

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1915.

THE Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton on Tuesday, July 20th. In consequence of the War, the Council decided not to have any excursions this year, but arranged for a single-day meeting to be held chiefly for business purposes. The proceedings being held at headquarters afforded members of the Society an opportunity of inspecting the Museum and Buildings, and seeing the alterations and additions effected in the Castle since the Society's Diamond Jubilee Celebration at Taunton in 1908.

Of these improvements it should be mentioned that the southern part of the Castle, which was formerly fitted up for the residence of the Curator, has been converted into two large rooms,—the upper one for the main portion of the Library and Reading Room, the lower for the exhibition of Coins, Medals, Tokens, Pewter, Silver, Lighting Appliances and Early Writing. These rooms are now to a very large extent filled. There is also a smaller book room, and a strong-room underneath for manuscripts and valuables.

A meeting of the Council was held at Taunton Castle at 10.45 a.m., and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the Municipal Hall (through the kindness of the Mayor of Taunton, Councillor G. Hinton), at which there was a good attendance.

The Rev. Preb. E. H. BATES HARBIN, one of the Vice-Presidents and Hon. Secretaries, occupied the chair at the beginning of the proceedings, and was supported by the Very Rev. Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, F.S.A., Dean of Wells, Mr. A. F. Somerville (a Vice-President), Mr. H. J. Badcock (Hon. Treasurer), the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., and Mr. Charles Tite (Vice-Presidents and Hon. Secretaries), the Rev. H. H. Winwood, F.G.S. (a Vice-President), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (Assistant-Secretary and Curator).

Prebendary BATES HARBIN proposed the re-election of the Rt. Hon. Earl Waldegrave as President of the Society for the ensuing year, and expressed regret that his lordship was unable to be present.

Mr. W. S. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. BATES HARBIN then proposed that the senior Vice-President, Mr. A. F. Somerville, should occupy the chair at that meeting.

Mr. C. TITE seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE then took the chair and said that no one regretted more than he did the absence of Lord Waldegrave, who, he was sure, would have been present had it been possible. Their proceedings that day would be of a formal character, because the Society thought that this year it would not be fitting to have excursions, and that even had such been arranged few members would have felt inclined to join. At the same time it was considered unwise to break the continuity of the work of the Society by dropping the annual meeting. The volume of *Proceedings* would be published as usual; and they would learn from the annual report that in spite of the war they had been continuing the very useful work which the Society had been doing for so many years.

The Annual Report.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Assistant-Secretary and Curator, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“ In presenting the sixty-seventh annual report, your Council wishes to state that since its last report 25 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses caused by death have been heavier than usual, and there have been a few resignations as a result of the war, but some of these subscriptions have only been dropped temporarily by a small proportion of those on active service. The total membership at date is about 905, against 924 at the time of the Annual Meeting last year. This is the first set-back in membership since the new century began, and the small net loss is entirely due to the war. At the Diamond Jubilee Meeting at Taunton in 1908, the membership was 767.

“ Your Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year (in each case the date in brackets is the date of the member's election) :—

“ The Rev. Dr. T. W. Jex-Blake, F.S.A., formerly Headmaster of Rugby and Dean of Wells, who died on July 2nd, was elected a member of your Society in 1891, and in 1894 wrote for the *Proceedings* a paper entitled “ Historical Notices of Robert Stillington.” In 1902 he became President of the Society at the large meeting held at Glastonbury, and at the termination of that office he became one of your Vice-Presidents.

“ The Rev. Canon Church, F.S.A., sub-dean of Wells, who died on February 9th at the ripe age of 92 years, was elected a member as early as 1863 ; in 1888 he became a Local Secretary for Wells, and a Vice-President on the occasion of the Wells Meeting in 1909. He had a great veneration for the Chapter Library and the fabric of Wells Cathedral. Of his books perhaps the best known is ‘ Chapters in the Early History of Wells.’ Most of his papers were published by the Society of Antiquaries and by your own Society.

“ Mr. F. F. Fox, F.S.A., of Yate (1874), who died on May 30th at the age of 82 years, frequently attended the Society's meetings. He possessed a fine library, including minute books

of several of the old Bristol Guilds, on which subject he was an authority.

“Major W. Barrett (1872), who died at Moredon, North Curry, on October 10th in his 92nd year, entertained members of your Society at his residence in 1872 and again in 1898.

“Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Chisholm-Batten, of Thornfalcon (1892), who died on March 17th, was a Trustee of your Society from 1897, and was at one time a member of the Finance Committee.

