

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1913.

THE Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Castle Cary on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 15th, 16th and 17th, and was favoured with excellent weather. The meeting was a very large one, and was attended by 183 members and friends, the largest number previously, at any rate during the present century, being 153 at Glastonbury in 1902.

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday morning, and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the Town Hall. The retiring President, the Hon. Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., occupied the chair at the beginning of the proceedings. Among those supporting him on the platform were the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, P.C. (President-Elect), Sir C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey, K.C.B., Mr. A. F. Somerville, the Rev. C. H. Heale, the Revs. F. W. Weaver and E. H. Bates Harbin (Hon. Secretaries), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (Assistant-Secretary and Curator).

Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS proposed the election of Mr. Henry Hobhouse as President of the Society for the ensuing

year. The name of Hobhouse was one known in various fields of activity,—in the law, in the church, and in social matters, and he felt that in proposing Mr. Hobhouse as president he was submitting the name of one who took the greatest interest in the social conditions of Somerset, in matters of education, and in the new lines of thought which were resulting from the application of pick and shovel to the surface of the earth.

Mr. J. COOKE HURLE seconded the proposition, and said it was very fitting that they should elect as president one who had done so much to build up the government of the county of Somerset.

The motion having been carried with acclamation, Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE took the chair, and said it was twenty-three years ago that he occupied that position on the Society's former visit to Castle Cary. He thought the county had reason to be proud of the Society, which was now the largest of kindred provincial societies.

It was announced that Sir Edward Fry, the Rev. H. H. Winwood, and Mr. F. Bligh Bond had sent expressions of regret at not being able to be present owing to indisposition.

The Annual Report.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“In presenting the sixty-fifth annual report your Council wishes to state that since its last report 70 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation have been 48. Altogether the net gain has been 22. The total membership at date is 892, against 870 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year.

“Your Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year ; a complete list will be given in the volume of *Proceedings* :—

“Mr. Alfred A. Clarke, who was the only remaining original

member of the Society. He was an artist by profession, and many of his early drawings are reproduced in the Society's *Proceedings*. He was born at Taunton, and subsequently made his home at Wells.

"The Rev. Preb. G. E. Smith, who was much interested in the Society's work, and especially in natural history. He was elected a member of the Society in 1868, became a Local Secretary in 1897, and the first President of the Botanical Section in 1910.

"The Rev. Preb. J. Coleman, Treasurer of Wells Cathedral, was one of the oldest members of the Society at the time of his death, being elected in 1860, and becoming a Local Secretary in 1865. In his later years he wrote several papers for the Society's *Proceedings*.

"The Rev. C. W. Whistler, M.R.C.S., at one time vicar of Stockland, near Bridgwater, and a Local Secretary of the Society from 1907. His historical stories for boys had a wide circulation, and his more serious writings appeared in the *Saga-Book of the Viking Club*, *The Antiquary*, and *Folk-Lore*. He edited Mr. A. F. Major's "Early Wars of Wessex," now about to be issued.¹ The large amount of assistance which Mr. Whistler gave in connection with the excavation of Wick Barrow will long be remembered; his excellent model of that tumulus is in the Society's Museum.

"Mr. William Stoate and Mr. F. Fox Tuckett, F.R.G.S., members since 1876 and 1886 respectively, frequently attended the excursions of the Society. The former collected Somerset books, and a number of other things. The Rev. R. C. W. Raban, a member since 1898, described Bishop's Hull Church to the members last year.

"The deficit on your Society's Account at the end of 1911 was £9 1s. 7d. At the close of 1912 the deficit had increased to £84 1s. 0d. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired, or on the other hand any

1. See review at end of Part II.

unpaid subscriptions, taken into account. The total expenses attending the issue of Vol. LVIII (for 1912), including printing, illustrations and delivery, has been £150 19s. 9d. The illustration fund was kindly contributed to by Dr. F. J. Allen, Mr. Richard Every, the Rev. H. H. Winwood, Mr. F. Bligh Bond, the Rev. F. W. Weaver and Mr. W. de C. Pridcaux. Thanks are also due to the following for providing drawings and photographs for the volume:—Mr. Bligh Bond, Dr. F. J. Allen, and Mr. H. St. George Gray.

“At the last annual meeting it was suggested that many of the members might be disposed to assist the finances of the Society by giving an increased annual subscription, beyond the minimum of 10/6. An appeal was sent out early last winter informing the members that the Society stood greatly in need of increased funds, and that, although the strictest economy was being exercised, the present annual income was insufficient to meet the growing needs of the Society and the proper maintenance of its Museum and Library. The response has been fairly satisfactory, the increased income so far being about £55. Your Council hopes that those who have not yet come forward to render assistance in this matter will bring the increased annual subscriptions up to at least £100 before the next Annual Meeting.

“In addition to the increased income of £55, a few members have made donations amounting to £36 to form a nucleus for a capital account.

“During the past year the Council has been conducting the business of the Society in accordance with the New Rules which were adopted at the Wellington Meeting last July, and on the monthly Council days some or all of the following Committees also hold meetings:—Finance, Museum and Library, Editorial, and Building Committees. In the election or re-election of officers to-day, the last part of Rule II will come into operation, namely, that ‘One-third of the elected members of the Council (of which there are not more than

twelve) shall retire annually by rotation, but shall be eligible for re-election.'

"Your Council, under Rule VII, has the power of appointing Local Secretaries, and there has been considerable activity in this direction, as will be seen by the list to be published in the volume of *Proceedings* for 1913.

"Your Society's headquarters are at the present time in a good state of repair, as during the spring the Council Room received a much needed cleaning and painting, and some minor repairs on the roof and external painting were executed.

