PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1927

THE Seventy-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Chard on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 12th, 13th and 14th. About one hundred and seventy members and friends took part in the proceedings; but that number has been exceeded at least on half-a-dozen previous occasions.

There was a very good attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Town Hall by kind permission of the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Townsend). The chair was taken at 11.30 a.m. by the senior Vice-President, Professor Sir William Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., in the absence of the outgoing President, Mr. R. Neville-Grenville, and he was supported by Colonel J. William Gifford, F.R.A.S. (*President-Designate*), Professor A. Hamilton Thompson (a *Vice-President*), the Rev. Father Ethelbert Horne (*Chairman of Council*), Mr. Arthur E. Eastwood (*Chairman of Finance*), Mr. Charles Tite (*Hon. Secretary*), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Excursion Secretary*).

The Annual Report

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Asst.-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows:

'In presenting the seventy-ninth annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last annual meeting 60 new names

have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation for the year 1926–27 have been 41, and the net gain is 19. The total membership at date is 1063, against 1044 at the Glastonbury Meeting last year. The Society's highest membership was attained in 1923, with a total of 1082.

'The Society records with much regret the loss by death of the Rev. Prebendary Hamlet (1896), who was closely identified with the administrative work of the Society for many years, becoming chairman of Council during the last year of his life. An obituary notice of him appeared in the recently issued volume of *Proceedings*.

'In Mr. Henry J. Badcock (1872) the Society has lost an officer whose advice on all matters was invariably sound. He became joint treasurer with his father in 1860, and acted in that capacity until two years before his death, which occurred on April 13th, 1927. He was also a trustee of the Society for over fifty years.

'In addition the Council regrets to record the deaths of: Colonel H. Cary Batten, O.B.E. (1886), who at one time frequently attended our annual gatherings, and was our representative on the Leigh Woods Committee of Management; Mrs. Bownes (1908); Mr. William Farewell Blake, of Bridge (1908); Mr. P. W. Cruttwell (1911); the Rev. K. Mac R. Davis (1917); Mr. J. T. G. Donaldson (1906); Mr. J. W. Evens (1899); the Rev. J. C. Fox (1896); Mr. G. E. Grimsdale (1911); the Rev. H. F. S. Gurney (1898); Mr. J. B. Harris-Burland (1925); the Rev. F. C. Haines (1913); Sir John F. F. Horner, K.C.V.O. (1875); Mr. F. H. Knight (1905); Mrs. J. G. Loveday (1898); Miss F. G. Lucas (1914); Mr. A. Trice Martin, F.S.A. (1920); Mr. George I. Simey, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Somerset (1906); Dr. C. F. Stovin (1926); and Mr. W. J. Villar (1902).

'The custom has prevailed for many years at the Annual Meeting of reading a general statement on the finances of the Society for the previous year. The audited accounts have, however, been brought up to date, by the publication of those for 1926, including those for archæological excavations, in the recently issued volume of the *Proceedings* for that year. The general statement showed a balance in hand of £153 9*s*. 9*d*. in

addition to £50 placed on reserve for repairs. The latter sum and other moneys in addition have now been expended on alterations to the Castle Lodge, and this house has been brought into such a state of repair as to command a larger rent than formerly.

'The expenses attending the issue of the *Proceedings* for 1926 (recently produced) amounted to £211 3*s*. 7*d*., and it is a book of equal dimensions to Vol. lxxi for 1925. Special thanks are again due to Dr. A. C. Fryer for defraying the cost of the plates of Somerset effigies.

'Early in January the Council received an intimation from Mr. William Wyndham that he would be willing to give the Society the sum of £1,475 for the erection and equipment of a Lecture Hall in the grounds of Taunton Castle, to be used primarily for the Wyndham Trust lectures, Taunton Elementary and Secondary Schools, and at other times as the Society thinks fit, but excluding political and religious meetings. Your Council accepted Mr. Wyndham's kind and generous offer, and proceeded to make immediate arrangements for carrying out the work without delay, as Mr. Wyndham wished the hall to be ready for use by October 1st.

'The Council desires to put on record its appreciation of all that Mr. Wyndham has done to encourage and develop an interest in history and archæology among school-children.

'The Society owes its thanks to Lt.-Colonel H. R. Phipps for having devoted considerable time to the work of completing an Index to some five thousand documents, deeds and other manuscripts of local interest, most of which have been given to the Society from time to time. Nearly a thousand cards have been used in forming this index.[1] Some of the material for the index had previously been prepared by Miss B. Masey.

'The Society has recently acquired a number of copies of tithe maps made *circa* 1843 ; also manuscript copies or drafts of tithe apportionment books (1838–70).[2]

'Mrs. Harris-Burland, during the past year, has presented over seventy deeds and Mr. R. H. Ley over a hundred, relating

[1] For fuller information see *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXXII, 69-72.
[2] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXXII, 89.

to Somerset and dating from 1615 to 1800. The Right Hon. H. Hobhouse has presented two local manuscripts.

'The Director-General of Ordnance Surveys has presented a set of thirty-two 25-inch ordnance sheets, showing the course of Wansdyke through Somerset as marked by the late Mr. Albany Major, O.B.E.

'The Ornithological Section of the Society has recently purchased Vols. i to xiii of *British Birds*, and presented the same to the Library at Taunton Castle, making the set complete to date.

'Since the last annual meeting excavations have been in progress at Glastonbury Abbey, Taunton Castle and Ham Hill. A part of June has usually been devoted to the excavations at the Meare Lake Village. This year, however, Dr. Bulleid and Mr. St. George Gray hope to resume work there for three weeks from August 29th.

'Excavations will be carried on early in August at Kingsdown Camp, in the N.W. corner of the parish of Mells and close to Ammerdown Park, and later in August at the Saxon Cemetery at Camerton.

'In the early spring the excavations at Taunton Castle were continued and a remarkable piece of walling was uncovered, running east and west and at right angles to the eastern wall of the Castle courtyard. This wall has at least seventeen set-offs in close order and is apparently of Norman date. It is hoped to continue this work next winter if funds permit.

'The excavations at the west end of the nave of Glastonbury Abbey were resumed early in June, under the direction of Mr. T. Fyfe assisted by Mr. C. E. Clayton, and will continue this season until July 16th, after which the most interesting structural features will be left open for inspection—at any rate for a time—and the other parts filled in.

'A working agreement has been drawn up whereby a joint committee of the Somerset Archæological Society and the Spelæological Society of the University of Bristol will be called together to arrange for any excavations proposed by the latter society within the county boundary of Somerset.

'During the past year, three packhorse bridges, some barrows at Winford, and the Roman Baths at Bath have been scheduled

by the Ancient Monuments department of the Office of Works. The repair of Nunney Castle is proceeding, but it will be a long time before the work there is finished.

'It has been found impossible to acquire the land adjoining the remains of Muchelney Abbey, as the price asked for it was prohibitive, but the Office of Works will probably begin the repair of the existing piece of the monastery shortly. The site of the abbey church is along the south margin of the churchyard of the parish church, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made with the vicar and churchwardens so that the church foundations may be railed off from the graveyard. If this can be done, some appeal may have to be made by the Society for the cost of the railings.

'Mr. Holworthy is still sorting and mending documents at the Bishop's Registry, Wells. A hand-list of documents is being prepared and is making steady progress. There are some two or three thousand letters of the difficult Stuart times, which have not been touched yet. It is probable they may some day make a volume of the Somerset Record Society.

'A branch of the Historical Society has been founded in Bath. The members, by arrangements with our Society, are bringing Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents* up to date, by adding names from manuscript collections in our library and from other sources.

'The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Beauty is trying to raise sufficient money to buy and preserve for all time, the Lion Rock, which stands at the entrance of the Cheddar pass. About thirty-five acres of land are included, and these bring in a good rent as strawberry gardens. A sum of about £600 is needed.