“Mr. Ernest Swanwick, of Milverton (1904), during his short residence in Somerset, became considerably interested in the work of your Society. He was elected a local secretary in 1907 and a member of the Council and Finance Committee in 1913.

“Mr. H. Franklin (1876), who died on April 5th, was keenly interested in the Museum and in making the work of the Society known. He became a member of the Council in 1903, and during a large number of years he added considerably to the Museum exhibits.

“Mr. F. A. Knight (1890) died at Winscombe on February 11th a few days after his book entitled ‘The Heart of Mendip’ was published; this is a companion volume to ‘The Seaboard of Mendip’ which was issued in 1902. He was intensely interested in the history of the county and especially Mendip.

“The Rev. Preb. H. G. Hellier (1897) will be missed at the annual meetings and excursions of the Society.

“Mr. J. Houghton Spencer (1871) was for many years architect to your Society, and perhaps nobody knew the ancient architectural details of old Taunton and the Castle better than he did. He made excellent plans of the Castle, and wrote an illustrated paper for your Society entitled ‘Structural Notes on Taunton Castle.’

“Your Society has also sustained the losses of:—Lady Smyth (1911), Miss K. Spiller (1881), Miss M. E. McGowan (1912), the Rev. Preb. W. Yorke Fausset (1911), the Rev. Canon Wadman (1908), the Rev. Preb. T. C. Dupuis (1877), Colonel J. Perry (1891), Mr. William Poole (1898), Mr. J. Merrick Head (1914), Mr. W. Gough (1889), Mr. Daniel Badcock (1879), and Mr. Josiah Lewis (1896).

“The deficit on your Society’s General Account at the end

of 1913 was £100 10s. 6d. At the close of 1914 the deficit had increased to £124 5s. 0d. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired, or on the other hand any unpaid subscriptions, taken into account. Independently of the general account your Society has a Capital Account (life membership fees) amounting to £72 11s. 0d., a Book Fund of £107 7s. 0d. (the interest on which is spent on new books), and a balance in hand on the Woodward Fund of £186 3s. 3d. (which, in accordance with the bequest, is used as required for special Museum and Library improvements).

“The total expenses attending the issue of Volume LX of the *Proceedings* (for 1914), including printing, illustrations and delivery, have been £117 3s. 2d. During the three previous years the volume had cost about £150 per annum, and the Editorial and Finance Committees have found it necessary, at any rate for the present, to recommend the reduction of that amount. Your stock of volumes of the *Proceedings* has recently been looked over and sorted. Members can make their sets complete by communicating with the Curator.

“A Committee has recently been formed to consider the preparation and publication of a General Index to the Society's *Proceedings*, Vols. I to LX,—the third series of twenty volumes having now been published. The old Index, Vols. I to XX, is far from exhaustive, and the second Index, Vols. XXI to XL, is not uniform with the first. If a combination of voluntary workers can be obtained to index the sixty volumes under a system to be devised by the Committee, it is hoped that a first-rate Index may in due course be issued to those who will give the publication the necessary monetary support.

“During last winter it was found necessary to renew two of the heating-furnaces at the Castle. This has involved an expenditure of £44 8s. 0d. Your buildings generally are in a good state of repair, with the exception of the house on the west side of your property known as Castle Lodge, a part of the northern wall of which has had to be supported by heavy timbers. It is still tenanted, but may perhaps be pulled down at the expiry of the lease, as it is of no antiquarian value. It was found necessary last year to repair and re-decorate a room adjoining the Castle House, which will be used for the storage

of Museum specimens. Another store-room in which the publications of your Society are kept has been cleared out and the contents sorted. A third and larger store-room is also being cleared ; in this room it is proposed to keep the books belonging to the Library which are infrequently referred to.

“ As for some years past, the contents of your Museum have received a good deal of attention. The collections of Ham Hill antiquities which were separated to a large extent in the Somerset Room have been brought together, re-arranged and re-labelled. The ticketing of the Haddon and Walter Collections of Birds has been completed, and the greater part of the Bidgood Collection of Birds has been re-labelled. A large number of new acquisitions have been dealt with and placed in the various series to which they belong. But most of the time devoted to Museum work this year has been bestowed on the cleaning, identification, and labelling of the exhibits in the Coin Room ; and the arrangement of the tokens, trade-checks, bank-notes and medals is approaching completion.

