

RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF THE
Architectural and Archæological Society

FOR THE
County of Buckingham

(Founded Nov. 16, 1847.)

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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

THE PLACE-NAMES OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

By A. MAWER & F. M. STENTON

(Cambridge University Press, 18s. net.)

Truly our county is fortunate; we were early in the list for attention by the Historical Monuments Commissioners, and now the first volume of the Place-Name Society devoted to a single county is concerned with Bucks. Professors Mawer and Stenton have employed the method of seeking the earliest sources of spelling in a variety of deeds, and this certainly takes them nearer to the true origin than the conjectural guesses which used to be in vogue.

To give readers some idea of the methods and results it seems not inappropriate to compare their derivations with those set out in these pages a quarter of a century ago by Archdeacon Bourke. It is true that he confined himself largely, as the title of his paper announced, to "Place-name Endings in Bucks," or, as we now call them, the "second element" of names; still a comparison is possible between the knowledge available then and now. The Archdeacon comes out of it very well indeed; he does not indeed draw the nice distinction of our present authors between the place-endings derived from O.E. *beorg* meaning a "hill," and O.E. *burh* meaning a "fortified place;" nor does he draw any line between O.E. *ham*, meaning "a manor," and *hamm*, meaning "fold, or enclosed place;" still he saw that Turville really contained "field" as its second element, and that while Ibstone contained O.E. *stan*, "stone," the ending of Ravenstone was O.E. *tun*, "an enclosure, or farm."

Turville furnishes a good example of Professor Mawer's careful methods; he quotes fourteen authorities down to 1545, and two later; these show that Domesday Book slipped in calling it "Tilleberie," that the original name was "Thyrefeld," and the

Normans softened it to a sound which became identified with the French personal name still preserved in Weston Turville. Sometimes when the available evidence ranges from the seventh to the seventeenth centuries—as in the case of Datchet—our authors prefer not to commit themselves to a definite origin. This particular instance, Datchet, troubled the Archdeacon, who would scarcely have been puzzled by Meadle if he had seen the Assize Rolls of 1227 which give “Madhulle” and “Medhulle,” and so open the way to *mæd-hyll*=meadow-hill.

As an example of the extreme care which has gone to the compilation of this volume the name of Long Crendon may be taken; between the eleventh and seventeenth centuries over fifty authorities are cited, and the verdict at the close is “Creoda’s hill.” Unlike some cases in which the first element is a personal name this is one in which an historical person is intended; Creoda was “father of King Cynric, and thus the ancestor of the later West Saxon kings”; and “an almost contemporary Creoda occurs in the Mercian royal genealogy.” Good; one expects something of the same kind might influence the name of Crendon Lane, High Wycombe; but the earlier forms all begin *Cro*—, and the suggestion is that the word *croh*=saffron, lies at the bottom of it. The name of the pleasant old house in Wing Parish—Crafton Lodge—is shown to mean no more than “saffron farm.”

It is tempting to quote much from this fascinating volume; or to observe the conclusions reached in the Introduction, that the lower part of the centre of the county was a region of early Saxon settlement, that the Chilterns became peopled (sparsely enough) at a later date, and that the northern part was inhabited by Angles rather than by Saxons. But readers must search for themselves, aided by the maps which are thoughtfully placed in a pocket in the cover.

In many cases the lack of early forms precluded the inclusion of any suggestion as to the origin of names, thus Speen is omitted, which is unfortunate as one would much like to know whether it could be assigned, as the Berkshire Speen has been to “spon,” a chip,

shaving, or shingle. We look in vain for Dropmore, or for the Littleworth which adjoins it; though the Littleworth in Wing parish is traced back to Lytel, a name which is also buried in the Lillingstones. This reminds one that Professor Mawer mentions that Lillingstone Lovell was part of Oxfordshire until 1844, but does not mention under Stokenchurch that it was also part of Oxfordshire until 1896. Our lost place-names — Ashridge, now part of Hertfordshire, and Caversfield, now part of Oxfordshire, do not come into this volume, of course, but it might have been worth noting, under Coleshill, that it was an island of Hertfordshire set down right inside Bucks until 1844.

There is a wonderful array of variant renderings of Lenborough, near Buckingham, closing in 1493; it may be pointed out that as late as 1685 the word was spelt "Leathenborough" (see the Verney Memoirs, IV., 330), which is much nearer to revealing the true root than the later spelling, which was in vogue when the great Gibbon owned the manor, and so became a Worthy of Bucks!

THE MANOR AND PARISH RECORDS OF MEDMENHAM

By the REV. A. H. PLAISTED

(London: Longmans, Green & Co., 15s. net.)