'The Society's Natural History Sections have all been actively engaged during the year, and have held meetings at Taunton Castle, besides the usual excursions in the spring and summer. The Ornithological Section has just reached a total membership of one hundred.

'Taunton Castle was visited during 1926 by 8,289 persons, including 1,859 attendances from members, as against 7,763 persons in 1925. The fluctuations during recent years has been very slight.

'In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation. Those retiring at this meeting are Mr. A. E. Eastwood, Dr. R. L. Meade-King, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, and Mr. H. B. Sheppard, all of whom have been nominated for re-election.'

Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the progress and prosperity of the society and its proud position as regards size. They were all exceedingly glad to hear of the gift by Mr. Wyndham of a lecture hall at Taunton Castle. It added to the responsibility of their labours in the cause of archæology and increased their opportunities for educational work.

Mr. T. G. SIMMONDS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN, in supporting the motion, spoke of the high educational value of museums, and he prophesied that educational bodies all over the country would have to pay at least some attention to the study of things as well as of books. A commission was now considering the question of museums in general. Referring to Glastonbury Abbey he thought they must all be relieved that, up to the present time, the attempt to form a motor park near it had not succeeded. He had been glad to note the opposition of the Council of their Society to the scheme, strengthened by the untiring efforts of Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Finances

Mr. A. E. EASTWOOD, Chairman of Finance, said that although the Accounts of the Society for 1926 had already been audited and printed in the recently issued volume of *Proceedings*, they should be formally brought before the Annual Meeting, and he wished to propose their adoption.

The proposition was carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Taunton Castle

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1927. (*GENERAL ACCOUNT*).

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926 ...	153	9	9			
„ Amount brought in from Repairs Reserve ...	50	0	0			
				203	9	9
„ Members' Subscriptions—1926	27	15	0			
„ „ 1927*	840	10	6			
„ „ 1928	12	15	6			
				881	1	0
„ Members' Entrance Fees				30	19	6
„ Museum Receipts				144	6	8
„ Publications				24	18	8
„ Rent				27	2	8
„ Dividends—New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	4	6	0			
5% War Loan Bonds	16	0	0			
				20	6	0
„ Miscellaneous Receipts				0	10	9
„ Transfer from Capital Account				0	15	0
„ Amount received on Mortgage *re* Castle Lodge at 5%				300	0	0
				£1,633	10	0

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By General Printing and Stationery				15	16	1
„ Fuel and Light				60	13	11
„ Repairs to Buildings ...				23	9	10
„ Repairs and Renewals of Furnishings ...				15	9	10
„ Extensions of Furnishings				3	0	6
„ General Postages and Telegrams				10	19	2
„ Insurances				28	15	6
„ Rates and Taxes				74	10	9
„ Petty Expenses				8	13	5
„ Curator's Salary				350	0	0
„ Wages of Staff				165	10	9
„ Subscriptions to Societies				7	15	6
„ Books and Bookbinding				15	5	7
„ Museum Specimens				0	0	0
„ Accountant's Charges				6	16	6
„ Sundry				3	10	9
„ Legal Expenses *re* Castle Lodge				17	14	4
„ Mortgage Interest, do., less Tax				6	4	10
„ Fire Extinguishers				9	3	3
„ "Proceedings," vol. LXXII—1926†	181	4	1			
„ „ LXXIII—1927	20	0	0			
				201	4	1
„ Grants—Somerset Records, Wells Fund ...	2	2	0			
Stonehenge Protection Fund ...	2	2	0			
Taunton Castle Excavation Fund ...	11	0	0			
				15	4	0
„ Repayment to Botany Fund				3	0	0
„ Potter & Son—Alterations to Castle Lodge ...				387	18	0
„ Balance at Bank, 31st December 1927 ...	192	13	5			
„ Do. in hands of Solicitors	10	0	0			
				202	13	5
				£1,633	10	0

* During the year 408 subscriptions not exceeding half-a-guinea, and 618 subscriptions of larger amounts were received.
† This does not include blocks, etc., contributed by members to the Illustration Fund.

Audited and found correct, 3rd March 1928.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Auditors, Taunton.*
GEO. F. IRELAND, *Hon. Treasurer.*

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1927

WOODWARD FUND

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance c/d	151 9 7	By Balance from 1926	147 15 8	
		,, Interest for year	3 13 11	
	£151 9 7			£151 9 7
		By Balance b/d		£151 9 7

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Transfer to Current Account ...		0 15 0	By Balances from 1926:		
,, Balances c/d:			,, 5% War Loan Bonds (£300) at cost ...	282 4 3	
5% War Loan Bonds (£400) at cost ...	384 15 3		,, Deposit at Bank	48 14 0	
Deposit at Bank	0 4 0				330 18 3
		384 19 3	,, Transfer from Accumulated Profits on Excursions		54 13 0
			,, Interest for year		0 3 0
		£385 14 3			£385 14 3
			By Balance b/d		£384 19 3

BOOK FUND

By Balance from 1926 (New Zealand 4% Stock) ...	£107 11 4

WIGLESWORTH COLLECTION

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance c/d	18 10 11	By Balance from 1926	18 2 0	
		,, Interest for year	0 8 11	18 10 11
	£18 10 11			£18 10 11
		By Balance b/d		£18 10 11

MUSEUM CASES FUND

							By Balance from 1926			£0	16	3

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE CASES FUND

To Balance c/d					£	s.	d.	By Balance from 1926			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
					18	13	5	„ Interest for Year			18	4	6			
											0	8	11			
														£18	13	5
					£18	13	5	By Balance b/d						£18	13	5

BOTANY FUND

To Balance c/d					£	s.	d.	By Grant from Botanical Section S.A. and N.H.S. ...			5	0	0		
					8	3	3	„ Repayment from General Account			3	0	0		
								„ Interest for Year			0	3	3		
														8	3	3
					£8	3	3							£8	3	3
								By Balance b/d						£8	3	3

CASTLE LODGE MORTGAGE ACCOUNT

							By Amount of Mortgage Outstanding			£300	0	0

NOTE.—The Capital value of property owned by the Society does not appear in the accounts. The mortgage in respect of Castle Lodge was raised to meet repairs thereon.

GENERAL STATEMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1927

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Deposit at Westminster Bank:		
Woodward Fund	151 9 7	
Capital Account	0 4 0	
Wiglesworth Collection	18 10 11	
Museum Cases Fund	0 16 3	
Meare Lake Village Cases Fund	18 13 5	
Botany Fund	8 3 3	
		197 17 5
„ General Account (Current):		
Balance per Receipts and Payments Account		192 13 5
New Zealand 4% Stock at cost		107 11 4
5% War Loan Bonds at cost		384 15 3
		882 17 5
„ Mortgage at 5% on Castle Lodge*		300 0 0
		£1,182 17 5

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Balances:		
Woodward Fund	151 9 7	
Capital Account	384 19 3	
Book Fund	107 11 4	
Museum Cases Fund	0 16 3	
Wiglesworth Collection	18 10 11	
Meare Lake Village Cases Fund	18 13 5	
Botany Fund	8 3 3	
		690 4 0
By General Account (Current)		192 13 5
		882 17 5
„ Castle Lodge Mortgage Account		300 0 0
		£1,182 17 5

* Includes £10 in hands of Solicitors as per Receipts and Payments Account.

HAM HILL EXCAVATION FUND

(No Excavations were carried out during 1927).