"Since the last Annual Meeting the cases of polished mahogany for the collection of Coins, Medals, and Tokens have been made, completing the fitting up of the Coin Room, as far as furniture is concerned. The cost of this has been defrayed from the Woodward Fund.

"In this room have also been placed four ebonized cases containing the large and varied collection of Charms, etc.,—chiefly Neapolitan, some local,—collected by the late Mr. F. T. Elworthy, F.S.A., and bequeathed by him to the Museum. This acquisition is an important one, and includes a detailed manuscript catalogue of the whole collection, from which illustrations were taken for Mr. Elworthy's works entitled 'The Evil Eye,' and 'Horns of Honour.'

"Your Museum has also been enriched by a varied collection of remains, found in excavations last summer on the site of the Roman villa on Ham Hill, by Messrs. Phythian-Adams and Hamilton Beattie, and presented by them, with the permission of the Lord of the Manor, Mr. W. R. Phelps. Other antiquities from this famous Hill have been deposited on loan by Dr. R. H. Walter. By purchase the Society has acquired an exceptionally large flint implement of Neolithic type found in West Somerset. Two inscribed sepulchral slabs of lias found at Mynchin Buckland Priory have been deposited by Lord Portman (one of them is figured in *Proceedings*, Vol. x). From Miss A. Evans (since deceased) the Museum re-

ceived a number of ancient Greek coins. Mrs. Whistler has presented to the Museum a collection of stone implements,—some from the west of England, the greater number from British Honduras,—in memory of the late Rev. C. W. Whistler. Twenty-two Crock Street pitchers of the XVIII Century, found in a well in that hamlet, have been given by Mr. R. T. Combe. A banner, pitcher, and brass pole-head of the Barrington Club have been acquired through the kindness of the Rev. Preb. Hamlet. The collections have recently been enriched by several obsolete agricultural and other utensils, now often spoken of as ‘Bygones.’ Mr. C. W. Dymond has presented fifteen of his original drawings of Worlebury Camp and the Stone Circles at Stanton Drew. Among other donors to the Museum the following should be mentioned:—Lady Theodora Guest, Mrs. C. Lance, Miss L. M. Badcock, and Messrs. S. Lawrence, C. Bazell, H. A. Jeboult, A. J. Vickery, W. J. Cullen, and W. de C. Prideaux.

“The re-arrangement of the Library in the rooms now set apart for the Society’s books is steadily progressing, but much yet remains to be done. A few manuscripts have been given during the year; and several useful books have been added by presentation and purchase, including works on architecture by Francis Bond, J. A. Gotch, A. Hamilton Thompson, and H. H. Statham. An arrangement has been made by which the Society has obtained the publications of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society from the beginning. Certain volumes of the Serel Manuscripts relating to Wells have been purchased by the Wells Natural History and Archæological Society, at the suggestion of the Parent Society.

“With the consent of the donor, Mrs. Ewing, a manuscript volume containing a ‘Statement of the Accounts of the Exchequer for 1550-1’ has been presented to the Public Record Office, the Deputy-Keeper having stated that the book formerly belonged to a series preserved in the Pells office, which was destroyed by fire and the contents damaged or dis-

persed. In return the Society has received thirty-five volumes of Calendars of Public Records, including Patent, Close and Fine Rolls, and Inquisitions *post mortem*. These valuable series in the Library are now nearly complete to date.

“Swanton’s ‘Mollusca of Somerset’ can now be obtained from the Society as a separate volume, price 3s. 6d.; and Watson’s ‘Mosses of Somerset’ is also issued at 1s. 6d.

“Mr. T. Chubb, of the Map Department, British Museum, has prepared an exhaustive and descriptive catalogue of the Maps of Somerset, which it is hoped may be published with illustrations. It is likely to cover 200 octavo pages, and it could either be published by instalments in the *Proceedings*, or preferably as a separate volume.

“Your Council is glad to report that the three Natural History Sections of the Society have been increasingly active. The Botanical Section has already done field-work at Castle Neroche and on the peat-moors at Shapwick and Ashcott this year, and will be working at Minehead and Bossington next week. Mr. T. W. Cowan and Miss Cowan are kindly forming a herbarium from the Society’s botanical collections, and the President of the Section, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, is writing a supplement to Murray’s ‘Flora of Somerset.’

“The Entomological Section also has its field-days, and thanks to Mr. H. Doidge, the cabinet for a type collection of Somerset lepidoptera, purchased at a cost of over £20, is to a large extent filled and ticketed. A map will be affixed to this cabinet showing the distribution of the species on the divisional lines adopted in Murray’s ‘Flora.’

“The Ornithological Section—the largest in point of membership—has also been very energetic, and Mr. James Turner, the Recorder, has recently issued to the Section’s members a second series of notes on Somerset Birds. Through the instrumentality of Miss Amy Smith, the Secretary, the Section has raised over £40 (including £5 subscribed by the Society) for purchasing nearly eighty cases of birds, chiefly from West

Somerset and Lundy Island, shot and collected during the past forty years by the late Mr. Charles Haddon of Taunton. They are now exhibited in the Great Hall of the Castle. The Rev. Father Chichester has made some interesting donations to the collection of local birds.

“Your Council has decided to nominate Mr. W. A. E. Ussher to be an honorary member of the Society. During his long connection with the national Geological Survey, he contributed a number of valuable papers illustrated with maps, plans, and sections on the Geology of West Somerset to the *Proceedings*. He has now taken up his residence in the county, and has placed his great knowledge of local geology at the service of the Society. It is hoped that it may be found possible to start a Geological Section, which, in addition to field-work, could examine and assist in the re-arrangement of the extensive collections in the Museum.