There are some parishes in our own, as in every county, which give the impression of poverty; neglected buildings, broken fences, and a general air of untidiness betoken a lack of ready money. This can never be said of Medmenham, which, to a peculiar degree, yields precisely the opposite impression. It is only fitting therefore that a parish so opulent outwardly should have its story told in a fitting manner. This volume authoritatively states all that one may wish to know about Medmenham, in historic times at all events; it states it in an ample volume of over 400 pages, well-printed, and well-illustrated; altogether a worthy monument to the devotion of the Vicar.

After a very brief description of the famous earthwork at Danesfield, and the less familiar camp in Gillman's Wood, in which Hugh de Bolebec subsequently built his castle, Mr. Plaisted gives a paragraph to the

derivation of the name of Medmenham. Alas! for poor humanity; the guessing-game of derivations is sad work. According to our author the name signifies the home of the Medings, the family of "the old Saxon Medd." When Langley wrote his *History of Desborough* (1797) he had no hesitation in saying: "The evident etymology of the place is a village in the meadow." Edmunds ("History in the Names of Places") was quite happy to derive it from "madm, treasure," and so made the full name indicate "the place where the king kept his money." Now that we have a really scientific work on our place-names (reviewed in the current number) we find Professor Mawer tracing back to an adjective "medeme = moderate-sized, small," but the full form of the name then being "medemanhame," dative; this explains the second "m," which Mr. Plaisted can only account for by assuming its interpolation in oral transmission.

As soon as the Vicar reaches historic times he feels the ground safe beneath him, and disentangles the Bolebees, and de Veres better than it has been done before,—by Lipscomb at all events. As he passes through the Middle Ages he draws freely on Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, Feet of Fines, and all the other wealth of historic facts in P.R.O. and the British Museum. The way in which a précis of some thirteenth century deed is inset in the text in slightly smaller type and with full reference to its source, might form a model for all such work; it could not be improved.

Chapters which follow deal amply with Wittington, Bockmer, and Danesfield, a neat summary of the salient dates closing each chapter. The Abbey is next dealt with, firstly in its proper function; at the time of the Dissolution it had fallen into very low water as there were only two monks, "servants none; the house wholly in ruin." There follows the more famous (and slightly infamous) history of the Abbey after the Dissolution; here Mr. Plaisted is particularly good as he tells the amazing story of the Duffields, who owned the Abbey from the middle of the sixteenth century until the latter part of the eighteenth, thus covering the period when Sir Francis Dashwood (Lord le

Despencer), and his brother, Sir John Dashwood King, Bubb Dodington (Lord Melcombe Regis), the fourth Earl of Sandwich, Churchill, Lloyd, and Collins, all three poets of sorts, Thomas Potter, son of the Archbishop, Sir William Stanhope, Paul Whitehead (whose heart was in the West Wycombe mausoleum and afterwards stolen), the famous Dr. Bates, and the great John Wilkes, M.P.,—all formed at some time or other members of the “Order of St. Francis,” deriving their name from Francis Duffield the fifth.

Mr. Plaisted dispels many of the absurdities which scandal attached to the club, in particular in telling us that it lasted only eight years, and that “the meetings were never protracted beyond a week at a time, nor held more than twice a year;” it was finally “wrecked on the rocks of political discord.”

Thus far we are only half-way through the book, the second half dealing with the Church and various aspects of the village in detail. When dealing with the Churchwardens’ Accounts an entry is given which certainly deserves quoting for its unconscious humour:

“Relieved a woman with a past ... 1s. 0d.”

The final chapter, which deals with “The King’s Highway,” includes the river, and contains much that will be new to most readers.

The pleasure afforded by this book led the writer of this notice to visit the scenes it describes, and there on the King’s Highway, not far from Bockmer, he saw a notice-board, which had probably become too familiar to the Vicar to deserve quoting, on which carters were enjoined, when descending the hill, to fix “drug-bats.”

“Drug-bat” is a perfectly good dialect-word, derived (says the Oxford Dictionary) from Middle English “druggen,” meaning “to drag,” whilst the English Dialect Dictionary tells us that a “bat” is “an iron drag chained to the wheel of a cart when going down hill.” The odd thing is that the word is not used in the Vale or north of the county.

The book is very accurately printed, apparently, the two following slips might be corrected in a future

edition: p. 183, for "Tichford" read "Tickford"; and p. 293 for "Ellesborough" read "Edlesborough."

THE TEMPLE MEMOIRS

By COL. J. A. TEMPLE and H. M. TEMPLE

(London: H. F. & G. Witherby. 250 copies printed at £1:5:0 to subscribers.)

