

The second meeting of the month is being held on 29th September 1971, 7.30 p.m. at Mrs. Harveys 'Downstream', 6 Bridgeford Close. The topic of which will be 'Driving Instruction' given by Mr. J.A. Smith. (3)

FINAL REMINDER
THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
COFFEE MORNING

and

BRING AND BUY SALE

a t

THE BARTON
PATRICKBOURNE

Tuesday, 7th September
10.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Do Come!

VILLAGE NOTES

IX Dr. Beke

Dr. Beke came from an old Kent family which in the XIIc gave its name to Bekesbourne and he resided in that village for a number of years and was buried in the Church on the 5th August 1874. He was educated at a private school in Hackney, decided on a business career which took him to Genoa and Naples, then he studied at Lincolns Inn and then took up biblical and archeological research and gained a Ph.D from Tubingen University and from July 1837-38 was British consul in Leipzig and it

is to him we owe the privilege of British Consuls being permitted to solemnize marriages in foreign countries. In 1840 he went to Abyssinia to open up commercial links and discover the sources of the Nile and for a time worked with Speke, the great Victorian explorer. He was responsible for mapping over 70,000 square miles of Abyssinia and made a study of 40 languages and dialects. Later he went and carried out similar work in what is now Tanzania. He was much in demand on his return to England and several times addressed potential recruits to the Foreign Service. In 1845 he married a Miss Emily Alston from Mauritius who came of a rich sugar family and the rest of his life seems to have been devoted to travel. In 1861 he travelled to Syria and Palestine to study localities mentioned in the Book of Genesis and in the same year he was engaged in a great, sometimes acrimonious correspondence on the exodus of the Israelites and the position of Mount Sinai with Bishop Colenso. On one trip a steamer was placed at his disposal by the Kediye of Egypt to go up and down the Nile. In 1870 he wrote "Africa's dark continent possessed fertile regions, large rivers and lakes and an immense population which is not civilized was yet to a large extent endowed with kindly manners and industrious habits."

J. J. Williamson