PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1916.

THE Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton on Tuesday, July 18th. In consequence of the Great War, the Council decided, as in 1915, not to have any excursions, but arranged for a single-day meeting to be held chiefly for business purposes, the delivery of the presidential address, and an inspection of the Society's Museum and Library and a small exhibition to commemorate the tercentenary of William Shakespeare, the specimens covering a period of about a hundred years from 1550. Some of the exhibits were lent for the purpose, but they were to a large extent drawn from the Society's collections (see separate paragraph on the subject).

A meeting of the Council was held at Taunton Castle at 10.30 a.m., and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the Municipal Hall (through the kindness of the Mayor), at which there was a good attendance.

The Rt. Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE, senior Vice-President, occupied the chair at the beginning of the proceedings, and

was supported by the Rt. Rev. C. F. De Salis, Bishop of Taunton, the Very Rev. Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, Dean of Wells, Mr. A. F. Somerville (Vice-President), Mr. H. J. Badcock (Hon. Treasurer), the Mayor of Taunton (Councillor A. C. Mole), the Rev. Preb. E. H. Bates Harbin, the Rev. F. W. Weaver and Mr. Charles Tite (Vice-Presidents and Hon. Secretaries), Mr. A. E. Eastwood, the Rev. H. H. Winwood (Vice-President), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (Assistant-Secretary, Curator and Librarian).

Mr. HOBHOUSE proposed the election of the Dean of Wells as President for the ensuing year. He said that he need hardly remind them that Dr. Armitage Robinson had a unique record in being translated from the Deanery of Westminster to that of Wells. He was not only a learned archæologist, but an accomplished writer, and what they all valued exceedingly—a native of Somerset. Mr. Hobhouse reminded the members that they were living now in a time of most thrilling and pathetic interest, but that need not prevent those of them who were debarred by age and other causes from taking an active part in the defence of their beloved country from referring for a moment or two to its glorious past—to a time when gunpowder and shells had not yet been invented and when the energies of other nations were devoted more to the construction of great edifices than the destruction of them.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD, F.G.S., speaking as the "father" of the Society, seconded the motion, which was heartily carried, and the Dean thereupon took the chair.

The Assistant-Secretary announced letters of apology for inability to attend from Earl Waldegrave (the outgoing President), Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, Sir Prior Goldney, the Rev. Preb. F. Hancock, Dr. J. Wiglesworth and others.

The Annual Report.

Mr. H. St. George Gray, Assistant-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

" In presenting the sixty-eighth annual report, your Council wishes to state that since its last report 38 new names (including two life members) have been added to the list of members. The losses caused by death have been large, as was the case in the year 1914–15, and there have been some resignations as a result of the war, but some of these subscriptions, it is hoped, have only been dropped temporarily. The total membership at date is 883, which, although less than at the beginning of the war, is over 100 in excess of the membership at the Diamond Jubilee Meeting in 1908.

" 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) :—

" Mr. Christopher Welch, of Richmond, Surrey, who at the time of his death on September 10th, at the age of 83 years, was the oldest member of your Society, having been elected in 1857. He was a Somerset landowner and a well known authority on musical subjects, a good flautist, and author of 'A History of the Boehm Flute.' He left a large sum of money to the University of Oxford for the endowment of scholarships in biology.

" The Right Hon. Sir Spencer C. B. Ponsonby-Fane, G.C.B., Bath King at Arms, who died at Brympton on December 15th at the ripe age of ninety-one years, joined the Society very late in life (1908), but he was always a keen collector, especially of shoe-buckles and Somerset club-brasses.

" Colonel J. Mount Batten, C.B., Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, who was elected a member in 1886 and died on March 5th, was much interested in your Society, and at one time frequently attended the annual meetings and excursions.

" The Rev. Preb. I. S. Gale, who wrote a short history of Kingston, near Taunton, of which parish he was formerly vicar, became a member in 1871, and died on October 1st at the age of 89 years. He was a local secretary of your Society

and at one time frequently occupied the chair at the monthly Council meetings; and he was one of the founders of the Northern Branch.

"The Rev. W. F. Rose was also an old member of your Society, having been elected in 1877. His death occurred at Hutton Rectory on January 17th at the age of 73 years. He was much interested in the Somerset dialect and contributed to *The English Dialect Dictionary*, issued in six large volumes and edited by Professor J. Wright of Oxford.

"The Right Hon. Lord Justice Farwell, of Knowle, Dunster (1905), was a life member, and a generous contributor to special funds raised for the advancement of your Society's work.

"Mr. J. E. W. Wakefield (1889), who died on October 17th, was a member of your Council from 1890 to 1903.

"The Rev. J. B. Anstice (1901), Mr. E. J. Hoskins (1898), Mr. W. H. Lloyd (1901), and Dr. E. W. Valentine (1890) kindly contributed to your Museum and Library from time to time.

"Your Society has also sustained the losses of:—Mr. J. Barrett, a former mayor of Taunton (1875), Mr. S. R. Baskett (1914), Mr. F. J. R. Bentley (1893), Major R. Hall Brutton (1914) who died in India on military service, Mr. N. Buchanan, mayor of Yeovil (1914), Mr. T. W. Dampier-Bide (1897), Mr. H. G. Doggett (1880), Mr. Gerald Fowler (1895), Mr. T. Good (1897), Mrs. S. E. Hamilton, of Fyne Court (1908), the Rev. G. S. Henning (1907), and the Rev. S. P. Jose (1880).

"Although not a member of your Society, mention should also be made of Captain A. S. Marsh of the Somerset Light Infantry, who was born at Crewkerne in 1892 and was killed at the front on January 5th last. He demonstrated in the elementary botany and biology classes at Cambridge, and in his short lifetime published four botanical papers.

"Your Council trusts that every endeavour will be made by those interested in the welfare of the Society to raise the membership. The net loss of members since the outbreak of war has not been very large, but on the other hand it must be borne in mind that the cost of upkeep is relatively greater.

"The deficit on your Society's General Account at the end

of 1914 was £124 5*s.* 0*d.* At the close of 1915 the deficit had been reduced to £100 19*s.* 8*d.* 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. This result has been achieved by strict economy, especially in the purchase of books and Museum specimens, and in the small items of upkeep. Unfortunately your general funds do not allow of any definite sum being set aside for the purchase of Somerset objects, and from time to time specimens of a desirable kind offered for sale are allowed to go elsewhere.

"Independently of the general account, your Society has a small Capital Account (from life membership fees) which, on December 31st last, amounted to £95 0*s.* 0*d.*, a Book Fund of £107 7*s.* 0*d.* (the interest on which is spent on new books), and a balance in hand on the Woodward Fund of £189 2*s.* 1*d.* (which, in accordance with the bequest, is used as required for special Museum and Library improvements).

"The expenses attending the issue of Volume LXI of the *Proceedings* (for 1915), including printing, illustrations and delivery, will be about £145. Had it not been for the increased cost of paper and other material, as well as of labour, due to the war, the total cost would have been considerably less. The illustration fund was subscribed to by Dr. A. C. Fryer, F.S.A., the Rev. G. W. Saunders and friends at Curry Rivel, and the Rev. Preb. Hamlet. Thanks are also due to the following for providing drawings and photographs for the volume :—Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Dr. A. C. Fryer, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, Mr. W. Watson and Mr. H. St. George Gray.

"The 1915 volume of *Proceedings* inaugurates the beginning of the fourth series of twenty volumes, and a number of improvements in its format, style and printing were decided upon by your Editorial Committee. The chief addition to the volume is the exhaustive Index compiled by Mr. E. A. Fry and Mr. Gray. In this connection it should be mentioned that your Index Committee has held several meetings for the purpose of drawing up rules for compiling a full Index to the Society's *Proceedings* from 1851 to 1914, Vols. I. to LX. It is hoped that such an Index may be published in due course, providing the necessary monetary support is forthcoming.