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1927

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1926	4	8	10
„ Donations	3	3	0
„ Excavation Box	0	3	0
„ Bank Interest	0	2	0
„ Employers' Liability Insurance, Shares of Premium paid by Glastonbury Abbey, Taunton Castle, Meare Lake Village and Kingsdown Camp Excavation Funds (see Contra)	2	0	0
	£9	16	10

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Employers' Liability Insurance, Sun Insurance Office, Policy No. W71176 (see Contra) ...				2	0	0
„ Balance, 31st December 1927:						
Deposit Account	5	17	10			
Current Account	1	19	0			
				7	16	10
				£9	16	10

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1927

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1926	31	13	9
„ Donations	12	0	6
„ Government Grant (*per* The Royal Society)	30	0	0
„ Grant—Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London ...	10	0	0
„ Gate Money	5	8	6
„ Royalty, Copy of Fibula	0	2	6
„ Bank Interest	0	13	6
	£89	18	9

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Wages and Insurance of Workmen				35	10	7
„ Employers' Liability Insurance and Insurance of Shed				0	14	6
„ Travelling Expenses and Transport of Specimens				6	12	1
„ Compensation to Tenant				7	0	0
„ Joint Director (Mr. H. St. George Gray):						
Personal Expenses				7	17	1
„ Honorarium				9	0	0
„ Photographs				0	5	3
„ Postages, Telegrams, Cheques, etc. ...				0	6	1
„ Cheque Book				0	5	0
„ Extension of the Shed, etc.				3	0	0
„ Sundries				0	11	7
„ Balances at Bank—on Deposit Account ...	15	13	6			
on Current Account ...	3	3	1			
				18	16	7
				£89	18	9

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Joint Secretary and Director.*
JOHN MORLAND, *Hon. Treasurer.*

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1927

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926	52	10	4
„ Grant from the Administrative Trustees, Glastonbury Abbey	100	0	0
„ John H. Armstrong	10	0	0
„ Box Collections during the season at Glastonbury Abbey ...	67	9	2
„ Interest on Deposit Account	1	5	8
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*	£231	5	2

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Wages and Insurance of Workmen				86	12	0
„ Employers' Liability Insurance				1	4	0
„ Making and Lettering Collecting Boxes ...				2	8	0
„ Mr. Theodore Fyfe (Director): Lodgings, Travel and Fee				40	10	6
„ Mr. C. E. Clayton: Honorarium as Assistant Director ...				10	0	0
„ Mr. H. St. George Gray: Travelling Expenses as Treasurer and Acting Secretary				2	14	11
„ Cheque Book				0	2	0
„ Postages				0	5	2
„ Balance at Bank, 2nd January 1928: Deposit Account	52	6	9			
Current Account	35	1	10	87	8	7
				£231	5	2

TAUNTON CASTLE EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1927

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926	12	3	10
„ Grant: Somersetshire Archæological Society	11	0	0
„ „ Taunton Town Council	5	0	0
„ „ Taunton Field Club	4	4	0
„ „ Weston-super-Mare Branch, S.A. & N.H.S. ...	2	0	0
„ „ Northern Branch „ ...	1	1	0
„ Donations	2	7	0
„ Box Collections	0	11	11
„ Garden Produce	1	1	6
	£39	9	3

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
By Wages and Insurance of Workmen* ...	38	3	11
„ Employers' Liability Insurance	0	3	0
„ Foreman's Travelling Expenses	0	16	6
„ Advertisement	0	2	6
„ Cheque Book	0	2	0
„ Balance at Bank	0	1	4
	£39	9	3

* In addition to the labour recorded above, Mr. R. G. Spiller, of Taunton, kindly provided three men between 24th October and 10th November, 1927, at a cost of £17.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

All the above Accounts audited and found correct, 3rd March, 1928.

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

Report of the Development Committee, Taunton Castle

Mr. A. E. EASTWOOD, on behalf of this Committee, said that the Society's Museum was getting very overcrowded, which meant that some of the exhibits were imperfectly displayed or that they were not shown at all. He wished to ask the meeting their opinion and invited discussion on this subject. It would be necessary, he thought, to build a new gallery leading out from the Great Hall, or they could take the Castle House (occupied by the Curator) and add it to the Museum or convert it into a part of the Society's Library. He hoped that the meeting would be in favour of a forward policy, and would help the Council to find the necessary funds. There was no question about raising the annual subscription ; but he thought they must fall back upon raising capital. As far as the Council could see, a sum of at least £5,000 would be required.

The Rev. Father E. HORNE reminded the meeting that the Society was in a flourishing condition, and what had really happened was that it had ' outgrown its clothes '. He emphasized the fact that an assistant-curator was badly needed, but at present they had no means of meeting the cost. Many of the members were very anxious to get the valuable collection of Lake Village remains properly shown in one room. There was no collection of the kind in Britain, except of course that to be seen in the small museum at Glastonbury. He felt that a public appeal throughout the county, not necessarily confined to members, should bring in the sum required to put the Society on a firmer financial basis.

Colonel E. St. C. PEMBERTON made a few remarks in support.

The New President

Sir W. BOYD DAWKINS, as Chairman, proposed the election of Colonel J. William Gifford, F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S., as President for the ensuing year, and he felt sure that the Colonel would do all he could for the advancement of the Society and its welfare in every way. He regretted that at the present time

Colonel Gifford was in poor health, and wished him a speedy recovery.

Dr. W. H. MAIDLOW, in seconding, said that the name of Colonel Gifford was one that would be added to the worthies of Chard. The motion was heartily carried.

Colonel GIFFORD then took the chair, and thanked the members for the great honour they had conferred upon him.

Election of Officers

The Rev. F. E. W. LANGDON proposed that the officers of the Society be re-elected, including the four outgoing members of the Council, viz., Mr. A. E. Eastwood, Dr. R. L. Meade-King, the Rev. G. W. Saunders and Mr. H. B. Sheppard; also the election of Mr. P. Sturdy as a member of Council, to fill a vacancy caused by resignation.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. C. TITE, and carried.

Somerset Record Society

In the absence of the Secretary of the Somerset Record Society (the Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER), Father HORNE gave a summary of the Secretary's report:

The volume for 1926, *Somerset Pleas*, 1 to 7 Edward I, was distributed in the spring to 142 subscribers. Dr. Schofield, of the Department of MSS., British Museum, was engaged upon the volume for the present year. It was a series of excerpts from a Breviary which belonged to the Abbots of Muchelney, now the property of Mr. J. Meade Falkner, Librarian of Durham Cathedral Library. In writing his *Adam of Domerham*, Hearne had access to the volumes. It would be issued under the title *Muchelney Memoranda*.

The Council was the poorer during the year by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. W. Hunt and the death of Sir J. F. F. Horner. The new Council, slightly increased in numbers, should, by the broadening of interest, help the Society considerably. The new names added consist of the following: Mr. C. Chivers, Mr. H. W. W. Hoskyns, Mr. J. C. Hurle, Mr. E. Lister, Sir Matthew Nathan, and Mr. P. Sturdy.

The Presidential Address

The President, Colonel J. W. GIFFORD, F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S., then delivered his address entitled ' Old Chard,' which will be found printed as the first paper in Part II. At the close of the address, Father HORNE moved a vote of thanks, and said, knowing as they did the circumstances under which their President had given his address, they had listened to it with extra appreciation. A paper of this kind, dealing with many subjects, was one that was sure to interest, and was useful at a general gathering such as this.

Mr. PHILIP STURDY seconded, and the vote was carried by acclamation.

Sedgemoor Memorial

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY read a letter received from the honorary secretary of a committee formed in connection with the Bridgwater Pageant to erect a roadside memorial at Westonzoyland. It was proposed to place a stone monument close to the site of the battle of Sedgemoor in memory of those who fell on both sides. The Committee wished the matter made known to the Society that day.

Sir W. BOYD DAWKINS said he wished to support that scheme. He also spoke of a recent simple local ceremony when trees were planted to mark the place. He hoped the Society would take an interest in the kind of monument proposed.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon.

Manor Court House[1] (Plates I, IV)

After luncheon at Gill's Café, the old Manor Court House was visited by permission of Messrs. Norrington Bros. The whole house, also that occupied by Mr. Beaton, is interesting by reason of the plaster ceilings, and the fact that most of the walls are built of square flints, but the chief attraction was the large apartment formerly used as the Court-room of the Manor.