“In the last volume of *Proceedings*, pt. i, pp. 90-93, your Council published a Report on the Society's position in regard to the Glastonbury Abbey Excavations, and the steps that had been taken to raise the sum of £124 17s. 6d. to pay off the liabilities which existed last autumn. Your Curator made a great effort to collect the required amount, and the result was both speedy and satisfactory. Since that time your Council, at the suggestion of the acting Abbey Trustees, has appointed a separate Committee, with the Rev. C. H. Heale as Chairman and Mr. St. George Gray as Treasurer, to undertake certain business arrangements, and to raise money to continue the excavation work which Mr. Bligh Bond is directing. Since the Report was published an appeal for donations and annual subscriptions has been issued, but up to the present the response has been disappointing. The sum of only £68 has been received, including a donation of £25 from the Abbey Trustees; but this amount is quite insufficient to carry out the full programme of work in hand and projected for this year, and the Council earnestly appeals to all who are

interested in the world-famed Abbey to do what they can for the continuation of these investigations.

“The fourth season’s excavations at the Meare Lake Village, under the direction of Messrs. Arthur Bulleid and H. St. George Gray, were in progress from May 15th to June 7th. The construction was again highly interesting, and the relics were far more numerous than last season and included a bronze animal. No report on the work will be given at this meeting, but next year a further instalment may be expected.

“In connection with the annual excursions some trial-excavations have been carried out at Cadbury Camp (South Cadbury) under the supervision of Mr. St. George Gray, the result of which will come before the members on Thursday, and be published in the *Proceedings*.

“The Branch and Affiliated Societies, numbering eight, appear to be in a flourishing condition, judging from the number of their excursions and indoor meetings. The Bath Branch recently published their ninth report, and the Lansdown Committee carried out some excavations last September. Archæological exploration has also been continued at Wookey Hole.

“A few weeks ago it came to the knowledge of members of your Society that two of the Brightworthy Barrows on Exmoor had been utterly destroyed in obtaining stone for road-mending. Mr. Gray made an urgent appeal to save the third, and brought the matter before the Earthworks Committee of the Congress of Archæological Societies. Your Council are taking steps and hope to secure the preservation of the remaining barrow. They are marked on the ordnance maps.

“Your Museum was visited by 7,039 visitors last year, compared with 7,137 in 1911. Considering the fact that the admission fee was raised last July to Sixpence on four days in the week (the fee still being Twopence on Thursdays and Saturdays), the experiment is considered very satisfactory and has been the means of slightly increasing your ordinary

income. During the first six months of this year the same proportions have been continued.

“This annual survey of the Society’s work shows that its usefulness is being steadily maintained and better and more widely appreciated every year. The work, not unmingled with anxiety placed on your officers, paid and honorary, is an ever increasing quantity ; and your Council has unanimously decided to ask you to ratify your appreciation of the long term of office of the two senior Secretaries, the Rev. F. W. Weaver and Mr. C. Tite, by conferring on them the position of Vice-Presidents of the Society.”

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, in proposing the adoption of the report, spoke with satisfaction of the great increase in membership of the Society since the last meeting at Castle Cary. As one of the trustees of Glastonbury Abbey, he felt that the excavations that were being conducted by Mr. Bligh Bond on behalf of the Society were not receiving the support that might be expected. He was pleased to see that they were going to recognize the ardent work of the Rev. F. W. Weaver and Mr. C. Tite by electing them vice-presidents of the Society that day.

Mr. J. E. W. WAKEFIELD seconded, and the adoption of the report was agreed to.

Finances.

The printed balance sheet for the year, 1912, which had been sent to all the members with the programme of the meeting, was as follows :—

Treasurers' Account.

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1912.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
By Members' Subscriptions, 1912 (851)	446	15	6
„ Members' Entrance Fees, 1912 (57)	29	18	6
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear (2)	1	1	0
„ Members' Subscriptions in Advance (8)	4	4	0
„ Donations	10	8	0
„ Donation towards Capital Account	5	0	0
„ Woodward Bequest,—Deposit and Interest	131	6	0
„ Interest on Life Compositions	1	1	0
„ Interest on Temporary Deposit	0	19	1
„ Rents	29	3	6
„ Museum Admission Fees	61	7	9
„ Sale of Publications	19	13	11
„ "Somerset Church Towers" (Brereton Fund)	1	17	0
„ Library Fees	0	5	3
Balance	84	1	0

£827 1 6

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance of Former Account	9	1	7
„ Secretarial Expenses, Wellington Meeting	11	17	2
„ Stationery and Printing	10	0	7
„ Fuel and Lighting	33	0	1
„ Purchase of Museum Specimens	22	16	7
„ Purchase of Books	18	1	11
„ Bookbinding	4	4	0
„ Guide Books and "Mollusca"	8	16	4
„ Printing, Binding, Illustrations and Postage, Vol. 57 <i>Proceedings</i>	150	9	5
„ Cabinet for Lepidoptera	20	0	0
„ Repairs, Castle and Museum	60	2	6
„ Museum and Library Extension, for cases, Woodward Bequest (including 82/8, balance of Diamond Jubilee Fund)	103	4	8
„ Excavations, Glastonbury Abbey	2	2	0
„ Curator's Salary	175	0	0
„ Assistant's Wages	37	14	0
„ Attendant's Wages	38	0	0
„ Temporary Assistance and Night Watchman	5	1	6
„ Petty Cash	9	2	10
„ Postal Expenses	14	9	4
„ Subscriptions to Societies	11	4	6
„ Insurance, including Fire	14	6	1
„ Rates and Taxes	51	10	10
„ Repairs to Roads, Paths, etc.	13	16	8
„ Watermain Wayleave	0	1	0
„ Bank Charges	2	17	11

£827 1 6

„ Balance brought down ... £84 1 0

H. J. BADCOCK, } Joint Hon.
REGINALD BOYLE, } Treasurers.

17th Jan., 1913. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors.
H. BYARD SHEPPARD, }

The accounts were received and adopted on the motion of Mr. REGINALD C. BOYLE, Joint Hon. Treasurer, seconded by the Rev. C. H. HEALE.