"Your headquarters have been well cared for during the year, and a number of repairs have been carried out especially on the roofs. It is surprising that so little damage was done to your buildings during last winter,—one of the severest in living memory. The insurance of your property has been gradually increasing, and it has been found necessary to raise the premiums from £14 to £34 per annum during the last few years.

"In spite of two changes in the staff since the last annual meeting, a considerable amount of Museum work has been accomplished. The need for increased space is being felt and many of the series exhibited in the cases in your large Museum are becoming very crowded.

"Much time has been expended upon the classification, labelling and arrangement of the valuable collections of Somerset Trade Tokens of the XVII Century and Somerset Medals which, as reported last year, have been presented by Mr. Charles Tite. These tokens comprise more than three-quarters of the types and varieties listed by Boyne and Williamson. This work has afforded Mr. St. George Gray and Mr. Henry Symonds the opportunity of collaborating in writing a paper on types and varieties of Somerset Tokens of the XVII Century not previously catalogued, and corrections of former lists, published in the volume of *Proceedings* recently issued. This report has been reprinted as a Museum handbook; price 9*d.*

"Several cases in the Museum have been re-arranged during the year, and the banner of the Barrington Club has been repaired and hung. The Society's collection of Pewter has been brought together and exhibited alongside the Charbonnier Collection of Pewter; and the antiquities from Somerset Churches have been re-arranged. The early printed books and illuminated manuscripts exhibited in the Coin Room have been displayed and labelled; and some of the manuscripts in the strong-room have been sorted by Prebendary Bates Harbin.

"Through the generosity of Dr. Bulleid and Dr. Graham it has been possible to set up with irons and woodwork the prehistoric boat from Shapwick (*Proc.*, LII, ii, 51–54), which

was presented to your Museum in 1907 by Captain B. A. Warry. The work has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner under your Curator's direction.

"Your Museum has been considerably enriched during the past year. The largest acquisition is the Arthur Hull Collection, chiefly of local archæological and ethnographical specimens, which had been stored in a room adjoining the Town Hall at Chard since 1881. Mr. Hull bequeathed the collection to the Mayor and Corporation of Chard for the time being to form a nucleus for a museum in that town. Your Society recently agreed to accept a large selection of the specimens as a deposit on loan for a minimum period of twenty-one years. These specimens are now at your headquarters and are being cleaned, repaired, catalogued and ticketed as opportunity occurs. They are being labelled as belonging to the Hull Collection, and will be placed in the respective groups of objects to which they belong in your Museum. An account of the collection will be published in due course.

"The largest and perhaps most interesting object in this collection is a Virginal of fine workmanship, inscribed with the name of the maker, Charles Rewallin, of Exeter, 1675. Mr. H. A. Jeboult has placed on loan in your Museum a well preserved Harpsichord bearing the inscription, 'Abraham et Josephus Kirckman, Londini fecerunt, 1790.'

"Your Council announces with pleasure that Miss Marjorie Franklin and Mrs. Colson, the two daughters of the late Mr. H. Franklin, have presented, with only one exception, the art objects, Greek and local pottery, etc., which he had placed on loan in your Museum. These things, which are distinct from the specimens presented in his life-time, will now be labelled as being presented in memory of Mr. Franklin.

"A portion of the collection formerly belonging to the late Rev. W. F. Rose, Rector of Hutton, has been given to your Museum. The specimens include a bronze celt from Loxton Hill, a few other local objects, and some antiquities, useful for comparative purposes, chiefly from the Mediterranean.

"The series of ancient British coins has been enlarged by the gift of twenty-three bronze specimens from Sir George Meyrick, Bart., found with many hundreds in the excavations

conducted at Hengistbury Head, Hampshire, by the Society of Antiquaries of London. Included in the Hull collection are four British coins found at Cotley Farm, near Chard.

"Mr. C. Tite has, in addition to the Somerset tokens previously mentioned, added to your Museum collections in other directions. His specimens include Devon, Dorset, and other trade tokens, Somerset buttons and badges, a plan of Taunton Castle and its precincts, by the late Mr. J. H. Spencer, showing the position of the moats which formerly existed, and several framed engravings and paintings of Somerset views, buildings, and famous men and women.

"Last autumn Dr. R. H. Walter added some archæological remains found on Ham Hill to the collection; and three interesting bronze fibulæ found at Kilmersdon have been given by Dr. A. Bulleid. During the year a comparatively small portion of the pottery found in the Meare Lake Village has been restored by Dr. Bulleid and Mr. and Mrs. Gray. One vessel, height 15½ inches, is the largest yet found in the lake villages.

"In the Ornithological department the chief additions have been two handsome cases of ducks shot on Slapton Ley, South Devon, by the late Colonel Patton, C.B., presented by Mrs. Patton; a very large case of birds and animals given by Colonel Vaughan-Lee, M.V.O., a pair of Ruddy Sheld-ducks shot on the Porlock Marshes and sent to the Museum by the Rev. J. A. Smart, and a Puffin in fine condition found dead on the roof of Dinder Church, presented by Mr. A. F. Somerville.

"Mention should also be made of a specimen of the rare Black Veined White (*Papilio crataegi*) added to the collection of lepidoptera. This was captured by Mr. A. E. Hudd at Clevedon in 1859—the last recorded from the county.

"Among other donors to the Museum of several specimens are, Messrs. F. G. Sage, E. A. Foster, T. Beaven Clark, and J. C. M. Hall-Stephenson.

"Very few books have been acquired by purchase during the year, except the 'Catalogue of Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office,' in 5 vols. Mr. C. Tite has continued to add many more volumes to his collection of Somerset books.

The Rev. W. F. Rose presented his manuscript 'Glossary of Words in use in Somerset.' Several bundles of manuscript have been sent to the Library by the Taunton Board of Guardians, through the instrumentality of Mr. Colishaw. Kerner and Oliver's 'Natural History of Plants,' in 4 vols., has been added to the Library by the Botanical Section. Other printed books, etc., chiefly of local interest, have been given by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cornish, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Mr. A. W. Marks, Mr. A. H. Withers, Mrs. Patton, Mr. E. A. Foster, the Rev. C. H. Heale, and Mr. C. H. Spencer Perceval.

"In connection with the Shakespeare Tercentenary your Curator offered to get together a small exhibition, in your Museum, of specimens—some belonging to the Society, others lent for the purpose—dating approximately from 1550 to 1650. The collection will be opened to-day and will remain on view for a month. It is hoped that the schools of Taunton and the neighbourhood will take the opportunity of seeing this exhibition. Several Shakespearian lectures have been given in Taunton this year,—one by Sir Sidney Lee.

"The Natural History Sections of your Society have held their field-days as usual, and the three Sections propose to combine and arrange a meeting at Raleigh's Cross on July 27th.

"The Botanical Section has been actively engaged, and owing to the gifts of Somerset plants by the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., Miss Livett, Mr. H. S. Thompson, Mr. H. Slater, and others, the herbarium has been extended in the Great Hall at the cost of the Section. All these gifts have passed into the careful hands of Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., who has devoted even more time than in previous years to the mounting, labelling and arranging of your botanical collections. The paper on 'The Bog-mosses of Somerset,' by Mr. Walter Watson, has been reprinted as a Museum handbook; price 1*s*. Sphagnum has proved of great value in the surgical work of the war in the place of lint; and by directions from the War Office the Right Hon. H. Hobhouse has arranged for the collection of the material from the Somerset moors.

"The Entomological Section has made a small grant to improve two of the Society's cabinets, and Mr. F. Milton has added some specimens to the cabinet bearing his name. The

Society's thanks are also due to Mr. H. Doidge for the skill and time he has bestowed upon keeping the collections of Somerset lepidoptera in proper condition. Your Society has recently published in the *Proceedings* the first part of 'The Diptera of Somerset,' by Mr. H. J. Charbonnier.

"The Ornithological Section has also made a grant for the purpose of having certain birds cleaned and the Ruddy Sheld-ducks set up in a suitable case. The Section is putting money aside for the purpose of providing a good cabinet for Somerset Birds' Eggs. The Recorders of this Section, Miss A. Smith and Dr. J. Wiglesworth, have written a report on the rarer Somerset birds observed during the last few years, typewritten copies of which were issued to the members of the Section in the spring.