“ There has been no falling-off in the acquisition of Museum specimens. In the first place your Society owes a further debt of gratitude to one of its secretaries and vice-presidents, Mr. Charles Tite, who has presented his valuable collections of Somerset Trade Tokens, Trade-checks, and Medals, which he has spent many years in acquiring. In consequence of this your Society now possesses one of the finest series of Somerset tokens of the XVII Century which has ever been brought together. The Coin Department has also been enriched by a number of English coins presented by the Rev. W. T. Reeder ; and one of the most interesting donations is that which comes from Mr. W. R. Phelps, consisting of one of the three earthenware pots found in 1882 at Bedmore Barn, Ham Hill ; they contained several hundreds of Roman ‘first brass’ coins. Mr. Phelps’ gift includes 435 of the coins forming a large part of the whole hoard. This acquisition is all the more important as your Museum already contained another of these pots, together with a good number of the coins from the hoard in the Walter and Norris Collections. Mr. A. V. Cornish has placed on deposit another series of antiquities from Ham Hill

found by him recently. By purchase the Museum has acquired some of the local objects which comprised part of the little museum brought together by Mr. G. James at the London Inn, Wellington. Among the donors to the Museum the following should also be mentioned:—Mrs. F. A. Knight, Mrs. W. R. Phelps, Mr. C. Tite, Dr. C. B. Stewart, Miss Talbot, and Mr. W. J. Cullen.

“The re-arrangement of the Library has been in progress during the year, but much yet remains to be done in the Reading Room provided for members in the Diamond Jubilee year (1908) before the Society’s manuscript catalogue of books can be revised. The Serel manuscripts have been arranged in the strong-room and numbered. During the year a valuable donation of historical and other works, including the illustrated edition of Green’s ‘Short History of the English People,’ has been made by Miss Charlotte Winch. Mr. C. Tite has added many more volumes to his collection of Somerset books. Through the kindness of Miss Fry of Curry Rivel and the Rev. G. W. Saunders your Society has acquired a large number of Court Rolls and Stewards’ Accounts, from the XIV down to the XVII Century, belonging to the Manor of Curry Rivel. Other documents relating to the county have been presented to the Library by Mrs. G. W. Saunders, Mrs. T. Holt, and Major T. L. Walsh. Mr. E. A. Fry has compiled a general index to the six printed volumes of Brown’s ‘Somerset Wills.’ The Exeter Diocesan Architectural and Archæological Society has kindly presented its publications from the beginning, but there are a few missing parts. Printed books, etc., chiefly of local interest, have also been given by the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Mr. F. H. Knight, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Miss L. M. Badcock, the late Mr. C. W. Dymond, and others. Burke’s ‘Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland,’ 1912–1914, has been purchased.

“The Royal Commission on Public Records is now investigating the condition of collections of records outside London, and the secretary, Mr. Hubert Hall, F.S.A., of the Public Record Office, has paid a visit to the Castle. He expressed himself highly satisfied with the strong-room recently provided, and with the arrangements generally for preserving the manuscript

collections of your Society. The Rev. Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin gave evidence before the Commission recently regarding the collections of your Society, the records of the Manor of Taunton Deane (preserved in the Exchequer of the Castle under the charge of the steward, Mr. H. Byard Sheppard), and the County Records in the Shire Hall.

“Dr. Alfred C. Fryer, F.S.A., has undertaken to draw up an inventory of the monumental effigies remaining in the county and he will kindly provide the illustrations. It is hoped to publish this inventory in parts in the Society’s *Proceedings*.

“Since the last annual meeting your Society has published ‘A Descriptive List of the Printed Maps of Somersetshire, 1572–1914,’ illustrated by sixteen plates and bound in cloth. The Society takes the opportunity of expressing their cordial thanks to Mr. T. Chubb, of the Map Room, British Museum, the compiler of this work, for having placed his manuscript at the disposal of your Society. There are still a good number of copies of this work for sale, price 10s. *net* (to be obtained at Taunton Castle).

“The work of the three Natural History Sections of your Society is still developing ; and it is difficult to say which has been the most active. All of them have held most satisfactory excursions during the past few months and their records are being kept by their own officers in a systematic manner. It will be proposed to-day that the President of each of these Sections should, as such, become members of the Council of your Society.

“The Botanical Section has made some new records for the county and the President, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., has presented a number of rare Somerset plants to the Museum, Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., has now completed the mounting and labelling of the Franklin Parsons Collection, and is still working at the general collection and bringing the specimens into a state of order and usefulness.