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 70 new members, who had been provisionally

elected by the Council since the last annual meeting, and their election was confirmed on the motion of the Rev. D. M. Ross, seconded by Mr. W. S. CLARK.

On the motion of Mr. JOHN MORLAND, seconded by Dr. CAREY COOMBS, the Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Treasurers and Hon. Auditors of the Society were re-elected, and Professor Boyd Dawkins, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, and Mr. C. Tite, were added to the list of Vice-Presidents. Mr. W. A. E. Ussher, late of the Geological Survey, was elected an honorary member of the Society.

It was announced that, in accordance with the new Rules of the Society confirmed and revised at the last Annual Meeting, the Council of the Society had been provisionally re-constructed,—Lt.-Col. Chisholm-Batten, the Rev. J. Worthington, and the Rev. A. J. Hook having retired, and the Rev. D. J. Pring elected Local Secretary for North Curry. The names of the Councillors now before the meeting were as follows :—The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price (1904), the Rev. W. T. Reeder (1908), Mr. H. B. Sheppard (1910), Mr. G. P. Chamberlain (1911), the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet (1913), the Rev. C. H. Heale (1913), and Messrs. H. J. Badcock, A. E. Eastwood, H. Franklin, E. Swanwick and F. Were (all 1913).

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN proposed and Mr. C. TITE seconded the resolution that these gentlemen now form the Council of the Society, and this was cordially agreed to.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN, the Secretary, stated that another volume of Quarter Sessions Records had been issued for 1912. It dealt with the troubled times from 1646 to 1660, and he believed that it was the most interesting volume which it had ever been his fortune to edit. For 1913 it had been settled to issue the Register of Bishop Bubwith, 1407-1424, but as the material was too much for one volume,

the Register of Bishop Stafford, 1425-1433, had also been transcribed, and they would be issued in two consecutive volumes. The Council hoped to issue another volume of Star Chamber Proceedings at an early date.

The Presidential Address.

The Right Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE, P.C., then delivered his address. He said :—

At the last meeting of the Society in this town some twenty-three years ago, over which I had the honour to preside, I ventured to give a brief description of the natural and archæological features of this district, which can be read in your *Proceedings*. I have no intention of taking up your time this morning in repeating these remarks, but prefer, if you will allow me, to give you a brief review of the progress made by the Society since my last Presidency, and a few suggestions for the future development of its work.

The number of members has increased in the last twenty-three years from 554 to 892, or by 70 per cent. The buildings of Taunton Castle, the headquarters of your Society, have been greatly improved and renovated, and the collections there largely increased by benefactions and skilfully rearranged by our present Curator. The steadily increasing number of visitors to the museum show that these improvements have been appreciated by the public.

Important excavations at Glastonbury, Meare, Stogursey, Lansdown, Stokeleigh, and other places have been conducted under the supervision of Mr. St. George Gray, Mr. Arthur Bulleid, Mr. Bligh Bond and others, with very interesting and world-wide results.

Great additions have been made to the antiquarian literature of the County. Besides the publications of the Public Record Office, the two volumes of the *Victoria County History* (to which I shall allude later), *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, and the annual output of the Somerset Record

Society, I may mention Green's "*Bibliotheca Somersetensis*," Humphreys' "*Somersetshire Parishes*," the Index to Collinson, and the illustrations and additions to the same work collected by the late Mr. Jerdone Braikenridge; Mr. Weaver's "*Somerset Incumbents*" and "*Heralds' Visitations*," Gerard's Survey for South and West Somerset, "*Feudal Aids*," giving lists of Somerset landowners in the XIV and XV Centuries; Sharp and Marson's Collection of Folk-Songs; and the published Registers of Bath, Bruton, Horsington, Street and Wilton; Phillimore's "*Marriages*" and Jewers' "*Marriage Licenses*." Important manuscripts and cartularies have been added to our collections at Taunton. The muniments at Dunster and Wells have been examined. We have several interesting local histories published by Chancellor Holmes, Prebendary Hancock, Mr. Greswell, Dr. Powell, the late Chancellor Rogers, Lord Hylton and others. Our architectural collections have been enriched by the Pigott collection of drawings, Allen and Brereton on "*Church Towers*," Bligh Bond on "*Screens*," Ellacombe on "*Bells*," Pridham on "*Fonts*," Pooley on "*Crosses*," and Harbin on "*Church Plate*."

Since our last Castle Cary meeting, we have also to record the establishment of three sections of our natural history branch, devoted respectively to botany, entomology and ornithology, all of which have shown considerable vitality. Important papers and memoranda have been published on the geology, flora, mosses, shells, insects, and birds of the County. Although these subjects are rather apt to be overlooked at our annual meetings, when archæology claims the first place, I trust that this branch of our work will receive its due encouragement from all who value the beauties and scientific interest of natural objects.

As a matter of archæology rather than of natural history, I should like here to mention the recent adoption at my suggestion of the Wessex Dragon as the Arms of this County.

This formidable beast, which has figured for many years on the letter paper of your Society, has now taken his permanent place among the legalized heraldic devices of the Counties of England, with the addition of a mace to represent the authority of the Somerset County Council.¹ It is important in these days to emphasize the connection of our County with Wessex, as so many students of Mr. Thomas Hardy's novels are apt to regard the County of Dorset as the proper representative of the old Saxon kingdom. It is interesting to note that, according to some authorities, the Celtic dragon, so well known to readers of Tennyson as the symbol of King Arthur, was adopted by the West Saxons as their national emblem after a defeat they inflicted on the Welsh. Perhaps antiquaries can throw light on this statement which I find recorded in one of Lord Lytton's historical novels.