As the centuries pass family after family has played a great part in the life of our county,—has waxed, waned, and died out,—*tout lasse, tout casse, tout passe*, some have left their names in places, such as the Cheynes, Dayrells, Reynes, Beauchamps, Mandevilles; whilst others, like the Giffards, Dentons, and Dormers, have passed away (even the houses in which they lived have vanished), and left small trace. None so completely attempted to dominate the entire county, though, as the Temple family, and when it became merged later with the Grenville family the bulk of the county may be said to have been subject to their influence from Wotton to Dropmore in the south, and Wotton to Stowe in the north. The rise and progress of this family, their greed for political power, which was their ultimate undoing, are set forth in this volume more clearly than has been attempted previously. It is true that it embraces a wider field than Bucks, but the days of grandeur, the days when the eyes of all England were turned to Stowe; when there were published the countless editions of Guides and Descriptions of the beauties of Stowe which still litter our second-hand book shops in dozens,—in these palmy days the Temple interest centred in Bucks.

The history of a great family, which intermarried with the eleventh in descent from Henry VII. and could claim cousinship with a goodly section of the peerage, is not easily told in short compass, and one is sure that Colonel Temple would have had no difficulty in doubling the modest 200 pages in which he attempts to compress a very wide extent of facts.

The more or less legendary origin of the family in the Earls of Mercia is critically discussed in the opening chapter, and the story of Godiva is explained by

the literal construction of a metaphor, her nudity not being of the physical kind, but a mere phrase used to denote the generosity with which she built and endowed a Benedictine Abbey near the present site of Coventry.

The connection of the Temple family with Bucks began in 1554, when Peter Temple leased the manor of Stowe from the Bishop of Oxford, and built the first mansion there. His eldest son, Thomas, made the famous marriage with Hester Sandys of Latimer, who lived to see over 700 descendants of her body, if Fuller is to be trusted. Sir Thomas was one of James I.'s first batch of two hundred baronets.

It is not the object of this notice to follow the rise and spread of the family; it is only necessary to say that it is clearly set out in this volume, and supported by admirable pedigrees which have the authority of Herald's College behind them. All members of the family are treated with engaging candour, and one ends by feeling that one knows them; thus, after quoting Pope's famous lines on Lord Cobham (the fourth baronet) we are reminded that—so far from "Oh, save my country, Heaven!" being his last words—he was in such a passion at being unable to carry a glass of jelly to his mouth that he "threw the jelly, glass and all, in the face of his niece, Hester Grenville—fell back and expired."

There were consolations in life for the niece as she was destined to marry William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and to be the mother of yet another William Pitt. Her brothers, Earl Temple and George Grenville, are given no very amiable characters; the first being "quite devoid of statesmanship, and with an insatiable appetite for intrigue;" and the public acts of the second, in Macaulay's words, "may be classed under two heads, outrages on the liberties of the people, and outrages on the dignity of the Crown." The Brydges blood came in by the marriage of George Grenville's grandson, the second Marquis of Buckingham, with the only child and heir of the last Duke of Chandos.

The astonishing ways by which the first Duke of Chandos enriched himself at the public expense when

Paymaster-General are clearly indicated; he had a remarkable personality, however, as "despite extravagances and weaknesses, Chandos was one of the most popular peers in England, as he spent great sums in charity and good works."

The crash of the second Duke of Buckingham in 1848 is very well explained as due to purchasing land with borrowed money just prior to the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846; the collapse in land-values which resulted, following upon long years of extravagance and the costly visit of Queen Victoria to Stowe in 1845, helped to bring about the end. The third, and last, Duke of Buckingham, seems to have been the most sane of them all.

The 19th and 20th Chapters are devoted to a description of the "Gardens," for which our authors have more admiration than most people, to whom their sole interest lies in the example they afford of the execrable taste which was by no means peculiar to Lord Cobham, by whom many of the useless masses of stonework or brickwork which litter the grounds were built. The succeeding chapter deals with the house itself, and makes it clear that the house built by Peter Temple in the middle of the 16th century still exists inside the enormous additions of Sir Richard Temple, the third baronet, Earl Temple, and the Marquis of Buckingham. Here again our authors find more to praise than to censure; and that is strange, because it is certain that never since the Middle Ages did English domestic Architecture achieve anything so uncomfortable; as a monument to Palladio it might pass, as a house to live in it can never have afforded the combined dignity and comfort which characterize so many of our Elizabethan and Jacobean houses; one has only to look at the plates facing pages 178 and 180 to see the mischief wrought by the first Lord Temple; in the first (which represents Sir Richard Temple's work) the south front exhibits some bedroom windows at least; in the later view they have been sacrificed to a neo-Classical fetish.

It is ill work discussing matters of taste, and one would wish to end this brief notice by thanking Col.

Temple and Mr. Markham Temple for bringing together so many facts regarding the family to which they belong.

A few misprints should be noted; on page 51 the parish of Stantonbury is called Stanton Low, a name which belongs to the farm adjoining the church. On page 107 the mausoleum at West Wycombe is said to be "in" the church, this should read "near." On page 114, line 3, the word "Hartwell" has crept in; Louis XVIII. was at Hartwell, near Aylesbury, after he left Gosfield. On page 150 a "want" is a mole, it can never be a rat.