"The only excavations which have been conducted by your Society during the past year are those being carried out at Glastonbury Abbey by a special committee at the request of the Trustees; and the general supervision on the ground has been again undertaken by Mr. Bligh Bond and Mr. Lawrence Bulleid. A memorandum of the recent work is given in Part i of the *Proceedings* for 1915; and an illustrated paper on previous work in Part ii of the same volume by Mr. Bond.

"Owing to the war little active work has been done by the Somerset Earthworks Committee, but a contoured plan of the earthwork and stones at Murtry Hill, on the outskirts of Orchardleigh Park, was made by Mr. H. St. George Gray last summer. He and Dr. Bulleid have also inspected some earth-works in the county.

"A letter in *The Times* in May drew attention to the condition of Cannington Park Camp, near Bridgwater, where, owing to circumstances connection with the war, mules had damaged the surface of the camp, and trial-quarrying for barytes—a mineral required for munitions—within the ancient area, raised fears that the earthworks might be permanently defaced. Subsequently the ground outside the camp on the west side was found to be richer in the mineral, and, until this source has been exhausted, further mining is not contemplated within the camp. The tenant has promised to keep

the Somerset Earthworks Committee informed as to future developments.

"As the printing of Vol. II of 'The Glastonbury Lake Village' is approaching completion (a work which is costing over £1000), those responsible for its publication have appealed to your Council to give a summary of its contents in this report. Dr. Bulleid has written the long chapter on Pottery, also those on Unbaked Clay, Querns and other Stone Objects; whilst Mr. St. George Gray is responsible for the chapters on Glass and Amber, Objects of Iron, Currency, Bone Objects, Objects formed from Antler, Baked Clay Objects, Flint Implements, Spindle-whorls, and perforated Tusks and Teeth. The volume concludes with chapters on the Plants, Bird Bones, Animal Remains and Human Remains, by Mr. Clement Reid, F.R.S., Dr. C. W. Andrews, F.R.S., and Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S. Additional subscribers are much needed to reduce the loss which is feared.

"Last summer the Somerton Market Cross, which is in a decaying condition, was examined by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments on behalf of H.M. Board of Works, when it was estimated that the work of thorough repair would cost about £200. The matter was also brought before the Somerset County Council and the National Trust. The large cost of repair prevented either of these bodies from taking definite action. The Earl of Ilchester has expressed his willingness to hand the cross over to the Somerton Parish Council and to make a donation towards the cost, provided the roof is repaired, certain defective timbers replaced, and the parapet rebuilt. The matter is in abeyance till the end of the war.

"It is gratifying to learn from the recently published report of the National Trust that they now own and protect the following places of beauty and historic interest in this county:—Barrington Court (1907), the Coleridge Cottage at Nether Stowey (1909), Leigh Woods and Camps (1909), portion of the Cheddar Cliffs (1910), the Priest's House at Muchelney (1911), the Tor Hill near Wells (1914), and the Dovecote at Bruton (1915).

"The Bath Branch of your Society has published its twelfth illustrated report, which contains an account of its excursions

last year and some notes on the archæology of the Bath district.

"Your Museum was visited by 5,496 persons last year, a slight increase on 1914, but less than in 1913. During the first six months of 1916 there is an appreciable increase in the number of visitors as compared with the same period of last year.

"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. Dr. S. J. M. Price, the Rev. W. T. Reeder, Mr. F. Were and Mr. H. B. Sheppard, all of whom are willing to serve again. During the year a vacancy on the Council has been filled, subject to the approval of this meeting, by the inclusion of the Rev. J. Byrchmore."

The Rt. Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE, in moving the adoption of the report, said they were fortunate in having an assistant-secretary and curator whose energy and ability formed an invaluable asset in the work of the Society.

Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY seconded, and said he knew of few provincial museums so interesting, so well cared for, and so well arranged as Taunton.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Finances.

Mr. H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1915, and proposed their adoption.

The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. PRICE seconded, and the adoption of the accounts was then carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1915. (*GENERAL ACCOUNT*).

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Members' Subscriptions, 1914	3 13 6	
,, ,, 1915	521 8 0	
,, ,, 1916	4 4 0	
		529 5 6
,, Members' Entrance Fees		13 2 0
,, General Donations		1 11 6
,, Museum Receipts		60 4 7
,, Publications		7 8 6
,, Rents		29 9 6
,, Dividend on New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)		4 6 0
,, Transfer from Woodward Fund		1 9 0
,, Sundries		5 3 6
,, Balance, being Overdraft at Bank ...		100 19 8
		£752 19 9

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Overdraft at Bank, 31 Dec., 1914		£124 5 0
By "Proceedings"	117 3 2	
,, General Printing and Stationery ...	7 12 7	
,, Fuel and Light	26 11 10	
,, Repairs to Buildings	39 0 1	
,, Repairs and Renewals of Furnishing ...	4 7 6	
,, General Postages and Telegrams ...	9 13 11	
,, Insurances	39 12 3	
,, Rates and Taxes	54 11 6	
,, Petty Expenses	7 17 6	
,, Watermain Wayleave	0 1 0	
,, Sundry Payments	1 19 0	
,, Curator's Salary	200 0 0	
,, Wages of Staff	78 2 2	
,, Accountant's Charges, New System of Keeping Accounts, 1914	10 10 0	
		597 2 6
,, Subscriptions to Societies		7 11 0
,, Museum Specimens		0 8 2
,, Books and Bookbinding		16 9 9
,, Annual Meeting		2 3 4
,, Extensions of Furnishings		3 0 0
,, Expenses, Removal of Chard Museum ...		2 0 0
		£752 19 9

Audited and found correct. January 8th, 1916.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*

H. J. BADCOCK, *Hon. Treasurer.*

WOODWARD FUND, 1915.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Transfer to General Account for Books	1 9 0	By Amount of Fund at 31 December, 1914	186 3 5
,, Balance	189 2 1	,, Bank Interest for the Year	4 7 10
	£190 11 1		£190 11 1
		,, Balance of Fund	189 2 1

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance	95 0 0	By Amount of Capital Account as at 31 December, 1914 ...	72 11 0
		,, Life Membership Fees	20 10 0
		,, Bank Interest	1 19 0
	£95 0 0		£95 0 0
		,, Balance	95 0 0

BOOK FUND.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Transfer to General Account	4 6 0	By Amount of Fund at 31 December, 1914 ...	107 7 0
,, Balance	107 7 0	,, Dividends on New Zealand 4% Inscribed Stock ...	4 6 0
	£111 13 0		£111 13 0
		,, Balance	107 7 0

GENERAL STATEMENT.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Deposit at Bank	189 2 1		By Balance, Woodward Fund	189 2 1
,, ,, ,, ...	95 0 0		,, Capital Account	95 0 0
	284 2 1		,, Book Fund	107 7 0
Less Overdraft as per General Account ...	100 19 8	183 2 5		
To New Zealand 4% Stock at cost		107 7 0		
,, Balance being deficit on Special Funds, and being amount overdrawn on Receipts and Payments Account		100 19 8		
		£391 9 1		£391 9 1

Audited and found correct, January 8th, 1916.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. St. George Gray, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 38 new members, who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last annual meeting.

The Bishop of Taunton proposed, and the Rev. C. H. Heale seconded, that the election of the new members should be confirmed. The motion was carried.

Mr. A. F. Somerville proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, with the additions of the Right Hon. Earl Waldegrave as a vice-president, and the Rev. J. Byrchmore as a member of the Council; also the re-election of the four outgoing members of the Council, viz., the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, the Rev. W. T. Reeder, Mr. Francis Were and Mr. H. Byard Sheppard. The speaker spoke of the valuable work of the Society and the great interest of its Museum. He said that Mr. Hobhouse had alluded to the necessity of looking after places of beauty in the county and the great advantage in handing them over to the National Trust. He would like to endorse Mr. Hobhouse's remarks, and plead for the preservation of an interesting spot in his own neighbourhood,—the ancient pathway over Dulcote Hill, which was in danger of destruction through quarrying operations.