You will see from this short review of the progress made by our Society in the last twenty-three years that we have advanced all along the line. The growth of interest both in antiquities and natural history, or, as it is now sometimes called, nature study, has not been confined to this County or to members of this Society. I am glad to think that our recent educational developments have introduced into our schools, both elementary and secondary, many handbooks on the local history and topography, which are likely to inspire the young with a permanent interest in the past records and present attractions of our historic and beautiful County, and will form a satisfactory substitute for the somewhat dry histories and geographies of former days.² We may therefore

1. On the 29th December, 1911, the Heralds' College granted the following Coat of Arms to the Chairman, Aldermen and Councillors of the Somerset County Council:—"Or, a Dragon rampant Gules holding in the Claws a Mace erect Azure," and the motto "Sumorsæte Ealle." This is now embodied in the County Council's corporate seal.

2. These studies will be greatly assisted by some of the practical studies now in vogue in our schools; e.g., the drawing, modelling and surveying of the country districts adjoining the school; botanical and geological excursions; visits to old buildings and collections of natural objects.

hope to see the rising generation take a keener and more thorough interest in our subjects than their forefathers did.

But, while we have much to hope from recent changes, there are also serious grounds for apprehension. The general spread of school instruction tends to extinguish many peculiarities of dialect and language, many survivals of folk songs, legends and traditions, which are dear to the antiquary. The increasing wealth of our monied classes and the higher standard of our sanitation threatens many of our ancient and most interesting buildings with destruction, or those tasteless restorations which are almost as bad as destruction. The enthusiasm of the naturalist, especially the juvenile collector, bids fair to extinguish some of our rarer plants and birds if no steps are taken to safeguard their existence. For all these reasons, it is incumbent on every supporter of this Society to exert himself to preserve both the historical and the natural interests of this and other neighbourhoods.

I propose to supplement these observations by indicating three directions in which this Society may move, in addition to its ordinary propaganda by way of excursions, papers and publications.

Firstly, it may do more than it has done in the past to preserve the relics of our ancient buildings, including in this term the numerous and important earthworks in this County. Within twenty miles of this town there is more than one important ruin which is suffering rapid decay and will soon disappear, if public opinion is not brought to bear on the owner of the building.¹ There has also been at least one recent case in which a venerable and picturesque structure has been spoilt by the hand of the modern builder. It is for a Society like ours to protest against such acts of vandalism. Very little use has yet been made in this County of the powers vested in

1. I would instance Nunney Castle and the dovecot at Bruton, to which I have drawn the attention of the Council, and on which a report will be made to the evening meeting.

public authorities to purchase and protect ancient monuments. It is to be hoped that the Bill now before the House of Lords will be passed into law,¹ as it will empower public authorities to purchase by agreement and make orders for the preservation of ancient remains in danger of destruction. A somewhat scanty list of such remains was recently drawn up by the Council of this Society at the request of the Records Committee of the County Council, and forwarded to the First Commissioner of Works. This list might well be amplified.

I should like in connection with this to draw the attention of the Society to the importance of co-operating with this County Council Committee, which contains several ardent antiquaries, and has already rendered such valuable assistance by tabulating and preparing for publication the Records of Quarter Sessions.

Secondly, I would urge on you the importance of assisting and inciting the public authorities and private landowners to protect the fauna and flora and natural beauties of the County. Here again our County Council has done important work by passing by-laws to protect the rarer wild birds, to establish bird sanctuaries on Brean Down and the coast of West Somerset, to prohibit the wanton destruction of wild flowers in public places, and to forbid the erection of advertisements disfiguring the natural beauty of the scenery. These latter by-laws, which were at first confined to Cheddar and some of the more beautiful roads of West Somerset, have recently been extended to all the public roads, canals, and railways outside the larger towns, with certain necessary exceptions for existing advertisements during the next five years. At the end of that time I hope a serious effort will be made to clear the County of all disfiguring advertisements not attached to buildings.

1. The Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act, 1913 [3 & 4 Geo. V, ch. 32], was passed subsequently to the Castle Cary Meeting, viz., in August, 1913.—ED.

I may add that I have had a recent appeal from a newly formed Society for the promotion of Nature Preserves, to indicate spots in the County which might be preserved in perpetuity for the rarer fauna and flora. The suggestion is that they shall be purchased or leased from the landowner and vested in the National Trust under proper guardianship. The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, founded in 1895, is now incorporated under Act of Parliament for the purpose of holding for the public good places of historic or architectural interest and places of striking natural beauty.

Among some forty lands, buildings and monuments already vested in this body, the following places occur within the ambit of your Society :—

Barrington Court, a beautiful example of Tudor domestic architecture, near Ilminster.

The Coleridge Cottage at Nether Stowey, occupied by the poet from 1777 to 1800.

Leigh Woods, Bristol, about 80 acres in extent, and including the Nightingale Valley.

Cheddar Cliffs, 70 acres in extent, including the quarry in the centre of the gorge.

Muchelney, the old Priest's House of the XIV Century.

Of these properties, some were presented, but the majority were purchased by public subscription. Perhaps some members of the Society may be able to make proposals on this subject. The only places which have been so far suggested to me as suitable for preservation are the Steep Holm and the Beach at Porlock.

