

NOTES AND QUERIES

THE ENUMERATOR OF CORBY, LINCS.

David I. A. Steel

How long did it take to conduct the local census? Could most people fill in their own forms? These are questions which must often occur to those who make use of the Census Enumerators' books. In Lincolnshire, George Bird, the young Corby wheelwright, was an enumerator in 1871 when aged twenty-two, and he tells us in his diary how he carried out the job in the neighbouring parishes.

- 15.3.1871 "Went down to Mr. Willertons (the Registrar) for census papers and instructions."
- 30.3.1871 "Went down to Swayfield and Couthorpe to deliver the census schedules, quite enjoyed the job, was pretty well tired when I got home."
- 3.4.1871 "I started this morning to collect up the census schedules. I had a great many to fill in myself, didn't get home while eight, was very much amused at the different questions asked about it at the poor people's houses."
- 4.4.1871 "I copied the schedules into the enumeration book, a good bit of writing, took me all day."

For his four days of work on the census George Bird received 26s. on the twenty-first of June. He obviously did the job properly for he was again an enumerator in 1881, this time for Corby. This was a bigger job for he noted in his diary for the fourth of April, 1881, "Collecting the census schedules began at six in the morning, at it while eight at night, not quite done." He collected the rest of the schedules the next morning and spent the day and the next copying them out.

WILL FORMULARIES

Margaret Spufford

I was very interested in Eric Poole's project of working through a body of wills indicating the possible relationship of dedicatory clauses to one another.¹ I would like to re-enter the original plea I made,² that, if there is a choice, groups of wills for particular parishes be examined, rather than a cross-section of wills proved over a much larger area, at any particular point in time. I still feel, as I felt in 1972, that each parish has its own group of scribes, its own sets of common forms, and its own distinct 'flavour', recoverable from the dedicatory clauses. It would be an interesting exercise to test this impression which worked in the parishes I looked at, on a larger scale. I hope Eric Poole will do this. Ideally, I suppose, one