BURNHAM, BUCKS

An Historical Sketch by W. H. WILLIAMS

London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 2s. 6d.

This little book of 64 pages is written by one of our members with the avowed object of assisting an appeal for the church; it must not be considered therefore as a complete parish history. But within these narrow limits Mr. Williams manages to compress much that is important and something which will be new to many of our readers, such, for instance, as the account of the sixteen deeds preserved in the church, which begin as far back as 1296. One deed (2 Edw. VI) sets forth the liability of the churchwardens to undertake repairs of certain property "except tylyng ground pynnyng and wallyng under hornhygh;" this last expression Mr. Williams interprets as liability of the tenant for damage done by the horns of his cattle to the cob walls. On page 45 an excessive antiquity is attributed to the chest in the chancel, and on page 36 a low-side window (enlarged later) is called a "leper's window," and the long-discredited theory of the use of which these windows were put is given. The mention of such slight blemishes merely proves the high standard reached by this useful little work.

VICTORIA HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM
Volume Three

London: The St. Catherine Press; 3 Guineas.

This third volume is entirely occupied with parochial history; it opens with the boroughs of Aylesbury and Wendover, which receive very full treatment. The next 300 pages are occupied with the various parishes comprised in the three Chiltern Hundreds; then follow 140 pages which cover the Hundred of Cottesloe, and the volume closes with an account of the Borough of Buckingham. A very great proportion of the county therefore is covered, and the treatment accorded to each parish is similar to that given in Volume II. The difficulties which the Victoria County Histories have had to face have been very serious, and one cannot be too critical if the complete volume leaves anything to be desired. The serious blemish undoubtedly reveals itself on the very title-page, where a Note informs us that the volume was completed in 1914, but that its publication has been delayed through "the War and other reasons." This means that in nearly every parish the names of present occupiers or owners have undergone great change, and it is very sad to read in a book dated 1925 the names of friends who have been many years dead, but appear here as living. The illustrations are seldom very happy; the half-tone blocks being generally far too dark, though some of the line drawings are clear and admirable.

NOTES

"SEVENTEENTH CENTURY POLITICAL
BALLAD"

The above appeared on p.p. 233-241 of the present volume; attention was kindly drawn to an error in it by Mr. H. Markham Temple, one of the joint-authors of the "Temple Memoirs," which is noticed elsewhere in this number. Sir Richard Temple is absurdly mentioned as the "first builder of Stowe"; in point of fact the original house remains to this day encased in the great additions made in the eighteenth century, but it was the work of Peter Temple in 1556-1560.¹ This had been indicated by a former President of the Society, the third Duke of Buckingham (see RECORDS, V. 352), who placed it as early as 1520, however.

A good case was made out for ascribing the ballad to 1679, but the story of the Buckingham Town Hall, with which the article concluded, may be amplified by a quotation from the "Verney Papers" (Edn. 1899, vol. IV p. 329), where in 1685 Edmund Verney writes that "if my Lord Latimer will lay downe £300 for building the Townehall, He may prevayle to make his election sure." The Mayor's name appears as Hugh Ethersey, who held office that year in fact,² and Henry Hayward, the barber, and George Dancer, the tanner, are mentioned in the Verney Papers. It would seem therefore that the election of 1679 only produced the timber, and that the Town Hall was still to be built six years later.

¹ "Temple Memoirs," p. 177.

² See Browne Willis's "Buckingham," p. 109. At the foot of the Ballad he appears as "Mr. Eversay, draper."

GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL TRUST

In accordance with the wishes of the late Mr. N. Charles Rothschild two Bucks properties have been made over to the National Trust.

1. One is the well-known "King's Head" Inn at Aylesbury. This was one of the buildings scheduled by the Historical Monuments Commissioners on account of its retaining two bays of the original building, which belong to the mid-fifteenth century. These two bays of the original hall retain heavily-moulded wall-posts, ceiling-beams, and wall-plates; above all they hold *in situ* a window, divided by a wall-post, on either side of which is a double row of five lights containing a certain amount of glass which is contemporary with the building. Included are the arms of Henry VI and his wife, Margaret of Anjou, the Lion of St. Mark, the Bohun Swan, and covered cups, the badge of the Butler family.

Apart from these two bays the rest of the buildings round the spacious courtyard belong to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The sign of the "King's Head" is presumably a reference to Henry VIII, when the building passed from ecclesiastical to lay ownership. A token was issued bearing the King's head and a sceptre; specimens are in the Museum.

2. The other building which passes into the hands of the Trust is the Manor House, Princes Risborough; an early eighteenth-century house, which contains some woodwork from an earlier house. In particular is a most magnificent staircase of the first quarter of the seventeenth century. In place of the usual turned balusters a double row of massive hoops are linked together; they are executed in a wood which it is hard to identify, but it is believed by Mr. East, the tenant for very many years, to be wych-elm; the joints are so finely executed as only to be seen with difficulty.