The Mayor of Taunton (Councillor A. C. Mole) seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

Somerset Record Society.

Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin reported that the volumes for 1913 and 1914 had been issued after a long delay caused by the outbreak of the war. They contained the register of Bishop Bubwith (1407–1424), with a valuable historical introduction by Canon Scott Holmes. He might say that although it was primarily a local Society, their books were widely referred to and quoted for the light they threw on the general history of England. A review of a recent volume by Mr. Firth, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, in the *English Historical Review* wound up by stating "This is certainly a very useful addition to the materials for the history of the Commonwealth and Protectorate."

Unfortunately it had not been found possible to collaborate with the Devon and Cornwall Record Society in printing the great collection of West Country deeds and charters, compiled by Sir W. Pole, and discovered by Mr. J. Batten in the library at Anthony, Cornwall. The book would be brought out by that Society as part of their own series.

To fill the gap caused by the withdrawal of this work, which would have provided material for at least two years, the Council had decided to issue another volume of Episcopal records. This was the register of Bubwith's successor Bishop Stafford (1425–33), which had already been transcribed, and will be edited by Canon Holmes.

The next work would strike out a new line. Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte had kindly placed at the disposal of the Society his collections relating to the Honour of Dunster; and they will form the contents of one or more volumes. This will include a calendar of the documents utilized, a history of the manors held of the Honour, and an account of the actual working of the Honour court during its long existence.

The Presidential Address.

The PRESIDENT, the Very Rev. the DEAN OF WELLS, then delivered his address, which was as follows :—

SOME MEMORIES OF SAINT DUNSTAN IN SOMERSET.

It has seemed to me that we do not make enough of Dunstan as one of our county's glories. Yet after Alfred no name deserves a higher place in our record than that of the nephew of Athelm the first bishop of Wells, who became the first reforming abbot of Glastonbury, the restorer of monasticism in England, the wise counsellor of our Saxon kings Edmund and Edred, and then as archbishop of Canterbury the leading statesman of the reign of Edgar the Peaceable. For centuries his fame was obscured by false accusations of heartless severity, ignorant monkery, silly superstition : until the late Bishop Stubbs finally rescued him from his detractors by publishing the earliest records of his life and shewing him for the great Englishman that he was.[1] That was in 1874 ; but earlier still in August 1862, at the meeting of our Society fifty-four years ago, John Richard Green had already begun to do him justice in a paper on " St. Dunstan at Glastonbury," speaking of him as " the first of that great line of ecclesiastical statesmen who counted among them Lanfranc and Wolsey, and ended in Laud."[2]

His character as a wise and merciful ruler is now re-established beyond likelihood of further challenge : but the chronology of his life has been thrown strangely out of gear, and much still remains to be done before his work for religion in England can be duly appreciated. I hope that before long I may be able to straighten out some of the chronological complications, and to settle some important dates : to prove, for example, that Athelm, the first bishop of Wells, left Wells for Canterbury in 923 (not 914, as the histories now say) :

1. Before this, in 1872, E. W. Robertson in his *Historical Essays* had ably vindicated Dunstan and his policy, using such materials as were already accessible.

2. *Proceedings*, XI, ii, 123.

that he crowned K. Athelstan on 4 Sept. 925, and died on 8 Jan. 926 (not 923, as our modern writers tell us): so that he lived long enough to present his nephew Dunstan, a lad of about sixteen, who had lately come to him from Glastonbury, to the new king and commend him to his service. But these historical researches involve minute investigations for which this is not the time or the place. My object now is both simpler and more practical. I wish to awaken a new local interest in our Somerset hero, by bringing together in fresh combinations some scraps of neglected information, shewing how and where his fame still lingered in our midst, before it was entirely blotted out with much else that deserved to survive by the great deluge, cleansing indeed but sadly destructive, that swept over England in the sixteenth century. The subject is new to me, and I hope that other members of our Society will turn their minds in this direction and add to the little store of fragments which I have been endeavouring to piece together.

Let me make two general remarks at the outset, both of which have a bearing on St. Dunstan's life and work. In the first place, we do not realise, I think, how much the court was in Somerset in the tenth century. Winchester fascinates the imagination and looms larger than it should for that period. We forget that a great part of K. Edred's treasure was kept at Glastonbury by Abbot Dunstan: we forget that Dunstan might never have been abbot of Glastonbury at all, if K. Edmund's horse had not pulled up suddenly and as it seemed miraculously, on the edge of the Cheddar cliffs. The first two bishops of remote little Wells would not have become primates of all England, if Wells had not lain between the royal manor of Cheddar and the royal monastery of Glastonbury. If we ask why justice has not been done to Somerset in this period, the answer is not hard to find. In K. Alfred's days it got its due, because the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was written under his inspiration; but after his death it was continued mainly by Winchester scribes. Glastonbury, for all the good work that it was doing for the religion of England, had not the pen of the ready writer. And to shew the limited outlook of the Winchester chroniclers, it is sufficient to say

that the very name of St. Dunstan never found its way into the Chronicle at all, until it was inserted a century later by Canterbury monks after the Norman Conquest.

My second preliminary observation is concerned with the monastic revival. A great deal of what must be called nonsense has been written about "the introduction of Benedictinism" into England in the tenth century—"pure Benedictinism" is the odd phrase sometimes used by writers whose notions are dim and who desire to be on their guard against too positive an assertion. The movement of reform is represented as an importation from across the Channel. At a later stage, no doubt, its leaders sought for guidance from Ghent and from Fleury. But at the outset the movement was essentially English, and predominantly connected with Somerset. If it is traceable to any one man before Dunstan, that man was Ælfheah the Bald, bishop of Winchester, whose surname distinguished him from his senior contemporary Ælfheah the third bishop of Wells. These two men had been mass-priests together in the service of K. Athelstan—clerks of his chancery, if we may use the later phraseology. Ælfheah the Bald was a monk. He was moreover a relative of Dunstan, and therefore quite probably a Somerset man: and it was he who persuaded Dunstan to become a monk, and who ordained both Dunstan and Ethelwold to the priesthood. Dunstan worked quietly on as abbot of Glastonbury for ten, or it may be fifteen, years, training Ethelwold, and many others, destined to be abbots or bishops, in the strict observance of St. Benedict's Rule, before coming into any contact, so far as we know, with the reformed monasticism of the Continent. Glastonbury was the spiritual mother of Abingdon, and further sent monks of the new spirit and the revived observance to restore old foundations and establish fresh ones throughout the land. Dunstan himself, contrary to popular belief, seems to have taken no direct part in ejecting secular clerks in order to make room for monks; but the great revival owed its soul to him, and it was his statesmanship that guided the king in whose reign it so rapidly triumphed.

We may now turn from these broad historical considerations to our particular task of gathering together some little

local details which help to carry us back into the distant past. And first, what can be said of St. Dunstan's birthplace ? Dunstan's father was Heorstan, who was the brother of Athelm the first bishop of Wells. His mother was Cynethryth. Through one or both of his parents, Dunstan was connected with the royal house. Cynethryth is a name met with more than once in Saxon royal families : Herostan does not so occur, but Athelm is found as the name of a nephew of K. Alfred. We learn from Dunstan's first biographer that Heorstan's property actually adjoined what he speaks of as " the royal island " of Glastonbury.[1]

Where then shall we look for the place of Dunstan's birth ? There is one village, and one only, so far as I am aware, in which the claim is made by local tradition. This is Baltonsborough,[2] three and a half miles S.E. of Glastonbury Abbey as the crow flies, but about five miles by road : it lay partly within and partly outside the bounds of the Twelve Hides, as described at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Here an old house is pointed out as the place where St. Dunstan was born ; though according to some the house was where the church now stands. It is certainly a noteworthy fact that all the local references to St. Dunstan's name which are still on record belong to the immediate neighbourhood of Baltonsborough. The church there is dedicated in St. Dunstan's honour—the only such dedication in Somerset, though Collinson tells us that at Edgarley, a hamlet just below St. Michael's Tor and in a straight line between the Tor and Baltonsborough, there was a chapel of St. Dunstan, which at the dissolution of the abbey was converted into a barn.[3]

1. *Mem. of St. Dunstan*, p. 6 : " Erat autem quædam regalis in confinio ejusdem præfati viri insula, antiquo vicinorum vocabulo Glaestonia nuncupata."

