

NOTABILIA MCMX.

During the year 44 new members of this Society have been elected, and by death or resignation we have lost 15, the members, exclusive of hon. members, now numbering 309.

At the anniversary meeting, St. George's Day, of the Society of Antiquaries, our member, Mr. Alfred Heneage Cocks, M.A., received the well-merited honour of election to the Council. The Zoological Society conferred a similar honour upon him last year.

During June the Society of Antiquaries held at their rooms an exhibition of English Mediæval Alabaster Sculpture. Some beautiful examples of the smaller works in this material were brought together, and an Illustrated Catalogue is being prepared.

A CAUTION.—The Vicar of Witcham, Ely, has drawn attention to a serious danger in regard to church plate: "A few days ago I took a relative, an expert in such matters, to call on two neighbouring incumbents, and he was asked to examine the sacred vessels. In each case he found that the stamp of the Assay Office had been cut out during repairs, reducing the value of one Elizabethan chalice from £850 to about £30, and of another from £600 to a similar value." Only to firms of the highest standing should old plate be entrusted, and not even to them until good photographs showing the marks have been taken.

By the disastrous fire at the Brussels Exhibition much choice old English furniture was destroyed, and wall panelling of the time of Elizabeth and James I; also choice specimens of old Wedgwood, Worcester and Chelsea china. The firm of Gill and Reigate suffered heavily, and both of these gentlemen had lent examples from their private collections. A Merton Abbey tapestry, the last designed by Burne Jones, was also destroyed. The Victoria and Albert Museum is very wisely debarred from sending works of art out of the country, so that it only lost some reproductions.

The current volume of *Archæologia* contains a list of mediæval wooden effigies in England, and includes four at Milton Keynes.

During the excavations on the site of the new County Hall for London the timbers of a Roman boat have been laid bare. It is described as of oak, about 50 feet long and 16 broad. Amongst articles found in it, while still only partly uncovered, were gaming counters, iron-studded sandals, coins of Tetricus in Gaul (268-273) Carausius and Alectus in Britain (286-296), which seem to fix approximately the date of the boat.

The appointment last June of the Rev. E. D. Shaw, vicar of Wycombe, as Archdeacon of Buckingham has been received with great satisfaction. None welcome it more than the members of this Society, over whose meetings he has frequently presided, and taken a real interest in its proceedings.

The excavations begun last year at Old Sarum have been continued during the past summer, under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries and the local Society. Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, who with Lt.-Col. Hawley, has been directing the work, read a paper before the Soc. Ant. on Ap. 28th last. The paper was illustrated with lantern slides and is printed with 2 plans in *Proceedings*, 2nd series, vol. xxiii.

The Report of the Committee on Ancient Earthworks and Fortified Enclosures includes the following: "Buckinghamshire.—Tattenhoe—Mr. James Berry and Mr. W. Bradbrook excavated the mound known as Windmill Hill in May, 1910, with results that point to its mediæval origin."

A piece of Arras Tapestry was sold Nov. 25, at auction in London to Capt. H. Lindsay for £6,600 which is believed to be one of seven panels illustrating the Seven Deadly Sins the property of Cardinal Wolsey at Hampton Court, three of which, after having been dispersed, have been there many years. This fourth piece is reported to have been discovered in Cornwall.