When originally purchased by Mr. Rothschild the staircase was painted, but the paint was so skilfully removed as to leave no trace. The treads are 55 inches wide, and the risers are 7 inches high; newel-posts, 6 inches square, are surmounted by large balls, some 8 inches in diameter.

In the drawing-room the walls are panelled, and over the fireplace is an elaborate overmantel with columns and oval panels with bolection-moulding.

LANTERN LECTURE

No attempt was made in the winter 1925-1926 to offer the exhibition of lantern-slides, but a request was received for them to be shown at Hambleden, and this was accordingly done. The fact is worth mentioning because these slides have now been shown at the two extreme ends of the county: Newton Blossomville and Hambleden, two of the most inaccessible parishes; in each case, as it happened, a very fine oxy-hydrogen light secured an admirable result.

It is regretted that no offer of support has been forthcoming for extending the scope of these slides to objects of interest in the southern part of the county.

THE BURNHAM PALÆOLITHS

The collection of flint implements, acquired for the Museum as was briefly mentioned in the last issue of the RECORDS, p. 361, was derived from a gravel-pit at Lent Rise, Burnham, at about 40 feet above the river level, on the "Taplow Terrace."

Fourteen typical specimens were submitted to Mr. Reginald A. Smith, of the British Museum, who was good enough to describe them as follows:—

| No. | TYPE. | DESCRIPTION. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Chelles | Rough hand axe | |
| 2 | " | Hand-axe with basil point | Fine patination |
| 3 | " | Patinated hand-axe | |
| 4 | " | Chipped nodule | |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | „ | | Pointed nodule | |
| 6 | „ | | Rough implement | |
| 7 | St. Acheul | ... | Hand-axe with basil point | |
| 8 | „ | ... | Exceptionally large hand-axe | Unrolled |
| 9 | „ | ... | Pear-shaped hand-axe | Black, lustrous |
| 10 | „ | ... | Pointed nodule | |
| 11 | „ | ... | Pointed hand-axe | Typical |
| 12 | La Micoque | . | Patinated hand-axe | |
| 13 | „ | . | Hand-axe | Triangular section |
| 14 | Le Moustier | . | Sub-triangular hand-axe | ... Latest drift |

Although implements of these periods are frequently met with on the "Taplow Terrace," specimens of the size and condition of No. 8 in the above list and of another, each of which is 9 inches long, are noteworthy.

OBITUARY.

The Society has suffered the loss of the following members:—

The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Oxford, June, 1925 (a Vice-President).

The Rt. Hon. Lord Leith of Fyvie, 14th November, 1925.

Sir Stephen Collins, 12th March, 1925.

Mrs. T. Horwood.

Col. H. E. Burney.

Gerard Yorke Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, January, 1926.

Mr. Fiennes had only recently become a member, having joined the Society when he came to live at Wellwick, near Wendover. That most interesting house was considerably improved by him, and the nineteenth-century alterations were removed, revealing some interesting features of earlier work. Had he been spared it was hoped that he might have contributed to these pages an article dealing with this old Brudenell home. Mr. Fiennes's connection with the county was of long standing, as his father was rector of Milton Keynes for 30 years.

ANNUAL EXCURSION, JUNE 1925

About eighty people attended the Annual Excursion on a day which was fine, but not particularly warm. A start was made from Aylesbury and the first stopping-place was Notley Abbey, where, by kind permission of Mr. H. Reynolds, the thirteenth century remains of the Cloisters, and the wonderful corbel-table (illustrated on p. 216 of this volume of the "Records,") were examined. A brief history of the Abbey buildings was given and a large-scale plan, taken from the Historical Monuments Commissioners' Report and coloured according to the dates of the buildings, was exhibited. The former guest-house, which constitutes the present residence, was examined and the picturesque appearance of the sixteenth century stair-turret admired.

Time admitted of no long stay there, and the next place visited was the Court House at Long Crendon, the well-known hall of the Wool Staplers, erected in the fifteenth century and acquired by the National Trust in 1898, here the woodwork aroused a good deal of interest.

The noble cruciform church of Long Crendon, mostly of the thirteenth century, though slight remains of an earlier structure remain at the west end of the nave, was next visited; and the various details of the period to which the greater part of the church belongs were pointed out; and the fine tomb in the S. transept to Sir John Dormer was particularly noticed as typical of such work in the early seventeenth century.

From Long Crendon the party proceeded to Brill, through very pleasant country; lunch was served at the "Sun" Hotel, and the large party was efficiently served.