“The Entomological Section at their annual meeting made a grant towards providing a cabinet for the British Insects (natural orders) specially collected and arranged for the Museum by Mr. F. Milton, of White Ball, near Wellington. The work has recently been completed ; and this cabinet and that

containing the series of Somerset Lepidoptera may now be seen in the Great Hall of the Castle.

“The Ornithological Section has recently made a grant for the purpose of having certain birds cleaned and set up afresh. They have also been active in forming the nucleus for a collection of Somerset Birds’ Eggs, for which, in due course, it is hoped that a suitable cabinet will be provided.

“Owing to the war the proposed work of the newly formed Somerset Earthworks Committee is in abeyance; but it is hoped that some surveying will be done during this summer—in preparation for excavations later.

“Last September the excavation of the field belonging to Miss E. Counsell and forming part of the Meare Lake Village was completed, the work being carried out on behalf of your Society and the British Association under the direction of Dr. Bulleid and Mr. H. St. George Gray. A large number of Late-Celtic antiquities including a white-metal amulet and brooches of the earliest and latest types found in the lake-villages, were collected, and through the kindness of Miss Counsell are now exhibited in your Museum. Very little of the Meare pottery—some elaborately ornamented—has yet been repaired. A report upon the recent work will be presented at the Manchester Meeting of the British Association this year.

“The printing of Vol. II on ‘The Glastonbury Lake-village’ has just been begun, and it is hoped that the work will be completed at the time of the next annual meeting of your Society.

“The excavations at Glastonbury Abbey are still being continued in the area east of the Refectory and south of the Chapter House. Many interesting things have been found, but until further work has been done it is impossible to arrive at any definite conclusion with regard to the remains of walling, etc., already laid bare. As Mr. Bligh Bond is unable to give so much time as formerly to the work, Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid has kindly undertaken the general supervision on the spot under Mr. Bond’s direction.

“The Bath Branch of your Society has published its eleventh illustrated report, which contains several interesting notes on the archæology of the Bath district.

“Your Museum was visited by 5,458 persons last year, a decrease of 1,289 as compared with 1913,—this being due to the war.

“In accordance with Rule II, one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. Prebendary Hamlet, the Rev. C. H. Heale, Mr. H. J. Badcock, and Mr. A. E. Eastwood, all of whom offer themselves for re-election. The vacancies on the Council caused by the death of Mr. E. Swanwick and Mr. H. Franklin have been filled, subject to the approval of this meeting, by Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton and Dr. W. B. Winckworth.”

The DEAN OF WELLS (Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, F.S.A.), said the Society was greatly to be congratulated upon the steady progress of the museum in such very competent hands. It naturally fell to him to make a few remarks of a commemorative kind on the sad list of those who were no longer members of the Society. There were three prebendaries in the list of those who had passed away during the year, and during the last few days it had been necessary to add the name of Dr. Jex-Blake, the former Dean of Wells. He would be greatly missed by those who had in the past enjoyed his hospitality, and by all who knew him. The name that stood out in the list beyond all others was that of their old friend, Canon Church. His old-world courtesy, his wide and careful learning, his power of descriptive writing, his activity up to the very last—all these things they were happy to remember. He might be wrong as to the exact date, but it seemed to him within two years that a distinguished architect was lunching with him, and he (the Dean) proposed to take him up into the triforium before he left Wells. His reply was that Canon Church had taken him up that morning: that was at the age of ninety. Canon Church had left his mark on the archæology and history of Somerset as few men had done. It should be remembered that to his historical researches, bringing in fresh light and carrying forward the great work done in the XVIII Century by Archdeacon Archer, was due the restitution of the architectural history of the cathedral of Wells. Before he set to work on it some very strange notions were cherished