[1] For fuller descriptions of the places visited see *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* xlix.

It has an elaborate plaster ceiling, and the building probably dates from about 1580. The members next went to the

Parish Church of St. Mary

where Professor HAMILTON THOMPSON said that, during the present meeting the Society was visiting three churches the rectories of which were annexed to the ancient provostship of Combe in the church of Wells. On 26th December 1224, Bishop Jocelyn issued the decree which united the provostship of Combe, including the churches of Chard, Combe St. Nicholas, and Wellington to the insufficiently endowed provostship of Winsham, which consisted of the manor and church of that village. The four churches were appropriated to the provostship, and vicarages ordained in all. While Combe and Winsham were by this decree reserved to the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of Wells, the bishop retained jurisdiction over Wellington and Chard in matters spiritual. The temporalities were committed to the provost, who was the administrator of the whole estate, divided into fifteen prebends in the church of Wells. In the reign of Edward VI the provostship, with the four churches and the manors of Combe and Winsham, was appropriated to the dean of Wells.

The church of Chard had been described on more than one previous occasion at meetings of the Society. It was entirely a building of the fifteenth century, with very slight traces of the earlier church, and had no special idiosyncrasies of plan or detail. It was a good example of the church of a thriving community, rebuilt during a period of local prosperity, with plenty of provision for chantry chapels, of which it contained several. The work was of a modest type, without great architectural ambition ; but the masonry throughout was of excellent character. Externally, the stringcourses and parapets were especially noticeable, and the N. and S. porches were admirable examples of good fifteenth century work, sound and firm in execution.

The Grammar School

was next visited. Professor THOMPSON said the date of the

building was given in the rain-water head as 1583, but he thought the beginning of the house was probably at the spot they had just visited, which was a chantry chapel founded in this portion of the town early in the sixteenth century. Like many chantry chapels, he should say that the chantry priest was the schoolmaster. It was constantly the case in the Middle Ages that the chantry priest or his assistant actually kept a school in the chapel in which he said Mass. He could give them many illustrations of this. In Edward VI's reign, by the Second Chantry Act all chantries in England were abolished or suppressed, but a great many of these country grammar schools preserved their existence. Here in Chard they had an example of a grammar school grown up from a chantry chapel which survived from the Middle Ages.

The visit to the Grammar School concluded the first half of the afternoon itinerary, and the members of the Society adjourned to the Municipal Buildings, where they were entertained to tea by the Mayor and Corporation. His Worship the Mayor, Alderman A. E. Townsend, on behalf of the town extended a very hearty welcome to the Society. Chard had a good old history, and he was sure there were many places in the neighbourhood which would well repay a visit. He trusted that when they left the town it would be with memories of a very pleasant time.

Sir WILLIAM BOYD DAWKINS thanked the Mayor for his hospitality and for receiving the Society as he had. Mr. CHARLES TITE associated himself with the remarks made, and said they would carry back with them very pleasant recollections of their visit.

After tea the members walked to

Snowdon Hill Quarry

where Sir WM. DAWKINS gave an address, describing conditions when the greensand strata was deposited in a deep sea some millions of years ago. Greensand extends from the Blackdowns across the s. of England, and farther in the same direction, but the high ground more to the w. in Somerset and in Devon were outside that sea.

He dealt at some length with his subject, speaking of the extent of the great continent and also its vegetation.

A number of fossilised sea urchins, ammonities, etc., were shown for inspection.

At the close Colonel PEMBERTON expressed the Society's thanks to Sir William for presiding over the meetings and thus giving them the benefit of his experience. They held the oldest member of this Society in affectionate regard. He was sure they would all re-echo his wish that he would be present again at subsequent meetings of the Society.

On the return journey to the town a number of members paid a visit to the excavations in connection with the water scheme to examine greensand, blue lias, etc. During the afternoon those interested in natural history visited the reservoir, by kind permission of Colonel Gifford.

Evening Meeting

The members met in the Town Hall at 8.30 p.m. when Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY gave some particulars of the excavations going on in the nave of Glastonbury abbey, which were being made with the object of discovering traces of the earlier churches that stood on that spot.

Combe St. Nicholas (Plate III)

The Rev. G. DE Y. ALDRIDGE, Vicar of Combe St. Nicholas, then read a paper on the history of the parish and its church. It is printed in Part II.

He was followed by the Rev. F. E. W. LANGDON, who gave a history of

Tatworth

in notes on the parish, families connected with it, and its manor. Printed in Part II.

At the end of the meeting, the TOWN CLERK exhibited some interesting charters and documents belonging to the town, which he explained very fully.

The Rev. Dom. E. HORNE, F.S.A., who presided, moved a vote of thanks to the readers of the papers, and to the Town Clerk, which was cordially given.

Second Day's Proceedings

A fairly large party started from the Municipal Buildings at 9.30 a.m., and the first stop was made at the

Church of St. Stephen, Winsham

where Professor THOMPSON said that the manor and church of Winsham, as had already been said, formed a provostship in the church of Wells, which, owing to the smallness of its revenues, was united in the year 1224 to the provostship of Combe. The present church was an aisleless building, with a tower between nave and chancel, and, though almost entirely rebuilt in the fifteenth century, retained some of the earlier work in the walls. There was no doubt that the original plan had been adhered to at the time of the rebuilding : it was a characteristic twelfth-century plan of which there were other examples in the county, *e.g.* at Christon, and of which the most famous instance was the church of Iffley, near Oxford. It was probable that the chancel at Winsham had been enlarged in the thirteenth century, and that all the fifteenth-century builders did was to transform the existing fabric into the style of their day.

The church contained a very remarkable relic of its ancient fittings in the painted panel, now, together with part of the rood-screen, on the N. side of the space beneath the tower. This, representing the Crucifixion, with St. Mary and St. John upon either side of the Cross, and the two thieves at the extremities of the group, was formerly the tympanum at the back of the rood-loft, filling the arch at the E. end of the nave. It had been illustrated in vols. xxxix and xlix of the Society's *Proceedings*, and a valuable paper by Mr. Bligh Bond, dealing with such tympana in general and with other surviving examples, would be found in the second of these volumes. The

peculiarity of the Winsham panel was that the figures were actually painted upon it, instead of being, as was usually the case, carved in wood and fixed to it.

Pillesdon Pen

On leaving Winsham the county border into Dorset was crossed and the motors proceeded *via* Laymore, Horn Ash and Drimpton to Broadwindsor, passing a small house in which Charles II slept, 23rd–24th September, 1651.

After parking the cars at Cockpit Hill, the members climbed the ascent to Pillesdon (Pilsdon) Pen, the permission of the owner, Mr. J. H. Jenks, of Pilsdon Manor, having previously been obtained. Unfortunately the grand view which this camp commands was obscured owing to haze.

Mr. H. St. George Gray said this camp is partly in Pillesdon (Pilsdon) and partly in Broadwindsor parish. It was described by William Barnes as the *dun* or down of Pille. But the name appears to have been derived from *Pilez* (bald) and *Pen* (headland), according to another writer.

Here we have a lofty plateau standing 909 feet above sea-level at the S.E. end. It is the highest point in Dorset, about two miles N.W. of the wooded height of Lewesdon, both forming a sea-mark nicknamed by sailors 'The Cow and her Calf'. Lewesdon is slightly over 900 ft., but Mr. O. G. S. Crawford mentions that it is not likely to exceed 905 ft. at any point. No spot-levels were taken on this hill by the ordnance surveyors, as the trigonometrical station was placed on a slightly lower adjacent hill—probably one with a better view. The neighbouring earthwork, Lambert's Castle, is, in the interior, 848 ft. above sea-level.