After lunch the place first touched was Boarstall Tower, now occupied by Mrs. Jennings Bramly, who most kindly allowed the party to enter that wonderful relic of fourteenth-century domestic architecture. In the large room upstairs a paper was read which largely concerned the fate of the former house during the Civil War. Originally held by Sir William Campion for the King it was surrendered to Sir William Waller in 1644; but the error of exposing the Oxford garrison to depredatory attacks from Boarstall soon led the Royal party to recover it for the King. In 1645 it was attacked by Fairfax without success, but in the following year (6th June, 1646) Sir Thomas managed to wrest it from Sir William Campion. Extracts from the correspondence which led up to the surrender were read (from Lipscomb, I., 81 to 86), together with the account given by Anthony à Wood in his Life (p. 40); he was at that time a school-boy at Thame, and his story has a certain engaging freshness, though slight in itself. Many years later, 16th May, 1668, he revisited Boarstall and found that when he compared it with the memory of his former visit "whereas then it was a garrison, with high bulwarks about

it, deep trenches and pallsadoes, now it had pleasant gardens about it, and several sets of trees well growne," (p. 211).

The beautiful and appropriate furniture now in the Gatehouse, set in the great chamber with its massive roof-timbers, sixteenth century fireplace, and armorial glass of the seventh century in the windows, exhibiting the arms of Aubrey and Ap Gwyllym,—elicited expressions of sincere admiration from members of the Society.

After leaving Boarstall the next stopping-place was Chilton Church, where the very curious development of plan was carefully noticed; the south transept, of the thirteenth century, is out of line with the nave which was rebuilt in the fifteenth century; whilst the tower, which balances the transept on the north side of the nave, belongs to the fourteenth century. The extraordinary appearance of a thirteenth century effigy on the *exterior* of the east wall of the nave was observed; and the imposing monument to Sir John Croke (1608) in the south chapel received attention. Two ridged stone slabs, or coffin-lids, under the floor of the south transept were shown by the kindness of the churchwarden, who also drew attention to the remains of a curious chaplet, found in the parvise above the south porch.

From Chilton members went to Dinton, where they glanced at the pleasant green, with stocks at the side beneath a little penthouse, and then passed into the fine church, with its magnificent porch of c. 1140. Members regretted to see the sad discolouration induced by leakage of rain-water where the south porch joins the south aisle. The fine brasses in the south aisle were studied, and the noble table which stands near them, and bears its date (1606) carved on the front rail.

From Dinton the party drove to Stone, where they were most hospitably entertained to tea by Lady Smyth in the charming garden which is attached to St. John's Lodge.

Those of the members who could spare the time afterwards looked into Stone Church, and saw the much-travelled font of the twelfth century, with its over-elaborate decoration, and the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century brasses to the Gurneys; the second of these is a palimpsest.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Bucks Archæological Society was held at the Parish Hall, Aylesbury, on 14th Oct., 1925. The Chairman (Major Coningsby Disraeli) presided, and others present were Mesdames S. S. Flower, S. E. Wilkins, H. Yates Thompson, Disraeli, Bennitt, and Wyness, Misses C. Baker, R. Denny, J. Wake, A. D. Grinnell, K. S. Grinnell, and Borrow, Sir James Berry, the Rev. R. Bruce Dixon, F. W. Bennitt, Col. Wyness, Lieut.-Col. F. T. H. Bernard, Major S. S. Flower, Messrs. J. O. Manton, F. W. Reader, E. Berry, H. Yates Thompson, E. G. Roscoe, E. Corner, G. Eland, W. H. Williams, A. McDonal F. W. Blake, the Hon. Secretaries (Messrs. W. Bradbrooke and W. J.

Barnes), and the Curator (Mr. E. Hollis). Apologies for absence were received from Lady Smyth, Col. Pixley, Messrs. Ralph C. Hazell, C. G. Watkins, and W. Crouch.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Lord Rosebery as president, Sir James Berry seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. Bradbrook remarked that during the year they had lost by death one of their vice-presidents, the Lord Bishop of Oxford. He proposed that the other vice-presidents be re-elected, and this was agreed to. The vice-presidents are Lord Boston, Viscount Hambleden, the Bishop of Buckingham, Bishop Shaw, Major Coningsby Disraeli, Lady Smyth, Sir James Berry, and Mr. D. Montague.

The Chairman said it had been proposed by the Council that they should ask Dr. James, Provost of Eton, a celebrated and well-known archaeologist, to join their ranks as a vice-president, and if it was the pleasure of the meeting he would like to propose that Dr. James be elected a vice-president of the Society.—This was agreed to.

The following members of the Council were re-elected:—The Revs. F. W. Bennett and R. F. Bale, Col. James Wyness, Lieut.-Col. F. T. H. Bernard, Major S. S. Flower, Capt. Ivor Stewart Liberty, Messrs. J. E. Manton, E. Corner, W. Crouch, F. W. Reader, E. G. Roscoe, and C. O. Skilbeck

The Chairman referred to the excellent work of the secretaries, and said he did not think they could do better than re-elect them. This was agreed to with applause, and with their re-election the Chairman gave them the Society's thanks for their work.