as to what the testimony of Wells documents was in regard to the early history of the building of the church. Through him they had learnt to honour Bishop Reginald as the instigator of the building of the church they now had, although it still remained uncertain to what exact point in the building they could say the work proceeded during his lifetime. He (the Dean) remembered when he came there Canon Church, who knew that he had some experience in examining documents, expressed with his usual modesty considerable anxiety as to what the result of his investigations would be. When he looked into the question, which had been a matter of delight to himself, it was his great satisfaction to be able to tell Canon Church that not only did he think his conclusions were correct, but that he believed it possible to add considerably to the strength of his arguments. One of the points to be noted about his work was that he had a kind of historical instinct, which enabled him to say "That is what must have been," stepping just one step beyond the actual evidence available at the time. Certain historians had the genius of seeing—although they could not strictly prove it—what practically must have been, and of making an hypothesis which future investigation turns into a certainty. He always felt that Canon Church had just that power—the dangerous gift if they liked, because again and again it might lead even a great scholar and investigator wrong—and he used it justly and rightly, and was able to promote the study of our history in a way it had not been done for a century past. In conclusion, the Dean moved the adoption of the report.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., who seconded the adoption of the report, thanked the Dean for his interesting account of Canon Church's work. He thought the Society was to be congratulated upon its satisfactory position in these troublous days, and Mr. St. George Gray deserved their thanks for the able report he had presented.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1914. (GENERAL ACCOUNT).

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
To Balance from 1913*	...		9 19 6	By "Proceedings," including <i>Flora</i> ...	...	183	5 3
" Members' Subscriptions, 1913	...	1 16 0		" General Printing and Stationery	...	8	6 3
" " " 1914	...	542 15 1		" Fuel and Light	...	28	12 9
" " " 1915	...	4 4 6		" Repairs to Buildings	...	58	3 5
" Donations—			548 15 7	" Repairs and Renewals of Furnishing	...	20	5 11
General	...	12 3 0		" General Postages and Telegrams	...	12	13 4
Towards Printing <i>Flora</i> in <i>Proceedings</i>	...	30 0 0		" Insurances	...	34	14 11
			42 3 0	" Rates and Taxes	...	53	13 7
" Members' Entrance Fees	...	30 19 6		" Petty Expenses	...	8	16 5
" Donations, Table Glasses Fund	...	12 12 0		" Watermain Wayleave	...	0	1 0
" Museum Receipts	...	52 8 6		" Sundry Payments	...	2	0 5
" Publications	...	18 3 7		" Curator's Salary	...	200	0 0
" Bath Meeting	...	2 5 2		" Wages of Staff	...	94	19 11
" Dividend on New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	...	2 3 0					705 13 2
" Rents	...	29 9 6		" Subscriptions to Societies	...		10 13 0
" Balance, Club Brasses a/c.	...	0 16 3		" Museum Specimens, including £12 12s. Table Glasses	...		16 8 6
" Interest on Capital Account (Deposit)	...	1 16 0		" Books and Bookbinding	...		30 1 8
" Transfer from Woodward Fund	...	1 5 0		" Purchase of New Zealand Stock	...		107 7 0
" Balance, being Overdraft at Bank	...	124 5 0		" Bath Meeting	...		3 13 3
				" Extensions of Furnishings	...		3 5 0
			£877 1 7				£877 1 7
* 1913 Account included amongst expenditure item held for specific purposes	...	107 7 0		" By Overdraft at Bank	...		£124 5 0
Account showed, balance of	...	100 10 6					
			6 16 6				
Omitted from 1913 Receipts...	...	3 3 0					
			£9 19 6				

A. C. MOLE, *Incorporated Accountant, Taunton*, February 3rd, 1915.
H. J. BADCOCK, *Hon. Treasurer*.

11th Mar., 1915. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book and found correct.

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

WOODWARD FUND, 1914.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Transfer to Capital Account	5 0 0	By Balance at 31 December, 1913 ...	...	187 1 2	
„ Transfer to General Account for Books	1 5 0	„ Brereton Collotypes sold ...	...	0 16 0	
„ Balance	186 3 3	„ Interest on Deposit ...	...	4 11 1	
			<u>£192 8 3</u>			<u>£192 8 3</u>	
				„ Balance brought down ...	...	186 3 3	

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Transfer to General Account	1 16 0	By Balance at 31 December, 1913 ...	...	67 11 0	
„ Balance	72 11 0	„ Transfer from Woodward Fund ...	...	5 0 0	
			<u>£74 7 0</u>	„ Interest on Deposit ...	...	1 16 0	
						<u>£74 7 0</u>	
				„ Balance brought down ...	...	72 11 0	

BOOK FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Transfer to General Account	2 3 0	By New Zealand 4% Inscribed Stock ...	...	107 7 0	
„ Balance	107 7 0	„ Dividend on ditto ...	...	2 3 0	
			<u>£109 10 0</u>			<u>£109 10 0</u>	
				„ Balance brought down ...	...	107 7 0	