Pillesdon Pen camp occupies the extreme S. of the plateau. It consists of a triple rampart and double fosse following the contour of the hill; and bears some resemblance to Eggardun (to the E.), although smaller. The S. end is mutilated, and the N. end, being open to attack, has the strongest ramparts.

The principal entrance is on the S.W., where the middle vallum is flanked by a platform, the inner one bending round. Another entrance to the N.W. is similarly treated, and the third

to the N. is the smallest. The area measures some 400 by 132 yards, and contains eight or nine acres. Two hollows to the N., bounded by a low bank, Warne thought might have been rain-ponds. A small rectangular enclosure[1] in the centre has been considered to be Roman, but it may be the site of the lodge described by Coker in his *Survey of Dorsetshire*, 1732.

There is one mound, measuring 33 by 10 paces, with side ditches, which looks rather like a long barrow. There is a similar work in Midsummer Hill Camp, Malvern Hills. At the S. and S.E. end of Pilsdon there are several barrows.

A somewhat similar camp of this type is that known as Small Down, near Evercreech, where some excavations were conducted on behalf of our Society in 1904 (see *Proceedings* for that year).

Only excavation will give the date of Pillesdon Pen ; and we must always bear in mind that all the fortifications of a camp are not necessarily of the same date. For instance, a comparatively weak camp with one vallum may have been improved and strengthened at a subsequent period.

The gorse-clad slopes of Lewesdon inspired the Rev. William Crowe, a rector of Stoke Abbot (not far off), to write a poem which ran through three editions during the author's lifetime and won the praises of Samuel Rogers.

Fuller, author of the immortal *Worthies of England*, could speak with authority on this locality, for Broadwindsor was his first living, where he stayed until tired of country life, when he went to London and was appointed lecturer of the Savoy.

Incidentally, Charles II of course made a breathless visit to Broadwindsor, his enemies being hot after him. Pilsdon, two miles from Broadwindsor and one S. of the Pen, was a natural mark of their seeking. It was the seat of Sir Hugh Wyndham, the uncle of the King's host at Trent.[2]

The members, after walking round the camp, returned to the foot of the hill and the journey was continued by way of Birdsmoorgate, Marshwood, Lambert's Castle, Monkton Wylde Cross, Charmouth and Morecombelake to

[1] Rectangular enclosure, measured along crest of bank by H. St. George Gray, 176 ft. N.E. & S.W. by 157 ft. N.W. & S.E.

[2] Cf. *The Flight of the King*, by Allan Fea, 142–3.

Whitchurch Canonicorum

Here a visit was paid to the fine old parish church, where the party was received by the Rev. E. H. H. LEE, who gave an address dealing with the history of the church. At its conclusion Professor THOMPSON, in speaking briefly of the architecture of the church, said that he had little to add to the excellent study of the building contributed by the late Miss E. K. Prideaux to the *Archæological Journal* in 1907. The great interest of the building lay in its illustration of the development of Gothic from late Romanesque art : the work was of extraordinary beauty and had a peculiar local character of its own which allied it with other conspicuous examples of early Gothic work in the West of England and the districts affected by its influence farther W. The S. arcade of the nave was probably built about 1180, the N. arcade belonged to the first quarter of the thirteenth century, and the chancel appeared to have been rebuilt and the transept, the arms of which were unequal, added about 1240. Whether there was, as Miss Prideaux had suggested, an original central tower was uncertain : there were certain points in the plan which made this theory tenable, and it was significant that the present W. tower was entirely a work of the fifteenth century without earlier traces. On the other hand, the inequality of the transepts showed that, as they stand, they were designed without obvious reference to any previous buildings on the site.

While the capitals of the S. arcade, with their conventional water-leaf ornament, showed no remarkable peculiarity which distinguished them from the ordinary work of their period, the refinement of their carving and that of the capitals of the S. doorway were noticeable. The N. arcade, however, was in every way unusual in character. The employment of a deeply undercut chevron ornament in the outer order of the third arch from the E., like that which was used about 1180–90 in the nave of St. David's Cathedral was a deliberate retention by the builders of a form of decoration which in their day had gone out of fashion, and was in striking contrast to the rest of the mouldings. Church-builders in the West of England, while very prolific in the invention of new forms, were never-

theless tenacious of old types, and several of the capitals in this arcade showed the evolution of floral forms of tubular shape from the scalloped capitals of the twelfth century. The variety of the foliage at Whitchurch was paralleled only by the series of capitals at Wells and that in the eastern part of the Cistercian abbey church at Dore in Herefordshire ; but, as a whole, it belonged to a type widely diffused throughout the western counties and South Wales, and in some of the corbel capitals the absence of a neck-mould recalled the fashion of which the Society had seen examples three years before at Queen Charlton and Whitchurch, near Bristol. The beauty of the capitals reached its highest point in the N. transept, the place of the shrine of St. Candida. In detail the chancel was singularly plain compared with the rest of the church : this was doubtless due to the fact that the chapters of Wells and Salisbury, the rectors to whom the church was appropriated, could spend only a limited sum upon buildings and repair.

Miss Prideaux had suggested that the architecture of the church owed something to its connexion with the Norman abbot and convent of Saint-Wandrille or Fontenelle, which owned the advowson in the twelfth century. There was nothing to show for this theory, and it was unlikely that the foreign patrons of the rectory, who had no direct responsibility for any part of the fabric, would have any influence upon its structure. As a matter of fact, the advowson was acquired from them before the end of the twelfth century by the bishops of Bath and Wells, and, about 1240, by an agreement between Jocelyn and Robert Bingham, bishop of Salisbury, the church was appropriated to the deans and chapters of Wells and Salisbury, who divided the rectorial tithes between them. So far as England was concerned, this division of a rectory between two cathedral chapters was unique : its memory was preserved in the addition of the qualification Canonicorum to the name of the village. Whether the chancel was built at the expense of the chapters, when they entered into possession, is uncertain : the bishops of the dioceses may have contributed towards it, together with the last individual rector, Hugh of Greneford. Its date, at all events, was nearly contemporary with the date of appropriation. The cost of the nave, as of

the later tower and of the various insertions of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries W. of the chancel, must have been met by the inhabitants and landowners of the parish, and it was clear that they procured the best local workmen available to execute the work.

Shrine of St. Candida or Wita[1]

Father HORNE said that he thought the following account taken from a pamphlet by the late Rev. C. Druitt, a former vicar here, would be of interest, giving details about the shrine of St. Candida.

'. . . A dangerous settlement of the walls of the N. transept . . . dislocated the old shrine, and reopened the ancient fracture in the stone coffin to such an extent that it became necessary to re-set the broken end. This was done on April 18, 1900, under the personal superintendence of the Clergy, and it was during the execution of this work that the discovery of the Relics was made.

'The broken end of the coffin having been withdrawn from under its Purbeck slab, there was seen within, the end of a leaden casket, exactly eight inches square, and on it, cast in raised letters on the lead, was the following inscription in letters of the twelfth or early thirteenth-century style :

CT . RELIQE . SCE . W

which occupied the entire length of eight inches. Further examination showed that this was the square end of a leaden reliquary, lying on one of its long corners or edges, another such edge or corner being supported against the N. side of the coffin. The floor of the coffin, between the reliquary and the S. side, was covered with dust and many fragments of bone, wood, and lead, including two perfectly sound but considerably worn teeth, one molar and one incisor ; and the reliquary itself, on being carefully drawn out, was found to be 2 ft. 5 in. long, and to have been very badly damaged by being ripped or torn open from end to end. The incrustation of oxide on the

[1] See article in *Proceedings* 1891, on St. Whyte and St. Reyne by Hugh Norris.

torn edges of the lead seemed to show that the damage was not recent ; apparently it was done some centuries ago ; it however enabled the contents of the reliquary to be seen, *viz.* a large number of bones, a good deal decayed, presumably those of a small woman of about forty years of age. These were not disturbed in their resting-place, but one of the thigh-bones which lay uppermost was measured, and was found to be $13\frac{7}{8}$ inches long. The larger fragments found on the floor of the coffin were placed with the bones in the reliquary, and all the smaller fragments, with the dust, were collected into a metal box and placed within the coffin. One side of the reliquary was quite complete and undamaged, and on this uninjured side was found, cast in raised letters on the lead, the following inscription :

HIC . REQESCT . RELIQE . SCE . WITE

from which it appears that the lettering at the end of the reliquary is only a repetition of the central portion of the complete inscription. The letter Q (which occurs twice) has an upright bar within it, and the letter E appears thrice with a round back, and thrice with a straight back. The complete inscription is $14\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, and the letters (which are slightly irregular) are from five to seven-eighths of an inch high. A rubbing was taken of the inscription, and a copy of it has been placed in the shrine. The whole of the Relics were carefully replaced in the stone coffin, the broken end of which was securely cemented in its place.'