On the proposition of Mr. Bradbrook Col. Pixley was re-elected hon. treasurer, with the thanks of the Society for his services. Messrs. W. Crouch and C. G. Watkins were re-elected auditors.

The Chairman said the position of Editor of the "Records" had been excellently held by Mr. Eland, and he proposed his re-election with special thanks for all he had done.—The meeting readily agreed to this proposal.—Messrs. F. W. Reader and E. Hollis were elected representatives to the Congress of Archaeological Societies.

COUNCIL'S REPORT

The report of the Council was given by Mr. Bradbrooke, who said that during the year the Society had lost by death one of its vice-presidents, the Lord Bishop of Oxford, and amongst the members, Col. Henry Burney (Wavendon), Sir Stephen Collins, Mr. E. M. Johnson, and Mr. C. H. Payne. The oldest member of the Society, Canon John Wood, elected in 1857, retired last June to the great regret of the Council, and rather than lose him the Council made him an honorary member, and he (Mr. Bradbrook) was directed to communicate with him on the subject and he agreed to accept the position. The members would agree that it would be very sad if the oldest member gave up his membership. The visitors to the Museum since last Christmas numbered 5,500. Only adults were counted and the number of children was in

excess of the number of adults, so that they might consider that during the last nine months the Museum had been visited by certainly not less than 10,000 visitors. During 1924, the number of adult visitors was 6,231, so that with three months to run they were not far behind the attendance of last year. The present number of members was 363, which was the largest on record and the Council hoped that it might be still further increased for the expense of running the Society and the Museum was considerable, and could only be met if very general interest was taken and their membership rose considerably, to certainly not less than 500.

FINANCE

Mr. Bradbrooke continued that the Treasurer was not present so that he was obliged to make reference to the finance. On December 31st last the balance standing to their credit was £12:13:10. Since then, to September 30th, the Treasurer had received in subscriptions £215:18, and other monies which made up a total of £475:19. The expenditure up to date was £370:1:9, which left a balance on October 1st of £105:17:3. There were certain outstanding liabilities amounting to about £57, which had since been paid, but more money had been paid into the bank so that at present the Society had a balance at the bank of about £50 or more, which would carry it on until the end of the year. The subscriptions of members did not suffice to carry on the Society and the Museum and to pay all the charges. The late Sir Arthur Liberty left £2,000 to the Society and the interest from that was used to help pay the expenses of maintaining the Museum, and this year the trustees of that fund had paid £75 to the Society for that purpose. In addition the County Council, owing to the educational facilities provided, had made a grant of £100 to the Society, and members would see that the grants from the County Council and the Liberty trustees had only a little more than cleared the extra expenditure. The Society had also received during the year certain other sums. The members were circularised and told that after grave consideration the Council had decided not to raise the subscription of 10s. per annum, but asked every member to consider the extra expenditure and higher charges which had to be met, and they were asked to voluntarily add something to the subscription. That appeal met with a very gratifying response, so that they would be solvent at the end of the year and probably have a balance at the bank.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Mr. Hollis gave descriptions of two recent gifts to the Society by Mr. G. Weller and Mr. T. Field. He said that Mr. Weller had handed over the whole of his collection to them, including a portion of the original manuscript of Lipscomb's "History of Bucks," which was certainly most important from their point of view. There were also Lipscomb's rubbings of Buckinghamshire brasses, taken about 1820, and twenty of these rubbings showed portions of brasses, which had been lost since 1820. There was also a number of prints and drawings. Mr. Field's gift had a certain county interest in that his house stood on the site of the old Grey Friars Monastery, and he had given quite a miscellaneous collection of things dug up on the site of his house, dating from Roman days

to comparatively modern days. He had also given them a large collection of plate. Some of it was genuine old plate, such as Elizabethan rat tail spoons, and old standing salt cellars, which were valuable in themselves. Other pieces were reproductions of valuable old silver, which Mr. Field had had reproduced in silver for the Society, and the collection was a really valuable one. He thought the thanks of the Society should be passed to Mr. Field and Mr. Weller. Mr. Weller's gift was practically all of great county interest, and he would like to mention to those members of the Council who had not heard of it before that in the centre of the hall in the Museum were two exhibits which were gratifying to him as showing the interest the school children had taken in what they had been able to do for the County Museum. These exhibits were a bronze dagger and a stone weapon found by school children at The Lee and Chartridge, respectively.

Votes of thanks were then passed to Mr. Weller and Mr. Field for their handsome and valuable gifts to the Society.

