

GIFT TO THE MUSEUM.

WE have the pleasure of announcing that one of the oldest members of this Society, Mr. Samuel Glendenning Payne, of Aylesbury, has most generously offered his entire collection of antiquities (chiefly local) to the County Museum, Aylesbury. For want of cases in which to house and exhibit them at all adequately, many of the specimens are not yet transferred to the Museum; and as none of them can as yet be arranged, we are unable to give anything approaching a complete list of this valuable present; but (among many other things) the collection includes a large quantity of palæolithic and neolithic flint implements (the majority from Sussex, but a considerable number from Bucks); a large series of remains from the Romano-British village at Haydon Hill, consisting of Roman pottery, spear-heads, spindle whorls, etc., and a quantity of bones from there and elsewhere. The specimens of later date comprise numerous articles in common use until within a century or so, but now fast disappearing; such as spinning-wheels, ornamental iron fire-bucks, leather bottle, horn cups, baker's oven lamp, powder-prover in form of pistol, steel strike-a-light, pot-hangers, set of bobbins for pillow-lace making, and a great quantity of other interesting objects both of metal and wood; besides rubbings of brasses, etc., nearly all of which were procured in this county. The full value of this gift cannot be appreciated until the collection has been properly arranged; and this can be done directly funds are forthcoming to purchase cases to contain the specimens. Is it too much to hope that a few of the members of the Society may see their way to contributing the comparatively small sum required? A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Payne for his liberality was passed at the Annual Meeting of the Society; a vote which we are sure will be endorsed by all who read this note; and it is confidently hoped that the excellent example so lately set by Mr. James Rutland, and now again by Mr. Payne, may prove contagious, and that the present County Museum, which is little more than a nucleus, may shortly swell into something really worthy of the county.

A. H. COCKS.