After leaving Whitchurch Canonicorum the party drove by way of Hunter's Lodge, to Axminster, where lunch was partaken. During the short stay in the town, several of the members visited the parish church and inspected the thirteenth-century effigies of Alice Briwere who married Reynold de Mohun, and of Gervase de Prestaller, first vicar of Axminster. The journey was then taken up again until

Ashe House

was reached, the property of Mr. J. A. Peat, who together with Mrs. Peat, conducted the party over the house and chapel.

Professor THOMPSON called attention to the two periods of

architecture represented in the building. The oldest part appeared to be of the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century : there was a doorway of this date, and the garden front was actually a remodelling of older work, undertaken in the sixteenth century or a little later. This front was a good example of plain domestic work in local material. A chapel was attached to the house. In the register of Bishop Brantyngham of Exeter was a licence, dated 21st April 1387, granted to John Streche and Amice his mother, for the celebration of divine service in the chapel or oratory of Aysshe in the parish of Musbury, to last for a year ; and this was renewed some ten months later without any limit of time other than at the bishop's pleasure. There was little doubt that the building in the grounds of the house might be identified with this chapel, and the earlier part of the house itself might well be contemporary with it.

At the conclusion of Professor Thompson's remarks, the members assembled in the garden, where seats were provided, and from the steps of the house, Mr. Peat gave some interesting details of the place where John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, was born.

Mr. PEAT said : Writing of Ashe in his *Life of Marlborough* Lord Wolseley states, ' When we stand on the steps which lead into the garden of Ashe, what memories of England's glory crowd upon the brain.' They were memories of Sir Francis Drake who was accompanied on the *Golden Hind* by a son and perhaps a brother of the Drake of Ashe, of the Parliamentary Wars, of the rebellion of Monmouth, of the landing of William of Orange, whom Marlborough first met on the hills to the left of Ashe, of the great achievements at Blenheim and Ramillies. Again he writes, ' A visit to Ashe House is like opening a page of history, inscribed with the names of kings and princes and mighty warriors.'

Early in the fifteenth century the estate of Ash, Aish or Esse as the name was variously spelled, passed by marriage into the Drake family, from a junior branch of which came Sir Francis Drake the great navigator. The estate formed part of the manor of Musbury, which was bestowed by the Conqueror on Baldwin with the Barony of Okehampton.

Ashe remained in the possession of the Drake family until 1783. The last of the family, Sir William and Lady Anne, were childless. The estate was left to the widow, and she re-married Colonel Speke, a member of the Somerset family of that name. A daughter of this second marriage was married in Ashe Chapel to Lord North, the Prime Minister at that time.

John Drake was knighted by Charles I, whom he entertained at Ashe during a progress. He married in 1616 the eldest daughter of Lord Boteler, and died in 1636. His widow, the grandmother of the great duke of Marlborough, a pronounced parliamentarian, attempted to fortify Ashe with the assistance of a detachment of soldiers from Lyme, but before the defensive works were completed the King's forces under the command of Lord Powlett, attacked Ashe, having effected an entrance through the windows of the chapel, and put to flight the Roundheads. The King's troops did considerable damage to the house and burnt part of it. Lady Drake continued to live at Ashe and in 1646 received £1,500 from the Cromwellian Government for the damage done to her property by the Royal troops. About this time her daughter Elizabeth, with her destitute Cavalier husband Winston Churchill, came to live at Ashe, and in 1650 their son John Churchill, who became Duke of Marlborough, was born.

The present hall, dining-room, and kitchen appear to have been the Great Hall. The bedrooms above are said to have been the room in which Marlborough was born.

It is most unfortunate that this interesting house has been so badly treated by former owners, and we are endeavouring in a small way to restore it gradually to something more in keeping with its old associations.

Father HORNE briefly thanked Mr. Peat for his very full description of the great people who had once lived at Ashe, and wished to express the thanks of the members, particularly to Mrs. Peat, for the kindness extended to their society that day. On resuming the journey the next stop was made at

Old Shute House

This was visited by permission of the owner Sir John Carew Pole, Bart., the tenant of the house being Mr. Gillingham.

Much interest was aroused in the old kitchen by the size of the fire-place, and the enormous roasting-spit in front of it, and in the building now used as part of the farm were several features that attracted attention.

Professor THOMPSON made some remarks upon the type of plan illustrated by the house. It was one of those dwellings which were built round a small courtyard, the main rooms occupying two sides, while various offices were on the third, and the fourth was usually closed by a wall in which was a doorway. Well-known examples were Aydon Hall in Northumberland and Markenfield Hall, near Ripon ; and an excellent instance from Devon, nearly contemporary with Shute, was the house known as the Old Rectory at Little Hempston, near Totnes. At Shute the main buildings were on the E. and N. sides of the enclosure, and the living rooms, as at Aydon and Markenfield, were on the first floor, the hall being in the E. block. Later remodelling had removed traces of the original entrance of the hall, which should have been at the S. end, with a stair from the courtyard ; but the newel stair remained in the angle between the E. and N. blocks, giving access to the upper end of the hall and the private rooms adjoining. At some later date, the hall had been divided into two floors, but the old wooden ceiling was preserved and could be seen in the upper room. The fine gatehouse, which, like the rest of the building, was of the fifteenth century, had good heraldic ornament, and the group formed by this, the mansion, and the church, was unusually complete. The church, formerly a chapel to the church of Colyton, was an interesting example of the development of a cruciform plan with central tower by the addition of aisles and chapels, and contained work of several periods. The details of the latest part were of a definitely Devonian character, and were different from anything in the other churches which had been visited. Many of the party afterwards visited Shute church which was close at hand. Proceeding by way of Shute vicarage to the main road for Axminster, Perry Street and White Gate, the Society reached



LEIGH HOUSE, near CHARD

From a Photograph by Montague Cooper

Leigh House (Plate II)

Here they received a cordial welcome from Major G. F. Davies M.P., and Mrs. Davies who had kindly invited them to tea. Major and Mrs. Davies having received the guests personally, tea was partaken of in the beautiful grounds round the house. After the tea, Father HORNE expressed the gratitude of the Society to their hosts for the delightful way they had been entertained, and Major Davies assured the company that it had been a pleasure to himself and Mrs. Davies to meet them there. The members were then divided into two parties and taken through the main rooms of the house, which appeared to have been built between the years 1610 and 1617. (See also *Proceedings*, xlix, i, 42.)

On leaving Leigh House, shortly after 5.30 p.m., the final point in the day's excursion,

Forde Abbey[1]

was visited by kind permission of Mrs. Freeman Roper.

When the members had assembled in front of the Abbey, the Rev. F. E. W. LANGDON said Mrs. Roper was unable to be present, much to her regret, and had asked him, on her behalf, to give them a hearty welcome to the famous Abbey.