2. I note that, while the name is Baltunesberge in the Domesday Book, the spelling Balsborowe (which represents the present pronunciation) occurs in a Will of 4 Aug. 1536 (*Somerset Wills*, Som. Rec. Soc., XXI, 30) : see my paper in Part II of this volume.

3 Collinson, *History of Somersetshire*, II, 265, cf. Warner, *Hist. of Glastonbury* (1826), p. 247 : " The lands adjacent to *Edgarley* are called St. Dunstan's Chapel grounds ; and an old man is still living in Glastonbury, who recollects the remains of a small neat chapel on the spot."

There are two ancient records of the bounds of the Twelve Hides of Glastonbury. One is preserved by William of Malmesbury in his book on the Antiquities of Glastonbury, which was written about 1135.[1] Here we find a mention of the bridge of Baltonsborough which was built by "Wulgar with the Beard in the time of St. Dunstan"; and also a mention of *fossatum sancti Dunstani*, St. Dunstan's Dyke or Ditch. The Latin word *fossatum* is as ambiguous as the Saxon *dic*: each of them may mean either a ditch or the mound thrown up in digging it.

More detailed is the description given in the Perambulation of Abbot Richard Beere, which began on 26 July 1503.[2] The language used in describing it recalls that of the record of 400 years before, and suggests that the old record, which William of Malmesbury had copied into his book, was taken round as a guide in beating the bounds in 1503. We have the same mention of Wulgar with the Beard who built the bridge in St. Dunstan's time; and we are told that near this bridge the abbot and his party took their first refreshment. After that they proceeded to the Mill of Baltonsborough, but left out the church and what was called the Church Close as being outside the limits of the Twelve Hides. Presently we find them at Southwood, where a hamlet still bears the name. Eastwards and then southwards they went, until they reached the southernmost limit of the bounds, arriving at what is spoken of as "*Dunstonesdyche*, otherwise according to some called *Bytterwater*." I fear that neither of these names can be shewn to survive to-day, though Dunstan's Dyke is entered on the large Ordnance Map as an antiquarian insertion. As to Bytterwater, all that can safely be affirmed is that a place in the neighbourhood is remembered by the men and women of to-day where the old folks used to go early in the morning on the First of May to drink the water as medicine.

Baltonsborough then is the one spot round which all the

1. Printed by Hearne, *Ad. de Domerham*, I, 105 ff. See below in the Note on the Bounds of the Twelve Hides near Baltonsborough, in the second part of the *Proceedings*.

2. Hearne, *John of Glaston.*, II, 291 ff.

local memories of Dunstan cluster, and we may allow the claim of the villagers that the saint was born in their midst.

In other parts of Somerset I have been able to find few traces of our saint. At Athelney the monks had a " book of the blessed Dunstan "—the Gospels perhaps, or some other service book—in which they entered a particular grant in the year 1225.[1] Apart from this I can but note the fact that the name of Dunstan was borne by one of the tenants at Donyat, near Ilminster, in K. Edward's time, as recorded in the Domesday Survey; and again by a priest who attested William de Mohun's grant of St. George's, Dunster, to the monks of Bath about 1097.[2]

Of course both Wells and Glastonbury did honour to St. Dunstan. Wells had a bell named *Donston*, as the communar informs us in his roll for 1344. His Feast (19 May) was kept as a " lesser double "—that is, on the highest scale but one,—with the same honour as that of Augustine, Apostle of the English; and the colours for both these saints were green and saffron. Moreover Dunstan shared an altar with Martin, Gregory and Edward, in St. Martin's chapel near the font.[3] But the interest of Wells in St. Dunstan was most vividly manifested in connexion with a function on Easter Monday of which I shall presently give an account.

Turning now to Glastonbury, I need not dwell on the claim of the abbey to have the saint's body—a claim against which the Canterbury monks entered vigorous protests in the beginning of the twelfth century, and again in the beginning of the sixteenth. More to our present purpose is the existence of a fair at Glastonbury on St. Dunstan's Day, though already in Abbot Beere's time it had ceased to be held.[4] And much more interesting are some details in which St. Dunstan's memory survived in connexion with the internal administration of the abbey.

In the monks' kitchen at Glastonbury there were five cooks.

1. Athelney Chartulary, *S.R.S.*, XIV, 151.
2. Bath Chartulary, *S.R.S.*, VII, 38
3. Wells Statutes (ed. Reynolds), pp. 7, 51, 101.
4. John of Glastonbury, II, 308.

In the year 1189 the chief of these was William Pastorel, who was the master-cook of both the abbots' kitchen and the monks' kitchen. The second was David Cook, in whose family the office had been for more than two hundred years : " David Cook holds his mystery by hereditary right from the time of St. Dunstan." All these five cooks had the right of receiving daily " one white loaf and two pots of good beer of the assise of St. Dunstan."[1]

There was another Glastonbury custom which dated from the time of St. Dunstan and is expressly declared to have been ordered by him. It is of special interest as being one of the few peaceable links that connected the great abbey with the mother church of the diocese. Our earliest knowledge of it, strangely enough, comes from a papal bull. In March 1179 Pope Alexander III held a great Council at the Lateran, and Bishop Reginald of Bath was one of the four English bishops who attended it. Before the Council he did a little business of his own : for on 20 February 1179 he obtained a bull confirming all the properties and rights of his see. The last of a long list of detailed rights is described as follows : " Moreover two loaves of a certain size, and two barrels of mead of a certain measure, and two kids or two pigs, which are annually rendered on Easter Monday to you and your church of Wells by the monastery of Glastonbury from the time of St. Dunstan and by his institution."[2]

It is told of Abbot William, who ruled from 1219 to 1223, that " he increased the loaf of St. Dunstan by one quarter, so that it is of the same weight as the convent's loaf."[3] What exactly is meant is not clear ; and we cannot be sure that St. Dunstan's loaf in this passage is connected directly with the annual presentation at Wells. Indeed we should not be inclined so to explain it at all, but for the next reference in which mention is made of " the great loaf of St. Dunstan."

The Custumary of Abbot Michael, published by the Somerset Record Society in 1891, was drawn up soon after that abbot's

1. *Liber Henrici de Soliaco* (ed. Jackson), pp. 12–14.
2. Wells Reg., III, 226*b* ff.
3. Adam de Domerham, II, 477.

accession in 1235. At the end of it we have a remarkable list of the services due to the abbey from the tenant who holds the tenancy formerly held by Robert Malherbe. The tenant's name is not given, nor the place where his holding was : but we know that forty-six years earlier Robert Malherbe had done homage to Abbot Henry de Sully for half a hide (at Legh) in Wrington " for the tenth part of a knight " ; and Wrington is specially mentioned in the list of services due from our nameless tenant of 1235. Among other obligations the tenant in question was bound to take the abbot in a boat wherever he would in the neighbourhood of Glastonbury, to guard the abbot's wine in transit, and his vineyard and his fisheries ; and every day in Lent to find fish at Mere and bring it to Glastonbury. Last of all comes this notable service : " He is bound to assist in the carrying of the great loaf of St. Dunstan to Wells on Easter Monday, and, when they have come there, to make the gift (*exennium facere*).[1]

It must have been a considerable procession that he led on this occasion : for on an earlier page we find among the tenants of the immediate neighbourhood of Glastonbury eleven persons who held their tenements partly on the condition of " bringing the present " (*ferre present*) to Wells on Easter Monday. Let us rescue from oblivion those who thus travelled across the moor in 1236, if only for the interest of their names. There were two Adams and two Walters among them, also a David and a Denis. The names are : Henry Carter, David Cruchet, Adam Doggevel, Denis of Tewkesbury, Thomas Syderun, Walter Saleman, Walter Sutor, Adam Alwred, John of Putte, William Ainulf and Herbert Par.[2]

When they arrived in Wells the party was in need of refreshment, and the communar of the dean and chapter in the year 1328 (the first year for which his account is preserved) makes an entry of 8*d.* as given " to the bringers of St. Dunstan's present " (*portantibus exennium sancti Dunstani*).[3] This would

1. Custumary of Abbot Michael de Ambresbury, *S.R.S.*, V, 176 f.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 119 ff.