The third and last direction in which I would suggest further efforts is the preparation of a complete series of parish histories. In the year 1890, at our last meeting in this town, I submitted to the Society a scheme for such an object, which was adopted, but not, I fear, put into execution, although possibly the suggestions then made may have borne some fruit

in certain quarters. We now have to deal with a different situation, as two volumes of the *Victoria County History* have already been completed, and the general chapters have mostly been written, some adequately, some, in my opinion, most inadequately. I do not wish to criticize too closely such a meritorious undertaking, but I cannot help saying that better results would have been attained if some of the writers employed had been in closer touch with members of our Society, and made more use of local knowledge and local collections. However, it is no good crying over spilt milk. What we have to do is to see that the remaining volumes, which will, if the publishers carry out their present intention, be produced a few years hence, contain a complete record of the historical and natural objects of our several parishes. With a view to assisting in this effort, I have within the last few weeks presumed to address some questions to your local secretaries, in order to ascertain how far the ground had been covered. I have no time to-day to give you a complete analysis of the result of my enquiries, but I am prepared to place this in the hands of your Council, and I think they will come to the same conclusion as I did, namely, that while many parts of the County have been carefully studied and much material exists, both in actually published documents and in materials for publication, a great deal more organization and labour is required if the gaps are to be filled up and the County treated adequately as a whole. We must appeal therefore to those men and women who have sufficient interest in our subjects and sufficient leisure to pursue them, to carry out the work, within their several areas, on the lines laid down by the editors of the *County History*. The first step to be taken would be to delimit the districts of the local secretaries, and find a responsible person in each district to supervise the task. In addition to obtaining the information required by the editors of the *County History*, he should make it his business to ascertain whether any old documents not hitherto published exist in his district, and to get

permission for their examination and use by a competent authority. I may in this connection mention that I have just received from Lord St. Audries, permission to examine the Palmer MSS. at St. Audries, and I have no doubt there are other owners of old documents who, if properly approached, would be willing to lend them to the Society.

I hope by these remarks I have not produced the impression that I in any way undervalue or depreciate the devoted and public-spirited work that has been done by your Society in the past and by such writers as Sir H. Maxwell Lyte and Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, by antiquaries like Professor Haverfield and Professor Boyd Dawkins, by geologists such as the Rev. H. H. Winwood and Mr. J. McMurtrie, and by such local historians, architects and excavators as we are fortunate enough to have in Somerset. I have only submitted these criticisms and suggestions with a view, not to depreciate the past, but to stimulate your Society to still further exertions in the future.

The President was cordially thanked for his Address on the proposition of Sir CHARLES CHADWYCK-HEALEY, seconded by Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS.

The Round House, Castle Cary.

Luncheon was served at the Britannia Hotel at 1 o'clock. Before the carriages left the town at 2 p.m., some of the members had an opportunity of seeing the old Round House, or lock-up, in the middle of the market place, Bailey Hill (see Plate). This is best explained by giving the following extract from the Overseers' Account Book :—

“ At a Vestry held this 10th day of June, 1779, at the Angel Inn¹ in Castle Cary, pursuant to Notice given (for the purpose following) in the Parish Churches of Castle Cary and Ansford, it is agreed, that the Ten Pounds transferable from Overseer to Overseer of the Poor in the Parish of Castle Cary and

1. Not the present Angel Inn, but the house in which Miss Phelps now resides.



THE ROUND HOUSE, CASTLE CARY.

BUILT A. D. 1779.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Allen (1906).



the Two Pounds transferable from Churchwarden to Churchwarden be laid out in part to erect a House of Confinement for Persons guilty of Felonies and other misdemeanors in the Tything of Castle Cary and Ansford until they are brought to Justice, in order to save the expence of a Guard and other expences generally arising on those occasions. And the Parish of Ansford do promise to pay their proportionable share for doing the same, and that the Parish Stocks be charg'd with the payment of the Interest for the use of the Church and Poor according to the Will of the Donors. And it is agreed that the said House be built on the spot where the Tree stands on Baily Hill, and to be round, and to be Seven Feet Diameter in the clear, to be arched over, and to be Ten Feet high to the Arch, and to have two Iron Gates for conveying fresh air just under the Eves or Cornish. And that Mr. William Clark is appointed to carry the same into Execution on the best Terms he can.

Thos. Woodford, *Steward* } *of the Manor of Castle Cary.*
W. Clarke, *Steward*

R. Thomas, *Curate.*

Jonan. Crocker, *Churchwarden* } *of Castle Cary.*
Jno. Burge, *Overseer*

David Maby, *Churchwarden of Almsford.*

Robt. White, *Overseer of Almsford.*

Jos. Francis,

Thos. Austin Burge,

Seth Burge,

Richd. Clarke,

Geo. Dukes,

John Tidcomb,

Saml. Burge,

Geo. Pew,

Thos. Field.

The Round House was built according to the above order and cost £23."

There is a somewhat similar "Round House" at Kingsbury Episcopi, but it is of octagonal form.

Ditcheat Church.

At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat, the Rev. C. E. Leir, Rector of the parish, gave an interesting and humorous address dealing with the history of the building and his own early reminiscences of the services as then conducted. The following description is based on this address and on the accounts given in earlier volumes of the *Proceedings*.¹

The Church is cruciform in plan with a central tower, of which the lower portion is late XII Century and the oldest portion of the building now standing. The chancel was rebuilt in the XIII Century, "the windows being beautiful

1. Freeman, XIII, i, 25; Ferrey, XXIV, i, 48, illustration of Church; Buckle, XXX, i, 26.

specimens of geometrical tracery, of a character rare in this county, but presenting a considerable resemblance to some of the work at Tintern (*c.* 1280), and they are further adorned by boldly foliated arches on the inner wall-face" (Buckle). In the latter part of the XV Century the nave and transepts were rebuilt, and the tower raised a stage higher, for otherwise it would have been invisible. The low and heavy arches were left, forming a barrier between nave and chancel, the transepts being connected by two large squints reaching down to the level of the floor. The beauty of the chancel seems to have preserved it from destruction, and as at the neighbouring church of Pilton, the walls were raised to range with the transepts and nave, and a row of clerestory windows inserted. On the parapet above are carved shields bearing the arms of Bishop Stillington, 1466-91, Abbot Selwood, 1457-93, and Dean Gunthorp,¹ 1465-98. The work was therefore contemporary with that at Pilton carried out by precentor Overay, 1471-98. Some fragments of painted glass still remain in the windows, the figures of St. James and St. Philip appearing in the south aisle. The beautiful tie-beam roof does not deserve the strictures of Professor Freeman, who to make amends in 1865 waxed enthusiastic over the fittings of the choir, of which the pulpit and reading-desk still survive, but the screen has disappeared. In the north aisle is a board painted with elaborate armorial bearings of Robert Hopton, *ob.* 1638, whose house, though altered, still stands on the north side of the churchyard.