Professor THOMPSON, speaking on the lawn in front of the house, said that the official date of the foundation of the abbey was 3rd May 1136, when a colony of Cistercian monks from Waverley in Surrey settled at Brightley, near Okehampton, on a site given to them by Richard, son of Baldwin of Brionne, the sheriff of Devon. This first establishment met with little success, and, five years later, the monks abandoned the site and started to return to Waverley. On their way, however, they were persuaded by Alice, the sister and heir of their original founder, to take up their abode in the parish of Thorncombe, on the borders of Dorset and Devon, and so found a permanent home. From 1141 to 1147 they were in temporary quarters, until their church and buildings were ready in a

[1] See 'The History of Ford Abbey,' by the Rev. C. Sherwin : *Trans. Devon Assoc.* lix (1927), 249–264 (*not* relating to the architectural features).

place which was then called Hartescath, but subsequently Forde.

Although the church had entirely disappeared, the monastic buildings were remarkably perfect. They were incorporated in the mansion constructed by Edmund Prideaux, Cromwell's attorney-general, and completed in 1658, and now formed a remarkable example of the blending of medieval with renaissance work. Certain additions had been made to the buildings, with much internal alteration ; but the E., N., and part of the W. ranges of the cloister, and the splendid abbot's house remained.

The cloister was on the N. of the church, and, though three of its walks had been destroyed, the N. walk was still in use as the ground-floor passage from the E. range to the W. Beginning at the S.E. corner, nearest the site of the church, the first building was the chapter-house, now used as a private chapel. This was part of the first monastery, and was probably finished by 1147. It was of two wide bays, vaulted with broad moulded ribs, and projected E. of the adjoining range, and, by an arrangement unusual in Cistercian houses, cut off the dormitory of the monks from direct connexion with the church. Above the vaulting, however, was a large room, rebuilt or added in the fifteenth century, which, like other rooms above chapter-houses in abbeys of the Order, might have been used as an annexe to the dormitory. North of the chapter-house was the parlour of the monks, vaulted in two bays. Beyond this, the subvault of the dormitory, vaulted in double bays from a row of pillars down the middle, extended for twelve bays northward. With the exception of a small piece of original masonry N. of the doorway from the adjacent cloister walk, this was rebuilt early in the thirteenth century.

This part of the buildings had been considerably altered internally. The dormitory on the upper floor, now partitioned into rooms, was still lighted by its row of small thirteenth-century lancets in the W. wall, like those at Cleeve Abbey. When it was rebuilt, the stair from the cloister, as at Fountains, Tintern, and some other abbeys, was made against the W. wall, at the N.E. angle of the cloister.

The N. walk of the cloister, which leads westward from this

angle, was possibly rebuilt by Thomas Chard, who became abbot of Forde in or about 1507, and was consecrated bishop of Selymbria *in partibus infidelium* in 1508; but an earlier date (1498) had been assigned to it. This was an elaborate piece of late Gothic building, with eight bays of ribbed vaulting and large traceried windows: the work might be compared with the contemporary remains of the cloister at Muchelney. In the middle of the range behind it was the refectory, running N. and S., after the usual custom in Cistercian monasteries, with the warming-house on the E. and the kitchen on the W. This range was completed about the end of the twelfth century. There were some remains of the cloister lavatory near the former entrance of the refectory, which indicated this date. The range, however, underwent considerable reconstruction in the fifteenth century, when the refectory was divided into two storeys by the insertion of a floor, the kitchen was enlarged, and the warming-house was apparently removed and a passage made in its place. The division of the refectory, to which there were parallels at Kirkstall and some other monasteries, was the result of the permission to eat meat on three days in the week granted to the Order: for this purpose it was necessary to provide a special room or misericord, for which the method adopted here was an economical expedient, definite evidence for which comes from fifteenth-century visitations of the Cistercian nunneries of Nuncoton and Stixwould in Lincolnshire. The misericord, upon the upper floor, was the music-room of the present house, and had some interesting screen-work, not part of the original furniture, at the S. end.

The wall common to the kitchen and the W. range was part of the twelfth-century buildings, and a considerable length of walling of the same date remained on the opposite side, next the vestibule of the abbot's hall. The W. range, however, had been for the most part destroyed: its northward extension was gone, and the portion to the S. towards the church had been curtailed and otherwise altered when the great drawing-room on the upper floor was constructed. Thus practically all traces of the cellarage and of the arrangements of the lay brothers' dormitory and refectory had disappeared.

The present passage through the W. range from the N. walk

of the cloister led into the screens at the E. end of the abbot's hall. This, with the private lodging to the W., was built by Abbot Chard, as an inscription below the battlement of the gate-tower testified, in 1528, and was a magnificent and, it might be said, unique example of such a building in an English religious house. The longer axis was from E. to W. : the gate-tower, at the S.E. corner, adjoined the W. range of cloister buildings, and was now the principal doorway of the house. The hall, occupying the full height of the building, was of noble proportions, and the wooden ceiling retained much of its colour. The lodging at the W. end was greatly altered internally during the remodelling of 1658, and was now divided into three storeys : this contained the abbot's great chamber and bed-room, and a panel in the W. wall of one of the upper rooms was carved with the monogram of Chard and emblems of his double status as abbot and bishop. These were also found, with other heraldry, upon the exterior of the hall.

The work of 1658 had been attributed to Inigo Jones, who was then near the end of his life. The only authority for this was tradition ; but, if Jones was not the actual designer employed, the work was certainly done by someone who followed closely in his footsteps. The chief addition was the beautiful staircase which ascended eastwards from the vestibule at the N. end of the hall screens, or rather from their former site, as the screens themselves had been removed and the passage thrown into the hall. A suite of rooms was added above the cloister walk, and a splendid drawing-room constructed out of the upper floor of the W. range, the S. end being entirely rebuilt, with a suite of small rooms on the ground-floor. The W. block of the abbot's house, as already mentioned, was completely remodelled. The rooms at this time received plaster ceilings of remarkable variety and beauty, and, although the detail, as in the quaint medallions of scenes from Scripture introduced in the coving of the drawing-room ceiling, was in places modelled somewhat coarsely, Forde might claim the possession of the finest series of ceilings of this date in the whole country. In addition to this collection, there was an Adam ceiling, with the usual refined ornament, in the S. room below the drawing-room. All this work added to the interest of a house which,

historically and from the artistic point of view, had few rivals in England.

An inspection was now made of the Abbey, including the cloister, the great hall, the 'Monks' walk', the chapter-house, and the saloon, where hang fine tapestries.

The return journey was commenced at about seven o'clock, and Chard was reached soon after.

Third Day's Proceedings

The motor coaches and other conveyances left Chard just after half-past nine in the morning.

Whitestaunton Manor House

The first place visited was the Manor House, and after the interior had been explored, the members gathered on the lawn, where Professor THOMPSON said that the Elizabethan additions to the house had concealed its earlier plan; but the early fifteenth-century roof which some of the party had seen above more recent ceilings was evidently that of the hall, and the present main entrance of the building appeared to be of the same date. He was inclined to think that the house of which these traces survived was not unlike the mansion which they had seen the day before at Shute, *i.e.* the dwelling rooms were on two sides of a small courtyard, with the hall and main apartments on the first floor. The history of the descent of the house and manor was rather obscure, and it had been supposed that the oldest existing portion was built during its occupation by the family of Hugyn, towards the close of the fifteenth century. The roof, however, was distinctly of earlier character, and might well go back to the tenancy of the manor by the Stauntons. The fine room on the first floor, with a good plaster frieze, very like the plasterwork in the old Manor House at Chard, was part of the additions made by John Brett, who owned the manor at the close of the sixteenth century. The Bretts appeared to have had some connexion with the Hugyn family, and were associated with them and other persons in the manor some hundred years earlier. In 1449, to

judge from the presentations to the rectory, which was appendant to the manor, the inheritance of the Stauntons was in the hands of William, Lord Bonville of Chewton, William Stafford, Esq., John Hugyn, and John Brytte, the last of whom is called Lord of the manor of Whitestaunton. The Hugyns, however, continued for some time to own part of the manor, together with the alternate presentation to the church, and were in occupation of the manor house at the time already mentioned, and it is not certain whether the shares were consolidated by marriage or by purchase. The Bretts, at any rate, seemed to have obtained sole possession before the end of the reign of Henry VIII, and continued lords of Whitestaunton for about a century and a half. The Society would recall with respect the memory of a more recent owner of Whitestaunton, the eminent barrister and historical scholar Charles Isaac Elton, who presided over the meeting at Chard in 1882, and had made important contributions to the early social history of England and to Shakespearean literature.

