

SOME VILLAGE NOTES I

The Nailbourne.

LOOSE

In addition to its rivers and the many periodically flowing brooks and rivulets Kent has a number of intermittent streams known as Nailbournes or by the superstitious, Noe Waters; there are Nailbournes at Ospringe near Faversham, Petham and Loose near Maidstone but the best known of these strange streams is the nailbourne ^{which} at indeterminate periods bursts into flood and follows a course through Kingston, Bishopsbourne Bridge, Patricbourne, Bekerbourne and Littlebourne to rejoin the Little Stour; an account published in 1966 by H.M.S.O on the 'Geology of the Country around Canterbury & Rochester' rejected a theory that such streams owed their origin to the periodical emptying of huge underground reservoirs by siphoning and maintained that they were due to the gradual rise of an underground water plane after a wet season to the level of the ground in certain low lying parts when the underground water emerged as surface water; however in an article published in 1971 in the Journal of Civilian Engineers it was suggested that the water was discharged near those places where there were large fissures of chalk close to the surface. The total length of the Elham Valley nailbourne from its source to its junction with the lesser Stour is one fourteen miles; on the north east side of the valley is the great area of talland embracing Bokerbourne, Batham and Adistam Downs ~~which~~ whilst to the west is the large plateau on which is situated Stalling Minnis where the land rises to one 400 feet. There are thus two ~~theories~~ conflicting ^{around} ~~points~~ - the Cavity theory and the saturation theory - which have produced in recent times serious flooding especially in 1916, 1922 and 1936.

This is the first of 12 articles concerned with the parish to be published in 1971 for the magazine.
 Please refer to J.J. Williamson (BRIDGE 339) for any queries.