3. *See* Cal. of Wells MSS., vol. II. Some details are here added from the original rolls.

be the equivalent of thirteen shillings of our money, and would suffice to set the party on their homeward way. The communar's payment remains the same, but the form of his entry changes, and in 1414 he speaks of " the bringers of St. Dunstan's rent." Though spoken of as a present, it had been long regarded in the light of a rent, as we learn from a curious little controversy concerning it which arose between the bishop and the dean and chapter.

In the year 1339 Easter Monday was the 29th of March. On Wednesday the 31st about the hour of vespers two vicars choral waited on Bishop Ralph in the hall of his manor at Wookey. These were Richard de Tychemersh the communar of Wells and Philip de Bristol, and they presented to the bishop one loaf, one pig, and one skin of mead, being part of a yearly rent of two loaves, two pigs, and two skins of mead, due (as they alleged) to the church of Wells from the abbot and convent of Glastonbury. The bishop, who was in a constant feud with his chapter, did not at all like this way of dealing with the matter, and would have it that the whole of St. Dunstan's gift or rent was due to him. Yet we may remember that the papal bull had said " rendered to you and to your church of Wells " ; and the communar was ready to explain that he always paid 8*d.* to the bringers of St. Dunstan's gift, which he certainly would not have done if the dean and chapter had been left out of it.

The issue was that the bishop called in a notary public, who drew up a document in the presence of witnesses to say that the bishop had accepted what was brought as a moiety of the said rent due (as he alleged) to him in the name of his church, and had ordered the same to be divided among the poor by the members of his household.[1] **1400960**

There is not much more to tell about St. Dunstan's gift, save that in 1446 the usual entry of 8*d.* is found in the communar's roll, but crossed out : over it is written " Nothing this [year], on account of the breakage of two cases (if that be the right interpretation of *cacarum*) of the said rent." The next year the usual 8*d.* was paid, but there is a further entry

1. Wells Reg., II, 71*b*.

of eighteen pence "for the expenses of the subdean [John Reynolds, 1424–1450] and two canons, Richard Cordon and John Wansford, sent to Glastonbury for St. Dunstan's rent." It would seem as though it had become necessary to lay a formal complaint.[1] The rent was duly paid as long as the abbey stood: our last notice of it is in the communar's account for 1538: the accounts for the next few years are missing.

So the two neighbouring foundations were linked up during six centuries of their history. On every Maundy Thursday the bishop blessed the holy chrism and oil for the abbot to distribute among the churches of his peculiar jurisdiction:[2] on every Easter Monday St. Dunstan's gift was brought from Glastonbury to the bishop and his church of Wells. It is one of the cruel ironies of history that the latest dean of Wells to take his share of the gifts was Thomas Lord Crumwell, who caused the last abbot of Glastonbury to be hanged on St. Michael's Tor.

These trivial reminiscences are not collected in vain, if they help us to reach the greatness of our Somerset saint of a thousand years ago. No man who has enough knowledge of the past to recognise the true crises of Western civilisation can look on Athelney to-day without emotion. For there on the bank of the long straight rhine is the little eminence which Alfred held, when Wessex, well-nigh beaten to her knees, made her last stand against the heathen Danes, and gained time to gather her forces and inflict upon the common foe of Europe their first decisive defeat; a defeat which stayed their hitherto invincible advance, thrust them back within bounds which they might not pass, and heartened France to repel them from Paris in the following years.

Some thirty years after this critical event Dunstan was born at Baltonsborough, not fifteen miles from Athelney.

1. The *Index Chartarum Glaston. tempore J. de Tantonia* (John of Glaston., p. 404) notes under the heading "Transitoriæ litteræ": "Carta capituli Wellensis de quieta [clamancia] expensaram et dampnorum illatorum par subtractionem exennii paschalis."

2. *See* the Privilege of K. Edgar (William of Malmesbury, *De Antiq. Glaston.*, in Hearne's *Adam of Domerham*, I, 81), which, though not accepted as a genuine charter, is sufficient evidence of the custom.

Dunstan brought Alfred's work to full fruition. First as abbot of Glastonbury, and then as archbishop of Canterbury, he guided three youthful kings—boys when they came to the throne—Edmund, Edred and Edgar, in a policy which made England permanently one. Strong and yet conciliatory, alike in Church and in State, he towers above his contemporaries, the Immovable Rock as they called him, playing on his name. His work might seem to be shattered in the dark days of England's humiliation which followed his death: but Mercia and Northumbria were never separate kingdoms again, and the new monasteries survived the period of their persecution and had five hundred years of usefulness before them.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Dean, observed that it was recorded that eighteen churches in England were dedicated to St. Dunstan, but he had been able to trace only seventeen.

The Rev. Preb. J. HAMLET seconded, and the Rev. Preb. BATES HARBIN, in supporting the motion, mentioned that in one of the upper lights of the windows on the south side of Cothelstone Church, St. Dunstan was represented with a pair of tongs. (*Proc.*, XLIV, i, 49). *See* Part II, paper i, and Plate I.

The vote was heartily carried.

The PRESIDENT, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that he would be glad if any one could give a parallel to the title given in the lettering on the glass of that window, "St. Dunstan of Glastonbury." There was a series of small figures in the headlights of the windows, and all of them had titles of this kind. They were in pairs, as follows: St. Thomas of Hereford and St. Aldhelm of Sherborne; St. Cuthbert of Durham and St. Dunstan of Glastonbury; St. Richard of Chichester and St. Thomas of Canterbury. The question arose, to what date could the glass be assigned?

Afternoon Conversazione at the Museum.

There was a good attendance of members at the afternoon meeting. The proceedings opened at 2.30 p.m., when Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., delivered a lecture on "The Lady Chapel of Glastonbury Abbey: a Study of Measures and Proportions," of which the following is a brief summary. An account of the theory on which the lecture was based is embodied in the *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects* for 10th June, 1916, of which a reprint is now in the Society's Library.

It is Viollet-le-Duc who points out that architectural research suffers from one fundamental imperfection—that whereas it enters fully into forms of construction, it speaks only shortly and undecidedly of Proportion, tending to consider it as essentially something in the mind of the artist, and not measurable. The suggestion that the Gothic architects depended upon geometrical schemata is put aside with the decided utterance, "We do not believe it."

We have no mediaeval books of instruction on this point, and architectural drawings begin with the end of the thirteenth century. Other documents have to do chiefly with administration. But in the protocols of the Milanese cathedral fabric (XIV—XV Cent.) there is material for judgment; and from these it is clear that the first intention of planning that cathedral on a basis of squares was changed for a system of equilateral triangles, and finally, in the upper parts, the "Egyptian" triangle, or triangle of 3, 4, and 5, was used.

The geometry of English mediaeval plans has been studied by a few, such as Kerrich and Cockerell, and the type of plan on the triangular basis has been detected. But as commonly met with, there is a deviation from geometric accuracy which seemed to vitiate the claims of its champions. This was so in the works attributed to William of Wykeham where a simple 4 : 7 proportion took the place of the more complex ratio of the double equilateral triangle. But this is now shown to be a mason's formula for arriving by the simplest means at a result approximately correct, and it means this,

that a system of commensurate squares could thus be used for the planning of buildings in reasonable harmony with the triangular principle.