GENERAL STATEMENT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Deposit at Bank	186 3 3				By Balance, Woodward Fund ...	...	186 3 3	
„ „ „	72 11 0				„ Capital Account ...	...	72 11 0	
			<u>258 14 3</u>				„ Book Fund ...	...	107 7 0	
Less Overdrawn General Account	124 5 0	134 9 3						
To New Zealand 4% Stock at cost		107 7 0						
„ Balance being deficit on Special Funds, and being amount overdrawn on Receipts and Payments General Account as shown ...				124 5 0						
			<u>£366 1 3</u>						<u>£366 1 3</u>	

Finances.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1914. He pointed out that for the year the administrative expenses had been £705 13s. 2d., and that the annual subscriptions amounted to £542 15s. 1d. It was most important that the list of subscribers should be increased. Upon the increase of their income depended the progress of the Society and its capacity to keep pace with the needs of the institution.

Mr. A. E. EASTWOOD seconded, and said the Finance Committee had found that the only expenditure that could be reduced was that of special insurance which had been recently thought necessary.

The adoption of the accounts was then carried.

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 25 new members, who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last annual meeting.

The Rev. Preb. J. HAMLET proposed that the election of the new members be confirmed. He remarked that they had had the pleasure of electing as a member of their Society a most distinguished archæologist, Lord Curzon, whose excellent work for the archæology of India was well known to them all.

The Rev. C. H. HEALE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Rev. D. J. PRING proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, with the additions of Colonel Pemberton and Dr. W. B. Winckworth as members of the Council, the Presidents of the Natural History Sections as members of the Council, and Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid as a local Secretary for Glastonbury; also the re-election of the four outgoing members of the Council, namely the Rev. Prebendary Hamlet, the Rev. C. H. Heale, Mr. H. J. Badcock, and Mr. A. E. Eastwood.

Mr. T. W. COWAN, F.L.S., seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. Prebendary E. H. BATES HARBIN, reporting on the work of the Record Society, said that the fact that nothing had been issued during the past year was entirely due to the war. The Register of Bishop Bubwith (1407-1425) was being edited by Canon T. Scott Holmes, who unfortunately happened to be in Germany when the war broke out. He was put in charge of a batch of non-combatants, and in bringing them across the frontier, all his luggage, including the manuscript of the introduction, was lost. It was some time before this part could be rewritten, but the two volumes were now in the binders' hands, and would be shortly issued to the subscribers.

As regards work for the coming years, the Society had joined forces with the Devon and Cornwall Record Society in order to print a very valuable manuscript "as big as a Church Bible," compiled by the great Devonshire antiquary Sir William Pole. The thanks of all historical students in the West of England were due to the owner Sir Reginald Pole-Carew in allowing this treasure to be removed to London for transcription. A full account of the work, for long supposed to be lost, by the discoverer, the late Mr. John Batten, F.S.A., would be found in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vol. iv, art. 141. The contents included much relating to Somersetshire and Dorsetshire; and the whole work would run to two or perhaps even three volumes.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Somerville for presiding. This was seconded by Mr. C. TITE and cordially agreed to.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, in acknowledgment, mentioned that the Somerset County Council had issued a circular to the chairmen of the Parish Councils and Meetings in the county asking them to give the County Council information as to what documents were in their possession and how they were being looked after. Many of the parish records were with the Church records. He felt that it was most important that this information should be given.

The meeting then closed.

Somerset Earthworks Committee.

President :—Prof. W. BOYD DAWKINS, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Secretary :—Dr. A. BULLEID, F.S.A., Dymboro, Midsomer Norton, Bath.

Treasurer :—Dr. C. BALFOUR STEWART, Huntspill, Highbridge.

Director of Excavations :—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle.

OWING to the War the Somerset Earthworks Committee has been unable to make a proper start since its inauguration on June 23rd, 1914.

The Secretary and Director of Excavations have, however, paid some attention to the ancient remains at Murtry Hill, in the parish of Buckland Dinham, on the outskirts of Orchardleigh Park, near Frome. A survey of the earthwork and stones was carried out by Mr. Gray on August 31st, and September 1st and 2nd, 1915. The contoured plan of the area has been plotted to a scale of 10 feet to an inch; the contours are of 3 ins. vertical height.

The Rev. W. A. Duckworth, the owner, is quite willing that excavations should be conducted here, and it is hoped that pick-and-shovel work will be carried out at no distant date.