Wyke Champflower Chapel.

The party then proceeded to Wyke Champflower where the Chapel of the Holy Trinity was visited. The Rev. J. R. DUMMELOW gave the Society a hearty welcome, and stated

1. He left 20*li.* to provide ornaments for the use of the high altar here. *S.R.S.*, XVI, 361.

that the Chapel was in need of some cleaning and restoration, which he hoped would shortly be undertaken.

The Rev. E. H. BATES HARBIN said the earliest reference to the Chapel was contained in two documents in the Chartulary of Bruton Abbey, nos. 64, 65.¹ Late in the XII Century, Henry de Campoflorido and Hymana, his wife, granted half a virgate of land in Wike to the Church of Bruton in almon. By a later charter the canons of Bruton grant that the Chapel of Wice, which was built in the time of the late war, shall remain, and they will celebrate a mass there every Tuesday, and on the feast day of the Chapel, or on the day of St. Michael. In return, Luke de Campoflorido granted to them one virgate and one ferling which anciently belonged to the Church of Bruton. From the list of witnesses it is most probable that the war was that waged between King John and the nation. The charter was confirmed by Bishop Jocelin in 1218 (no. 65). The present building dates from the XVII Century, when Henry Southworth, lord of the manor, rebuilt the Chapel in 1624, as an annexe to the manor-house.

An account of the architecture, with an illustration of the exterior, and of the heraldry which fills the east window and covers the walls, will be found in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, VI, 101.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER read the account of the consecration of the rebuilt Chapel, printed by Hearne (1774) as an appendix to Leland's *Collectanea*, iv, 384-393.

Hadspen House.

A pleasant drive from Wyke, *viâ* the western outskirts of Bruton, brought the members to Hadspen House, where they were entertained to Tea by the President and Mrs. Hobhouse, who were warmly thanked for their kind hospitality. The

1. Printed in *S.R.S.*, VIII, 14. The first charter is given in full in *Patent Rolls*, 1389.

members had the advantage of seeing the beautiful grounds, and eighty-four of their number were photographed in a group by Mr. M. Cooper, of Taunton.

The President has at Hadspen House two Roman coins of bronze ("third brass") which do not appear to have been recorded previously, but other Roman remains are mentioned in *V.C.H. Somerset*, I, 320, from the same part of Bratton St. Maur, namely, Cattle Hill (not Castle, as given in *V.C.H.*). The remains listed in *V.C.H.* are said to have been found in 1832. Mr Hobhouse's coins, described below, are marked as being found in "Blackland's" field, Cattle Hill, 1834.—H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

(1) Constantine I, A.D. 306—337. *Obv.*—CONS(TANTINOPOLIS); head to l. Bust of personification of Constantinople. *Rev.*—Victory on prow of vessel.

(2) Constantine II, A.D. 317-337. *Obv.*—CONSTANTINVS IVN. NOB. C.; laureated head to r. *Rev.*—CAESARVM NOSTRORVM. VOT. X. within a wreath. Exergue STR (Trèves)—*In fine condition.*

Evening Meeting.

After the Annual Dinner at the Britannia Hotel, a Meeting for the reading of Papers was held at the Town Hall, the chair being taken by the President.

Bruton Columbarium.

At the Annual Meeting in the morning, on the proposition of the President, a sub-Committee, consisting of Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, Mr. J. E. W. Wakefield and Mr. J. Cooke Hurle, was appointed to inspect that afternoon and report upon the condition of the Bruton Dovecot (the property of Sir Henry Hoare, Bart.), with a view to its possible repair if thought worthy of preservation.

At the Evening Meeting Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey brought the following report before the members of the Society, and it was resolved that the building was not of sufficient archæological interest to claim the Society's attention :—

"Your Committee have made a careful inspection of this building and have to report as follows ;—

"The building had originally two floors above the ground

floor. One of the floor joists to the top floor is still in place. A chamfered beam in the ground floor, which apparently corresponds in level with a projecting stone over the entrance, inside, would seem to indicate the position of the ceiling of the ground floor.

"There are remains of internal plastering on the walls of both floors. The windows were probably, if not certainly, glazed. The sockets of the iron bars are visible, and one window of the ground floor has the wooden window seat of comparatively thin board still *in situ*. Such would hardly have been fitted if the window had not been glazed.

"There were no signs visible to us of chimneys or stairs. It may be that the upper floors were approached by an internal stair of wood which has disappeared.

"As pointed out by Mr. Pictor in his report, the corners of the building have been filled in with rough masonry at some date later than the erection of the tower. These buildings serve to carry the range of nesting-places.

"Incorporated in the structure are stones which have clearly come from some other building.

"The entrance door was secured from the outside at some period of its history, and the remains of an iron bolt are to be seen in the stone jamb. We did not discover traces of internal fastenings.

"We are of opinion that the building was not originally erected as a dove-cote. We are further of opinion that it was erected not earlier than the XVII Century, and that probably some of the materials were derived from the old monastic buildings."