The Lady Chapel at Glastonbury has a far more perfect adjustment and, possibly, it may prove the most perfect specimen we possess. Remembering its extreme antiquity as a sacred site, and the care with which the XII Century building was planned to accord with the exact shape and dimensions of the older church, it is but reasonable to infer that most ancient tradition assisted in the determination of its form.

The double equilateral triangle or rhombus determines the proportion of the *Vesica Piscis*, a well known decorative feature in all mediaeval architecture, associated with religious symbology and with sculpture of Christ and the Blessed Virgin. It has been held to correspond with the $I\chi\theta\upsilon\varsigma$, or fish symbol, of the early Christians. The rectangle of the Glastonbury chapel just covers a figure of this proportion, and a second one lies within it.

The Sacred Geometry embodied in the plan of the original church would seem, in the early days, to have found more unmistakable and definite expression, to judge by the following passage from William of Malmesbury's "Acts of the Kings," Book I, chap. 2 :—

"This church, then, is certainly the oldest I am acquainted with in England and from this circumstance derives its name. . . . In the pavement may be seen on every side, stones designedly inlaid in triangles and squares, and figured with lead, under which, if I believe some sacred enigma to be contained, I do no injustice to religion."

An interesting question of measures is involved in these proportionals. The XII Century work at Glastonbury may be stated in terms of English statute feet and inches, and the buildings generally will fall into a series of commensurate squares of 37 feet. But a strictly triangulated plan having this width will have a length which can only be stated in feet by the adoption of one of the conventional ratios, at some slight sacrifice of truth.

There would otherwise have to be two incoordinate standards

of measure. Such, in the case of the rhombus, would be represented by the English foot (for the breadth) and the Egyptian cubit of about 20·76ins. (for the measure of length). This cubit has not yet been isolated in these islands, but its presence might be inferred in localities influenced by Mediterranean trade in the early days. Professor Petrie in his "Inductive Metrology" has shown (p. 142, synoptic table) the presence in Britain's early monuments of the Assyrian *suklu* of 19·99ins., the Babylonian foot of 12·47ins., the Drusian foot of 13·22ins. (the common English builder's foot); and, in Ireland, the Assyrian cubit of 21·34ins., with several other minor measures. And it is well known that our old metric system of land measures is linked with the Egyptian metre.

There is therefore nothing unreasonable in the question whether these ancient geometric plans may not at first have been serviceable in recording a double standard of measure, and whether the cubit of 20¾ins. may not have been the standard of length in the plan of the earliest and most sacred of British churches.

After the lecture the Dean of Wells announced that the Hon. Mrs. Stanley had sent a beautifully carved wooden cup for exhibition that afternoon, which was reputed to be Elizabethan. Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin, who had just examined the tankard-shaped vessel, thought it belonged to the period of Charles II. It is elaborately carved with scriptural subjects from the Old and New Testaments.

Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., gave a short talk and practical demonstration on the Fertilization of some Somerset Wild Flowers, and said that the visits of insects were of great importance to plants in transferring the pollen from the stamens to the pistil. Sometimes they are situated in separate flowers, and even when in the same flower, self-fertilization is often difficult or impossible, owing to their relative positions in the flower, or their not coming to maturity at the same time. The pollen is therefore transferred in various ways, in some species by the action of the wind, or in a few instances by

birds, but in most cases by visits of insects, the flowers being especially adapted to this purpose. The visits of insects are due to the nectar secreted, while the scent and bright colours of the flowers attract them. Flowers not needing insect fertilization were usually less attractive, and wind fertilized flowers are quite inconspicuous. Taking white clover as an example it was pointed out that each separate floret was complete in itself and required separate fertilization with pollen from another flower. When fertilization had taken place the floret dropped down and got out of the way. The method of transference of the pollen was demonstrated by dissection of the blossoms.

Illustrations were given of the fertilization of pinks, larkspur, foxglove, forget-me-not, geranium, mallow, daisy, figwort, blackberry and many others. The genus *Geranium* afforded a good example that the beauty of flowers is useful in attracting insects, and comparison was made between four different species, showing that the largest and most attractive, *Geranium pratense*, was incapable of self-fertilization. The next, half its size, *G. pyrenaicum*, was generally fertilized by insects, and *G. molle*, still smaller and less conspicuous, was often self-fertilized, while *G. pusillum*, the minutest and most insignificant flower, was generally self-fertilized.

During the afternoon the members took full advantage of inspecting the Museum and Castle, and of seeing the improvements and additions effected. The Taunton Field Club entertained the Parent Society to tea in the Great Hall, and thanks were heartily accorded to the Club for their hospitality.

The Shakespeare Exhibition.

A small exhibition in commemoration of the tercentenary of the death of William Shakespeare (1564–1616), which had been arranged by the Curator (Mr. H. St. George Gray), was opened on July 18th on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Society. The objects were displayed in cases in the Tite Room; and they were available for public inspection until August 17th. The specimens, dating approximately from 1550 to 1650, were to a large extent drawn from the Society's collections; there were, however, several loans.

Dr. H. Downes, of Ilminster, lent a number of things connected with Shakespeare and Stratford-on-Avon, including the game "Nine Men's Morris" (Midsummer Night's Dream, II, i, 98); models of the "sanctuary knocker" and the font in Stratford Church; pedigree of the family of Shakespeare; photographs of Shakespeare's baptismal and burial entries in the church registers, Stratford; rubbings of inscriptions on the poet's monument, his grave, and his wife's grave; and five engravings of places at Stratford associated with Shakespeare. Miss H. Wills exhibited two portraits of the dramatist.

Mr. J. E. Minns lent two lutes—stringed instruments in general use in the XVI and XVII Centuries, and a "hurdy-gurdy," or vielle, a drone instrument with strings set in vibration by the friction of a wheel, being a development of the organistrum. Mr. Minns also lent an early example of a clock-watch, by Carll Schmidt, *circa* 1600, when the making of timekeepers was in the hands of the blacksmiths and "hammermen." Mr. W. de C. Prideaux lent a small painting of the poet, a brass candlestick, and a ventilating quarry of lead,—the two last of the XVI Century. Mr. H. A. Jeboult sent three small portraits of the Elizabethan musicians, Orlando Gibbons, William Byrd, and Thomas Tallis; also two virginal music-books.

The Rev. D. J. Pring lent a tobacco-stopper made from the original Shakespeare mulberry-tree, which was accompanied by some correspondence on the subject. He also sent an

engraving with title, "Shakespeare before Sir Thomas Lucy for shooting his deer." Mrs. St. G. Gray exhibited a few specimens, including a powder flask of the period, and a Royalist badge of Charles I and Henrietta Maria.

Several books of or relating to the period were lent by Prebendary Bates Harbin, Mr. T. W. Cowan, Mrs. Hook, the Rev. G. A. Allan, and Dr. Maidlow. Amongst those lent by Preb. Harbin was a folio edition, dated 1586, of R. Holinshed's "Chronicles of England," one of the sources of Shakespeare's knowledge of English history. Most of the books of the period lent by Mr. Cowan related to natural history and particularly to bees; they included "The Flowers of Shakespeare" (well illustrated), 1845.

The most important exhibit from the Society's collections was the Shakespeare Jug, which was figured and described by Mr. H. St. George Gray in *The Connoisseur*, October, 1903. The pewter lid bears Shakespeare's signature, dated 1602. This scratching has been pronounced by experts to be quite genuine. The stoneware jug was made in Nassau between 1540 and the date of the inscription.

Another important exhibit, though a little late in date for this exhibition, was the Virginal bearing the inscription on the name-board . "Charles Rewallin made it. Xon. 75." Rewallin was married in Exeter Cathedral on 23rd September, 1657, and his will is dated Exeter, 5th July, 1697. This instrument belongs to the Arthur Hull collection, now exhibited in the Society's museum, but formerly at Chard. (The Virginal has since the exhibition been figured and described in *The Connoisseur*, October, 1916).

