

WING CHURCH.

In the Proceedings of the Soc. of Antiquaries,* issued this year, are some notable remarks upon this church, the most interesting we have in this county, by a high authority, now, alas! no longer amongst us.

On the 11th April, 1918, Sir William St. John Hope read a paper before the Society on the first Cathedral Church of Canterbury, in which he made allusion to other early churches. Of Wing he said: Not so large as Brixworth, but relatively quite as perfect, it consists of a long polygonal chancel with a crypt under it, and a nave and aisles now of four bays, with a clerestory with later windows. The south aisle was rebuilt, not quite on the old lines, in the 14th century, and whatever stood at the west end was replaced in the 15th century by a tower with large buttresses, two of which, with windows beyond, form practically a new west wall. This 15th century work, perhaps, replaced a series of porches and a western entrance like those at Brixworth, especially since the north doorway is also 15th century. The crypt beneath the apse was re-opened, after having been closed for many years, by Mr. G. G. Scott, R.A., who describes it as consisting of "a central chamber or *confessio*, forming an irregular polygon some twelve feet by eight feet. Enclosing this is a passage way, or *polyandrium*, opening into the *confessio* upon three sides, namely, by archways (n. and s.), and by a window-light aperture (on the e.). The *polyandrium* is continued westward by passages which extend sufficiently far to return (n. and s.) to entrances at the end of the aisles above. In the west end of the *confessio* is a blocked opening that formerly communicated with the nave of the church." Mr. Scott omitted to mention that opposite each archway from the *polyandrium* is a wide opening through the apse wall, and he does not describe two other points of some importance. The first of these was noted by myself when I visited Wing with my old friend

Micklethwaite, over twenty years ago, namely, that all the vaulting and inner walling of the crypt has been built within an older crypt that still retains its plastered walls, how much older it is difficult to say. The other feature is an original doorway, now blocked and only visible outside, in the east wall of the north aisle, quite close to the apse. It looks therefore very much as if the original arrangement at Wing was to include an external ambulatory like Brixworth, entered by doors and steps from the ends of the aisles, but with openings north, east, and south into a crypt within the apse. But the proposed ambulatory does not seem to have been proceeded with, and the existing *confessio* and its surrounding passage were both built within the crypt. Mr. Micklethwaite thought that the arches in the apse wall opened into *arcosolia*, now gone; but he does not refer to the blocked door in the aisle, though he shows it in his plan. This may, however, have had some other use than opening into a supposed ambulatory. There is one point on which both Scott and Micklethwaite agree, that Wing Church is in all probability a building of the seventh century, and this it may well be by reason of its plan.

Other places alluded to in this county in the same issue are:

TAPLOW.—Bronze Vessel from (pp. 80—81); Flint Implement (p. 165) Of the latter Mr. Reginald A. Smith remarks: It only remains to propose a name for the type best represented in England by the Taplow specimen (*Archæologia* LXVII., 38, fig. 15). As it appears to mark the transition from the "point" of Le Monstier to the axe-like celt intended for hafting, the term proto-celt would by analogy be applicable, but such a hybrid makeshift will no doubt be replaced by a local name in honour of some fortunate discovery in the future. Meanwhile, as celt is only a fictitious Latin word, there need be less objection to giving it a Greek prefix.

CHALVEY.—Dr. Charsley, of Slough, had a delicate chisel-like implement with white patina found five feet deep in gravel at Chalvey in his neighbourhood.

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