At the suggestion of the Rev. F. W. Weaver, the Council appointed another sub-Committee on September 12, 1913, consisting of Mr. F. Bligh Bond, the Rev. D. L. Hayward and the Rev. F. W. Weaver, to make a further report on the subject.

On November 10, 1913, Mr. Hayward and Mr. Weaver

visited the Columbarium; Mr. Bligh Bond was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending. They discussed the report of the President's Committee, but disagreed with the last paragraph, believing that though the building may have been used later for other purposes, the nests, etc., showed that it was originally built for an ancient columbarium.

Glastonbury Abbey.

In the absence of Mr. F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., his paper on "Evidences of a Hidden Symbolism in the Plan of Glastonbury Abbey" was read by the Rev. F. W. Weaver. A full report on this subject is held over pending further investigation, as the matter is in a preliminary stage of research. The following résumé has, however, been contributed by Mr. Bond, and readers are recommended to refer to the general plan of the Abbey, lined with squares of 74 feet, which accompanies the Abbey Excavations Report in Part II of this volume:—

The study of the leading dimensions of the Abbey Church and buildings, as a result of the past few years' excavation work, revealed a curious series of dimensions, recurring with great persistency, often in consecutive measurements. These dimensions were sometimes found as multiples of thirty-seven feet, but also fractionally, as would be the result of the use of an unit of 37 inches, giving fractional dimensions when expressed in feet.

The recurrence of such dimensions in consecutive series seemed to suggest that the whole plan of the Abbey, including church and monastic buildings, might be found to be planned on a basis of commensurate squares, as many of the mediæval churches are known to be.

What appeared to be novel about the present instance would be the following:—

- (1). The applicability of a general system of geometric

units to the whole group of buildings, rather than to a single building.

(2). The choice of so remarkable an unit as 37 (feet or inches).

A network of equal squares was prepared on fine tracing paper, and laid over the plan, and the result showed a general coincidence of line over the whole area. Whether this was the result of chance coincidence or otherwise remained to be proved, and proof was sought by the following methods:—

(a). The application of a similar test to plans of other mediæval ecclesiastical buildings.

(b). The analysis of results arising from the trial of other and arbitrary systems of squares, not in relation to the unit of 37 feet or inches.

Both these methods were tried with the following results:—

(1). The critical dimensions have been found quite general in their occurrence in other buildings.

(2). Seven other systems of squares, either slightly smaller, or slightly larger, than the critical series, were applied to the plan of Glastonbury, and the average of coincidences worked out.

The general average number of coincidences arising from the application of these squares worked out at 1.46 for each series in the various positions chosen—on lines traversing the whole group of buildings from E. to W., or from N. to S.

But the squared network which was based upon the critical dimension (in this case, the interior width of the Nave of the Abbey), *i.e.* 74 feet, or 888 inches, gave a general average of coincidences amounting to 3.28 per position, an enormous preponderance.

The result appears all the more striking when it is stated that only nine consecutive lines of the network of 74 feet could be applied to the extreme length of the plan, so that of these, upwards of 36 per cent., as will be noted, fell in coincidence with the principal lines of the plan.

The facts determined by this preliminary research must be held unquestionably to demonstrate the presence of these figures in a relationship which precludes all chance, but the explanation of their presence can only be obtained by further research, since it is possible to frame many theories to account for them.

Having regard to the large amount of numerical symbolism which is known to have been interwoven with the details and the disposition of parts, in the buildings of the earlier mediæval period (*vide* "Durandus" on Symbolism), and with those of a more advanced period (as may be gleaned from Cesariano's "Vitruvius," and from Professor Cockerell's studies of the works of William of Wykeham), we have a fair *a priori* case for considering the question warranted, whether such symbolism may not be found to express itself in the general dimensions of buildings as well as in the ordering and proportion of their details. It may be readily shown in this connection that the number 37 had a place of special importance in the numerical symbolism of the older Christian schools, especially with the Greeks, from whom many of the more mystical traditions of the old building schools were derived.

But until the actual standard of measurement employed by the XII Century masons has been satisfactorily determined, and the original intention of the builders of such works as Glastonbury Abbey clearly defined as regards the dimensions they framed, it would be unsafe to claim more than a reasonable hearing for the facts which might be adduced in favour of the "symbolic" theory. The subject of the standards of measurement for buildings of the Middle Ages is one which has been greatly neglected, and which at this moment remains in a state of obscurity. Professor Petrie, whose authority on such questions as this enables him to speak with special weight, points out that the Germanic foot of 13.22 inches would be that which was most commonly employed in England at the period named, and the use of this foot would give re-

sults approximating to such a standard as is found in Glastonbury Abbey, if expressed in English feet. For example:—The length of the Refectory at Glastonbury was 111 feet (*i.e.* 3 times 37 feet). Now 111 feet is 1332 inches, and the length thus contains just over 100 feet of the Germanic standard, or exactly 100 feet of 13·32 inches. In Nicholson's "Men and Measures" will also be found a record of an ell of 37 inches in use in the same period, and Mr. F. S. Hockaday of Lydney, who has examined many old documents from the XI to the XVII Centuries, says that the extra inch was habitually added thus to the yard of 36 inches in land measurement, making the yard 37 inches in length. The added inch is described as the *pollex interpositus*, or "thumb-breadth," interposed between each yard of ground conveyed.

The whole question demands full research, and especially with regard to buildings, and an exhaustive analysis of the dimensions of all original features, small and large, must be made, to determine the actual standard of measurement employed.

Somerset Scratch Dials.

Another paper on "The Scratch Dials on our Somerset Churches" was given by the Rev. E. HORNE, O.S.B., of Downside Abbey, and is printed, with illustrations, in Part II of this volume.

Mr. R. W. Martin kindly lent and manipulated his lantern for illustrating the papers.