On September 23rd, 1915, Mr. Gray, in company with the Rev. C. H. Heale, inspected some earthworks in the neighbourhood of Williton, including a barrow on Rydon Farm, situated in a field known as "Bleary Pate," and the "Battle Gore," between Williton and St. Decuman's Church. In the latter field the greater part of a large mound remains, more or less surrounded by low earthworks. On the south side of the mound there are three large stones, which probably at one time formed a dolmen. Bronze implements have been found here from time to time. The site would be a most desirable one to examine closely.

THE WITHYPOOL STONE CIRCLE.

Until August 10th and 11th, 1915, Mr. H. St. George Gray had not revisited this circle since he made a plan of it in 1906 and described the remains in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, vol. LII, pt. ii, pp. 42-50. He found it in practically the same condition as it was nine years before, but the growth of ling and whortleberry-

bushes on this part of Withypool Hill was rather more stunted than previously.

The prostrate stone, No. 23, could not be found, and it appears to have been removed as there is a depression in the ground in the position indicated in the plan of 1906.

Three additional stones were, however, revealed on the present visit, as follows :—

No. 20*a*, a small stump set upright in the ground between Nos. 20 and 21, and 2·75ft. distant from the middle of No. 20.

No. 21*a*, an oblong stump close to No. 21, the nearest part of No. 22 being at a distance of 2·5ft. from it. The length of No. 21*a* appeared to be 1·1ft.

No. 23*a*, a small stump between Nos. 22 and 24, at a distance of 18·75ft. from No. 22 and 18ft. from the middle of No. 24.

Bath and District Branch.

President—The Right Hon. Lord HYLTON, F.S.A.

Hon. Treasurer and Secretary—Mr. THOS. S. BUSH, 20, Camden Crescent, Bath.

Hon. Excursion Sec.—Mr. GERALD J. GREY, Collina House, Bathwick Hill, Bath.

THERE were five half-day excursions during the season, 1915. On April 14th, visits were paid to Downside Abbey, and the Church of St. Vigor, Stratton-on-the-Fosse. On May 26th, the churches of SS. Peter and Paul, Kilmersdon; St. Mary the Virgin and the Manor House, Hardington; and St. Mary the Virgin, Hemington. On June 15th, the megalithic remains and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Stanton Drew; Church of St. Andrew and the Church House, Chew Magna. On July 16th, Hinton Priory; and the churches of St. Mary the Virgin, Winkfield (or Wingfield); St. Lawrence, Road; and St. Lawrence, Woolverton. On September 15th, the churches of St. Nicholas, Whitechurch; St. Margaret and Manor House, Queen Charlton; and St. John Baptist, Keynsham.

The following lectures were given during the year :—January 21st, "Some of the Holy Wells of Somerset," by the Rev. Ethelbert Horne; February 11th, "The Turf Monuments of England," by Mr. M. H. Scott; December 9th, "History of the Parish of Monkton Combe," by the Rev. D. Lee Pitcairn.

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

REPORT OF THE GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION COMMITTEE, 1915.

Chairman and Secretary—The Rev. C. H. HEALE.

Vice-Chairman—The Rev. W. T. REEDER.

Treasurer—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The Revs. Preb. J. HAMLET, F. W. WEAVER and A. J. HOOK,
and Messrs. J. MORLAND, G. L. BULLEID and ROGER CLARK.

FOR reasons well known to all it was found inadvisable to appeal for funds for carrying on the work during 1915. As the Committee had a balance in hand they decided early in the season to continue the excavations. The results are given below.

The Committee hope that sufficient support will be forthcoming to enable them to carry on the work during the 1916 season.

Thanks are due to Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., for acting as Director of the Excavations during 1915; and also to Mr. G. Lawrence Bulleid for his ready assistance and practical work in superintending the men, etc.

Statement of Accounts for 1915.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Balance of Former Account	79	6 3	To Labour, April to Dec., 1915, including hire of appliances	44	0 0
„ Interest on Deposit Account	0	6 5	„ Mr. F. Bligh Bond's Expenses	1	1 0
„ Box Collections, Glastonbury Abbey (Apr. to Oct.)	9	11 10	„ Book, "Lesnes Abbey"	0	8 0
			„ Cheque Books	0	2 0
			„ Postages (H. St. G. Gray)	0	5 0
			„ Miscellaneous Expenses	0	8 0
			„ Balance in hand (Dec. 31, 1915)	43	0 6
	£89	4 6		£89	4 6

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MEMORANDUM OF EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR, 1915.