A DISCOVERY AT HALTON

Mr. F. W. Reader reported on a discovery at Halton which they wanted the committee to consider. It was a mound near Halton Camp, and his attention was drawn to it by Mr. Hollis, who observed it while training troops during the war. He (the speaker) got the Chief Engineer at the Camp to give him permission to search for it and after locating it they applied to the Air Vice-Marshal Lambe for permission to examine it. This was very readily given and every assistance was given. They cut an experimental trench four feet wide and 60 or 70 feet long. They had encountered unexpected conditions. Most of the soil in the neighbourhood and within a stone's throw of it was simply eight inches of ordinary humus on top of the chalk rock, but here they found four or five feet of chalk marl and then they were on top of the solid chalk. The mound was formed of chalk rubble with a lot of large flints in it so that it presented rather an interesting geological problem, and he would like to have some expert geological advice on it before they recommended going any further. There were distinct indications on the surface of a ditch, but on digging they found no trace of it at all, although it was well marked on the surface by the depression and the difference in the herbage. They found nine fragments of early pottery, some of them hand-made, and they compared very closely with those found on Boddington Hill close by. They had also found what appeared to be a hearth, but it would have to be substantiated whether the wood was really carbonised or whether its condition was the result of a fire, because it was in such a position that it must have been put on the ground while the marl was deposited. If that was so it showed that there were very great forces at work in our history later than they supposed. There was also a great number of animal bones, which were split and broken, possibly by man or by wild beasts.

(From the "Bucks Herald" of 17th October, 1925).

ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM

The Museum and Library have been enriched this year by many gifts of great importance; taking them in the order in which they were received may be mentioned:—

A HORSE'S BIT, of c. 1560, dug up in the grounds of Little Kimble House in November, 1924, and generously presented to the Society by Mr. L. G. A. Jaques. In length the bit measures 12 ins.; the curb-chain and the jointed bar which connected the lower portion are missing, but the essential features remain in an excellent state of preservation, and bear the marks of admirable workmanship.

Next came

MR. GEORGE WELLER'S GIFT

This consisted of a large paper copy of Lipscomb in the original boards, as issued, and nine volumes of Lipscomb's MSS. relating to the Hundreds of Ashendon, Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Cottesloe, etc.; these were all from the Phillips' Collection.

In addition there were Lipscomb's Brass Rubbings in 24 parishes, and 20 of these rubbings contain portions of brasses since lost.

There are numerous packets of Engravings relating to the County, and a collection of Maps.

A series of Water-colour Drawings of Bucks Churches, made by T. Trotter in 1801, is of particular interest; and the Photographs of Churches and Mansions by May, published in 1862, is a rare and valuable record.

The Drawings and Engravings include those described in "Records," X pp. 379-389; amongst them is the drawing by Sir James Thornhill, of Wotton House, reproduced with the article mentioned.

It is difficult to exaggerate the high topographical value of this splendid gift, which forms a great acquisition to the Society's archives.

ALDERMAN THOMAS FIELD'S GIFT

By the generosity of Alderman Field the Museum has received a most varied and valuable addition to its treasures; so numerous are they that it would need several pages to furnish a complete list, and it is only possible here to refer to some of the more important features.

A most remarkable collection of objects found in the donor's garden includes:—

COINS. Roman gold coins of Valentinian II. and Mauritius Tiberius; seven denarii and brasses of Antoninus and other Emperors.

British Silver Coins of Henry II, Edward II, Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, &c.

Trade Tokens, several originating in Aylesbury.

MISCELLANEOUS. Candle extinguisher, seal, betrothal ring, and book-clasp in Silver, Roman Bronze fibula, &c.

Then comes a large number of English silver coins from the time of William III, many in mint condition; military and commemorative medals, Maunday money, Venetian Sequin, Gold Coins of Madras, &c.

An object of outstanding rarity and importance is a small gold bar with a ring for suspension, found at Kimble. This curious object is assigned to the middle of the fourteenth century, and bears certain letters. It formed an amulet with the reputed power of conferring invisibility on its wearer.

SILVER PLATE, &c. Two rat-tailed spoons with the hall-marks of 1586 and 1587 are of considerable interest. The seventeenth century is represented by two watches, and the eighteenth century is very fully covered by such pieces as a coffee-pot (1721), fish slice (1760), salt cellars (1768), patch-box, ladle, candle-sticks, &c., &c.

Finally there are accurately made reproductions in silver of many bowls, porringer, caudle-cup, spoons, forks, and cream jugs.

The variety, and in some cases the rarity, of the Field collection, to say nothing of its intrinsic value, makes it a most splendid supplement to the Society's Museum.

FURTHER GIFT FROM MR. GEO. WELLER.

Whilst these pages are passing through the Press Mr. Weller has made another valuable gift to the Museum, in the shape of a portion of a screen of the fifteenth century removed from a house in Amersham of that period. The screen is mentioned by the Historical Monuments Commissioners (I. 9), and consists of three bays, each having a trefoil head between pierced quatrefoils. It is possibly the earliest domestic screen in the county, and the Society is fortunate in obtaining possession of it through Mr. Weller's generosity.

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