessitated by certain changes in and about Burgess Hill since the first appearance of this pamphlet, have of course been effected in the proper places. Much also has been eliminated which was deemed of little interest to the reader, whilst new matter of more importance and interest has been introduced.

Preface to First Edition.

IN compiling the contents of this little pamphlet, it has been my endeavour to keep two points ever in view.

First. I have wished to let it go out to the world at large that Burgess Hill is a very desirable place to live in—a fact to which I myself am most keenly alive—and

Secondly. I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to collect from various sources some account of the HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES of that portion of the globe on which we dwell. It has further been my aim to mention those particulars which I thought would most interest *the visitors and new comers* to our neighbourhood.

Such information as I have tried to convey, adds I think zest to one's daily walks and rambles; providing at the same time healthy pabulum for the mind.

No one can be more fully aware than I am, of the difficulties of doing all this as it should be done.

With these few remarks I will now leave myself in the hands of those who do me the honour to read what I have attempted to set before them; trusting to their generosity, and to that sense of chivalry which they have inherited from their forefathers, to pardon the shortcomings they will be sure to find, in this my first little venture in the paths of literature.

Opinions of the Press on the First Edition of

"Burgess Hill as a Health Resort."



"BRIGHTON HERALD," SATURDAY, MARCH 17th, 1883.

"BURGESS HILL AS A HEALTH RESORT." By T. F. I. Blaker, M.R.C.S. Price 6d. Brighton: John Beal and Co., 55, East Street.—It is a pleasant thing to feel that the place one lives in is healthful, well-drained, and generally eligible. We in Brighton have that feeling strong upon us, and we are not slow in making people aware of that interesting fact. But there are other places of which the same may be said; and we are pleasantly reminded of it by Mr. Blaker, who has published a little book with a view to prove beyond all possibility of doubt that the very best place to live in is Burgess Hill, which is a flourishing and attractive little place in its way, and deserves all the kind expressions which Mr. Blaker bestows upon it. It is one of the most unsophisticated little guidebooks that have ever fallen in our way. We should imagine that Mr. Blaker has some delightful humour about him. Who but a born humourist would have included in a work on the advantages of a town as a health resort a picture of those wonderful animals which prowled about the Weald in the pre-Adamite period, or would further have embellished it with an illustration of the remains of the gibbet which once did the State good or bad service on Ditchling Common? We leave our readers to answer. Those in search of a healthy country home, to whom the work is specially dedicated, will find something worth reading in Mr. Blaker's pages; whilst those who are content to live where they are, and refuse to be beguiled to the pleasantness of Burgess Hill, will find that Mr. Blaker is a very agreeable companion, whether he is discoursing on good drainage, or indulging in those mental gymnastics which take the shape of peering back into the secondary period.

"SUSSEX DAILY NEWS," FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 1883.

Messrs. J. Beal and Co., 55, East Street, Brighton, have published a Sixpenny Pamphlet by Mr. T. F. I. Blaker, M.R.C.S., advocating the claims of Burgess Hill as a health resort, and as a suitable locality for a country residence. Many commercial men will willingly add their testimony to the salubrity of the place which has long been regarded as a pleasant country retreat by Brighton business men, and persons in search of a rural habitation will find in Mr. Blaker's pamphlet a description of the local scenery and of some of the walks, rides, and drives in the neighbourhood, which will prove to them that life at Burgess Hill means the enjoyment of some of the most picturesque and historically interesting country in Sussex.

"MID-SUSSEX GAZETTE," TUESDAY, MARCH 13th, 1883.

"BURGESS HILL AS A HEALTH RESORT."—A pamphlet of 46 pages of letterpress, with five illustrations, has been sent us. It is a "Description of Burgess Hill, the geology and climate of the situation, a short history of its site from remote times to the present day; the local scenery, some of the walks, rides, drives, &c., in the neighbourhood, and other matters of interest." It also comprises a series of "hints to those in search of a healthy home." The work abounds with excellent descriptive matter, antiquarian research, apt poetical quotations, and approving references to the sanitary condition of the town, and does credit to the literary industry of the author.

"THE BRIGHTONIAN," FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 1883.

"BURGESS HILL AS A HEALTH RESORT" is the title of an interesting pamphlet by Mr. T. F. I. Blaker, M.R.C.S., just published by Messrs. Beal and Co. The author is an antiquarian, and well posted in the historical associations of the place with which the air round about there is permeated. After a perusal of this work one would be strongly tempted to make a tour of inspection over the scenes which the author renders so interesting by his chronicles of Burgess Hill and its neighbourhood.

"THE BRIGHTONIAN," MARCH 24th, 1883.

Since our last issue we have bestowed on Mr. Blaker's "Burgess Hill as a Health Resort" a less cursory glance, and find that the pamphlet improves on acquaintance. Not only is the publication a comprehensive guidebook of the vicinity, but the author has invested some of the driest details with a charming rusticity imbibed directly from the rural neighbourhood in which he dwells, and which is now met with but too rarely. While thus commending the *brochure* we must draw attention to its occasionally apparent blemishes in style, the most conspicuous being the superabundant use of parentheses, often rather unfortunately. As an example, in describing an anti-diluvian scene at the conclusion of chapter three, he says, "A solemn silence reigned on every side, broken only by the rushing of the waters and the occasional awful noises made by these creatures (see engraving)," from which we naturally infer that we shall see the "noises" actually depicted on referring to the illustration. As, however, this is Dr. Blaker's maiden literary effort, we have no doubt he will correct errors of this kind in future, and we shall note his next production with interest.

"SUSSEX EXPRESS," MARCH 17th, 1883.

"BURGESS HILL AS A HEALTH RESORT." (John Beal and Co., Brighton).—We have received a copy of a capital little publication which has been issued with a view to proving the salubrity and attractiveness of this pretty little town, if we may so call it. The hints to those in search of a healthy country home will be found entertaining, instructive, and useful. In the book there are extracts from the best-known poets, and the author has made use of many historical publications relating to the county. We are told the climate of Burgess Hill is delightful, the air delicious, invigorating, and bracing up the system, without being too powerful for weak constitutions. There are two or three illustrations, one of Ote Hall (copied from the Sussex Archaeological Collection), another of "Jacob's Post," a famous landmark on Ditchling Common, and a fancy sketch of a portion of the Weald of Sussex in process of formation during the secondary or mesozoic period. In this are some of the reptilian monsters then existing, most curious and extraordinary "animal birds," if they may be so termed, calculated to almost make one shudder to look at. Doubtless, the author has done much to increase the popularity of Burgess Hill by his pamphlet, as he modestly calls his little work.