Mr. F. Bligh Bond reports that the season's work has been confined to the area occupying the rectangular section of ground to the east of the Refectory and to the south of the Chapter-house site, and therefore lying off the south-east angle of the cloisters.

A small section of this had been previously excavated. This lay immediately south of the Chapter-house and east of the cloister. What was there noted gave a general indication of a solid block of building running in a southward direction, but only the rough footings remained and there had been no architectural features noted. The massive back wall of this block was met with at a distance of (roughly) 41 feet eastwards of the face of the cloister wall, and as the latter was about 8 feet thick on the foundations, this would mean that, after making allowance for the set-off above ground-line, there would remain an interior width of some 34 or 35 feet for the wing running south from the Chapter-house. Over this wing, it is believed, the Dorter lay, and traces of stone steps impinging on the angle of an opening two bays south of the Chapter-house doorway seem to determine the position of the staircase to the dormitories.

It was again to the south of this that the 1915 excavations were taken in hand. During the season the whole rectangular block has been laid open. The results will be more fully dealt with in a later and fuller report, but it may now be said that they reveal the presence of a large chamber, doubtless connected with the cellars beneath the Refectory, and very probably adapted to similar uses. Readers may recall the fact that in the east wall of the cellar in question there was what appeared to be a rolling-way for casks. Immediately in line with this and at some distance east was found a very large and heavy rectangular block of freestone containing the remains of iron staples. This much strengthened the view just expressed, as it was precisely what would be supplied for the use of pulley-blocks in lowering or raising heavy casks.

Now, too, a further light seems to be thrown upon the later

uses of the "egg-stone," which came out at a recent date from the subsoil near this angle of the cloister. The egg-stone had been dowelled as for the inclusion of an iron staple, and its weight would have rendered it most suitable for a foundation for a holdfast to be used in connection with the hauling of large objects to and from the lower level of the cellar.

The space excavated this year shows an area divided by stone responds (like internal buttresses) into sections roughly 15 feet wide, and it is believed that the ceiling or vault would have been supported by a central line of pillars as in the Refectory cellar—leaving a double avenue, open during the earlier times, but at a later date filled up by partition walls of rough masonry cutting the space into a series of compartments. At one point the excavation has been carried south to the boundary fence, and shows a further compartment, but nothing can yet be said as to the actual extent of this building.

Mr. G. L. Bulleid contributes the following description of the objects found in 1915 :—

1. *Paving-tiles*.—A great number of fragments figured and plain have been found in all parts of the soil excavated. Only a few are at all complete and none *in situ*. With one or two exceptions the patterns are like those of previous years including many geometrical designs and also of heraldic character with the arms of England, France, Earl of Cornwall, Clare and Warrenne. Amongst the new tiles is one of Despenser.

2. *Window Glass*.—There are many fragments. Almost all the specimens are plain blue. Some pieces of other colours have been found, but these are so decomposed that they have lost all transparency and in most cases fall to pieces on being handled. Some pieces show fine border pattern, drapery, letters, and small circular-shaped patterns. Mr. Bond describes this figured azure glass as XIII Century or possibly late XII Century.

3. *Architectural Fragments*.—There is little to note of these

except three small pieces of Romanesque pattern,—in type similar to those previously discovered.

4. *Iron*.—Two parts of keys, much corroded, have been found, and some other fragments of iron too much decayed to be identified.

5. *Bronze*.—A quantity of fragments of molten bronze; also a piece which appears to be a chip from a bell, about $3 \times 2 \times 1$ in. Nearly all this bronze was found on the floor level of the Dorter sub-vault in the compartment furthest south adjoining the east wall of the Refectory. Here was found also much of the lead and evidence of cavities for fires in the floor level, which may have been used for melting metals after the dissolution of the Abbey.

6. *Lead*.—A number of fragments of windows and molten lead; also a finely worked piece of lattice about the size of a lozenge-shaped window quarry. (Specimens of similar work in windows at Warwick are figured in Lewis Day's "Windows," 1909, p. 301).

7. *Coins*.—Four of bronze.

8. *Kitchen Remains*.—In the layer of dark clay immediately underlying the floor of the Dorter sub-vault and extending beyond the excavations a great number of animal bones and other kitchen refuse were found. The bones have yet to be identified. Amongst the fish remains may be noted a vertebra of a porpoise, also mussel and periwinkle shells. The oyster-shells were very numerous; these remains were without doubt deposited here before the present buildings were erected.