Pewter of the period was drawn from the Charbonnier collection in the Museum, and included spoons, candlesticks, a paten, a chalice, flagons, measures, and dishes, one of the latter bearing the arms of Charles I in enamels. Brass candlesticks from Mr. E. C. Trepplin's collection were also shown. In earthenware were some Bellarmine jugs, a pipkin, and a bottle of Lambeth delft marked "Whit, 1643." In the same case was a goblet of wood dated 1628. A bronze mortar, dated 1631, was exhibited, and a number of finely wrought door and cabinet keys of the period. The collection also

contained two silver apostle spoons of dates 1579–80 and 1610–11. The silver included a Charles I dish lent by Mrs. Hook.

All the coins exhibited were from the Museum collections, and they included typical specimens of the silver coinage of Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, James I, and Charles I (from pennies to crowns). There was also a gold unit of Charles I and a gold laurel of James I. One example of the three-farthing piece of Elizabeth was shown :—

> ". . . . . my face so thin,
> That in mine ear I durst not stick a rose,
> Lest men should say, Look where three farthing goes."
> KING JOHN, Act 1.

A fine bronze medal of Charles I was shown ; also two tokens bearing Shakespeare's portrait. A memorial brass found in the old church of Knowle St. Giles when it was pulled down in 1849 was exhibited. This brass is dated 1584, and is inscribed to the memory of Philip Burre.

A war helmet of the morion type, *temp.* Elizabeth, was exhibited—" But for a sallet (helmet) my brain-pan had been cleft with a brown bill " (Henry VI, pt. 2, sc. x). A helmet (*circa* 1580), probably adapted for funeral purposes, from Barrington Court, was also shown. The weapons were not numerous, but included a " latch " or " prood," a steel halberd dated 1625, swords of the period found at Westmoor and in Corporation Street, Taunton, spurs from Taunton, Athelney, Sparkford, etc., and a cannon-ball from Nunney Castle, which was destroyed by the Parliamentarians (*temp.* Charles I). A very handsome dog-collar was dated 1563. There was a warming-pan bearing the Stuart arms, and the covers of two others dated 1627 and 1630. A tea-caddy made from the mulberry-tree said to have been planted by Shakespeare was shown ; it bears the following written inscription :—

> " This casket though humble was made from the tree,
> Which Oh ! my dear Shakespeare was planted by thee."

Various specimens of writings of the period were exhibited, including deeds, copybooks, etc., and a visitation book of the Archdeacon of Taunton, comperta and proceedings, 1623–4.

An interesting exhibit was the coloured parchment, 1626, containing the names and heraldry of the ancestors of Edward Somerset, Marquis of Worcester (1601–1667), to the sixth generation ; and the confirmation by Richard St. George, Clarenceux King of Arms, for alteration of coats of arms, 1624. Mention must also be made of the manuscript commission signed by Sir John Berkeley, appointing William Ash, captain, 25th August, 1644 ; and of the passport signed by Sir Thomas Fairfax to Captain Wm. Ash, to enable him to pass the Guards at South Petherton, dated 17th February, 1647. The needlework included the covers of a psalm book of 1636, handsomely embroidered. There was a specimen of " stump-work " and two Bible cushions of petit point of the XVII Century. A bead-work tobacco-pouch bore the motto, " Love me, for I am thine, 1631."

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 (on military service).
Director of Excavations—Mr. H. St. George Gray, Taunton Castle.

Cannington Park Camp.

ON hearing of the disfigurement of this Camp (chiefly the result of the ancient site having been overrun by some 600 mules), Mr. Gray visited Cannington Park on April 9th, 1916, and subsequently described the site and the result of his inspection in a letter to *The Times*, May 10th. This was followed by another letter in the same paper on May 12th, written from a purely commercial point of view by Mr. R. A. Auger, manager of a small firm called the Somerset Spar Company who employs a few men for mining barytes in a part of Cannington which has no direct connection with the Camp.

The Camp, which is described in Mr. A. F. Major's "Early Wars of Wessex," has never been systematically excavated, but numbers of antiquities have been picked up on the surface of the Camp, many of which are comparable with relics found in the Somerset Lake Villages; other remains appear to be of a still earlier type and date.

The matter has caused a good deal of interest both locally and in London, the bodies concerned being the Council of the Somersetshire Archæological Society, the Earthworks Committee of the same society, the Earthworks Committee of the Congress of Archæological Societies, and H.M. Office of Works (Ancient Monuments Act).

The tenant is Mr. Alfred Berry, who farms several hundreds of acres including the Camp, and retains the mineral rights. He and others have combined to supply the War Department, for the purposes of munitions of war, with a large quantity of barytes (native sulphate of barium, called also "heavy spar"). For this purpose large numbers of workpeople are employed at the present time, and they are mining land of less elevation than the Camp, situated immediately to the west of the ancient enclosure. Before this work was begun

two large trial-cuttings were made within the Camp; one of these, from an antiquarian point of view, is dangerously near the main entrance to the Camp; the other cutting is on the west, and much of the waste material thrown out has been heaped upon the ancient stone wall or rampart of the Camp.

On June 2nd, 1916, Dr. Bulleid and Mr. Gray met Mr. Berry at the Camp. On this occasion Mr. Gray found that the ancient enclosure had assumed a greener aspect, as the scattered trees were then in leaf and the whole area covered with young oats, the result of seed wasted by the mules. On this visit a number of flint flakes, etc., and several fragments of pottery were picked up on the surface and in the earth thrown out by the mining operations.

Mr. Berry promised that if anything further was done in the way of mining in the Camp or close to it, he would report to the Society, so that scientific observations and drawings might be made. The Lord Clifford (since deceased) wished to be informed of the results of the interview.—*June 3rd*, 1916.

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.

THE excursions this year (1916) were half-day meetings and followed on the lines of the previous one, so as not to unduly interfere with the war work in which so many of our members are engaged. Mr. Gerald Grey arranged the following programme which was carried out most satisfactorily, and proved both interesting and instructive.

April 28th. Bradford-on-Avon. Saxon Church, Holy Trinity Church, the Tithe Barn, and The Hall.

May 18th. St. James' Church, Camely; All Saints Church, Hinton Blewett; and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Litton.

June 27th. St. Mary Magdalene Church, Tormarton; the Church of St. James the Less, Iron Acton; and the Church of St. John the Baptist, Chipping Sodbury.

July 18th. The churches of St. Michael, Burnett; St. Mary, Compton Dando; All Saints, Publow; and St. Thomas à Becket, Pensford.

September 18th. The Church of St. Julian, Wellow; and the Chambered Tumulus and Manor House, Stoney Littleton.

On March 9th Mr. Thos. S. Bush gave a lecture at the Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath, on "Early Records of the Parish of Charlcombe and its People," illustrated by lantern slides.

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

Report of the Glastonbury Abbey Excavation Committee, 1916.

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. Lawrence Bulleid and Roger Clark.

OWING to the War donations were not solicited during the past season, and little work has been carried out.

Mr. G. L. Bulleid reports that all that could be attempted in the way of actual excavation was to cut away a foot or two of the bank on the south side of the Dorter sub-vault, thus showing more clearly the partition wall at that point between the central plinth and the west wall.

A great deal of the man's time was taken up in doing banking work, keeping the site generally in order, and clearing the grass and weeds.

There have been no finds of interest during the past season.

The Committee have laid several suggestions before the Abbey Trustees and are awaiting their decision respecting them.

The Committee desire to thank Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., for acting as Director of the Excavations during 1916, and also Mr. G. L. Bulleid for his kind assistance in superintending the work.

Statement of Accounts for 1916.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

Receipts.	£	*s.*	*d.*	Payments.	£	*s.*	*d.*
By Balance of Former Account .. .. (See *Proc.*, LXI, XXX).	43	0	6	To Labour, March to Sept.	4	11	7
				,, Copies of Plan of Glastonbury Abbey ..	0	3	6
,, Weston - super - Mare Branch—Donation	2	2	0	,, Balance in hand (Dec. 30, 1916)	43	15	8
,, Box Collections, Glastonbury Abbey(June to October) ..	3	7	3				
	£48	9	9		£48	9	9

H. St. George Gray, *Hon. Treasurer.*