Report of the Curator of the Somerset County Museum, from October 1st, 1919, to July 20th, 1920.

FROM the above title it will be seen that this report covers a period of less than nine months, that is, from the date of the last report to the time of the Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society (July 20th, 1920). In future these reports will cover the period intervening between successive annual meetings of the Society; and any details having reference to the Museum and Library mentioned in the Annual Report of the Council will not be repeated in these notes, which form a preface to the lists of Museum and Library acquisitions which follow.

On this account there is less to be recorded here than in any previous report of recent years.

The additions to the Museum during the nine months under review have been well up to the average, and include in archæological, ethnographical and kindred departments, a number of specimens of considerable interest. Dr. R. H. and Mr. Eric Walter have added to the collection of antiquities from Ham Hill, S. Somerset. Part of a large hoard of Roman coins dug up on the estate of the late Earl of Selborne in Hampshire in 1873 has been given by the Earl Waldegrave. Mr. H. Martin Gibbs has presented a large number of British and foreign weapons, most of which are highly ornamented; also a small series of brass snuffers and rush-holders. Mr. T. Charbonnier, who has removed some of the duplicates in his loan collection of Pewter, has added several other pieces of importance. From Miss Graham has been received the microscope used by her late father, Dr. Arthur Graham.

Mr. A. M. Hale has presented a framed oil-painting of his uncle, the late Mr. W. Jerdone Braikenridge, who bequeathed his Somerset books and deeds to the Society in 1907. Two coloured estate maps on parchment of parts of Quantock, of

the XVII Century, have been given by Mr. E. A. V. Stanley. Several Somerset illustrations have been added to the collections by Mr. H. S. Thompson.

Since the last report was issued the ornithological collections and books bequeathed by the late Dr. J. Wiglesworth have been removed to Taunton Castle, and are listed in the following pages. The money obtained by such books as have been sold will form a special fund for the purchase of books on ornithology.

A large number of dried plants collected in Somerset have been given during the year by members of the Botanical Section, and are being mounted for the herbarium by Mr. T. W. Cowan. On behalf of the Entomological Section, Mr. F. Milton has been engaged upon the re-arrangement of some of the collections of insects. During the year a number of the bird-cases have been renovated, including all those received in the Wiglesworth bequest.

The Society's collection of deeds has further increased, largely owing to the continued gifts of Mr. A. W. Marks; and Miss Masey is making good progress in preparing material for the card-catalogue.

The Entomological Section held its annual meeting at the Castle on February 11th, and the Ornithological Section on May 18th. The inaugural meeting of the Microscopical Section was held on July 15th. The Taunton Field Club held conversaziones for lectures in the Museum on December 4th, 1919, and February 26th, 1920; and an open meeting in the Municipal Hall, Taunton, on March 30th, 1920, when Mr. A. R. Powys lectured upon "The Repair and Upkeep of Ancient Buildings."

The Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society consisted of 1015 members on July 20th, 1920, including eighteen Life members and two honorary members.

The Museum and Library were visited by 7313 persons in 1918, 8760 in 1919, and 8962 in 1920, the last being the highest number yet attained.

H. St. George Gray.

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