Father HORNE expressed thanks on behalf of the members of the Society to Colonel and Mrs. Mitchell for their kindness in allowing the Society to inspect the house, and Colonel Mitchell responded.

The members then went to the part of the grounds which contained the remains of

The Roman Villa

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY acted as guide and said that these remains were found about 1845 in altering the road, and were partially excavated in 1882–3 by the late Mr. Charles Elton, Q.C., M.P., then owner of the spot. The remains seen to-day do not reveal the general plan, and in the absence of drawings made at the time of excavation it is practically impossible to define the precise arrangement of the rooms. The suggestions made by Mr. Elton were not agreed to by the late Professor Haverfield. It is hoped that the new owner may re-excavate the site and complete the uncovering of the whole area. Among the discoveries made were living and bath rooms, hypocausts, mosaic flooring of geometrical patterns (guilloche borders,

swastika, etc.), painted wall-plaster, flue-tiles, roofing-slates, window and other glass, Samian and other Roman pottery, lead piping, iron slag, and a few smaller objects.

Close by is a spring known as St. Agnes' Well,—probably a genuine holy well. The water is said to be slightly warm and is considered good for sprains.[1]

Not far off at Wadeford, in the parish of Combe St. Nicholas, stood another Roman villa of some pretensions. It was first discovered in 1810, and some excavations were attempted about 1861. Its plan was not clear ; possibly it belonged to the courtyard type. At the first discovery two mosaics were unearthed. In 1861 five more pavements were found, all geometrical in pattern, and a hypocaust. The smaller finds included tiles, painted wall plaster, a human hand in bronze, a ring fibula and other small items in bronze ; also several coins. Some of the pavements are illustrated in colour in vol. xiii of the Society's *Proceedings*. Some of the relics above mentioned are now exhibited in the Society's Museum.

After leaving the grounds, the party proceeded to

Whitestaunton Church

where they were received by the Rector, the Rev. T. Davies.

A brief account of this interesting building was given by Professor THOMPSON, who called attention to its aisleless plan, and pointed out that the chapels N. and S. of the chancel were additions of the end of the middle ages. West of the chancel arch, no enlargement had taken place, but the nave, with the W. tower, was wholly rebuilt in the fifteenth century. The twelfth-century font remained from the earlier church. The rood-screen was in position, with some remains of the fittings of the loft. The Brett tombs and the heraldry of the S. chapel had been described in the report of a previous meeting in 1903 : the detail of the monuments was rough, and they seemed to be the work of local tomb-makers without much skill in carving.

Continuing the journey, the conveyances soon brought the party into the village of

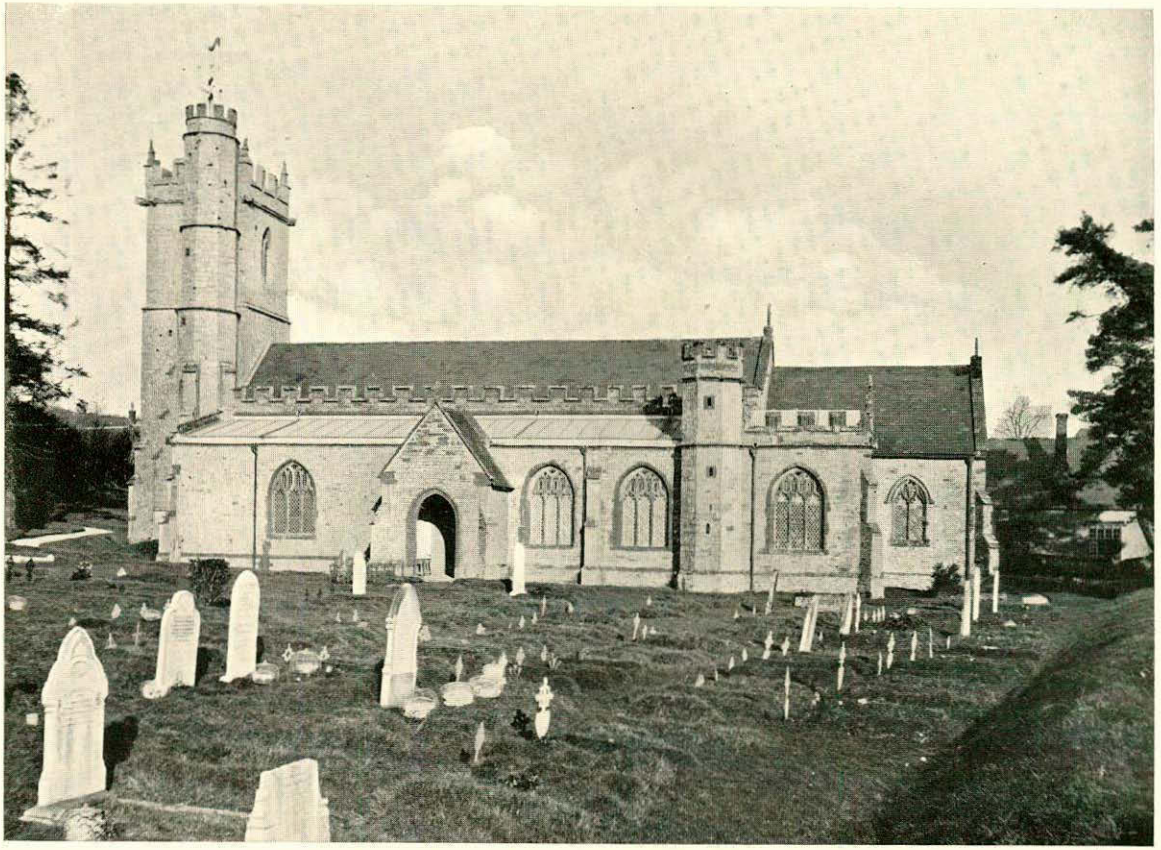
[1] Cf. *Holy Wells of Somerset* (Som. Folk Series, No. 12), by Dom. Ethelbert Horne, p. 37.

Combe St. Nicholas (Plate III)

Here the members were received at the parish church by the Vicar, the Rev. G. de Y. Aldridge.

Professor THOMPSON having remarked that the Vicar had, in the paper he read to them at Chard, told a good deal of the story of this church, said that, with the manor to which it was appendant, it gave its name to the provostship and fifteen-fold prebend of Combe in Wells Cathedral. It was evidently rebuilt about the same time as Chard Church, and very probably by the same masons. The porches closely resembled those at Chard, and were equally careful and attractive in design. There were, however, some remains of earlier buildings. Incorporated in the N. arcade were the jamb and part of the arch of a late twelfth-century doorway. These were in their original position : it was evident that the church of that date was aisleless, and that, when aisles were added to the nave in the thirteenth century, the N. aisle stopped two bays E. of the W. end of the church, its W. wall cutting into the old doorway, which was left where it was. Although this aisle was widened in the fifteenth century, when the present porch was built, it did not seem to have been completed to its full length, and the two western bays were modern. There were some remains of thirteenth-century work in the chancel, including the piscina, and the lower part of the tower may belong to this date. The beautiful fragments of the rood-screen had been successfully worked into a new one. Although the church had suffered somewhat from restoration in the last century, it contained several interesting features, and the preservation of the early doorway, or part of it, in its original position, was a rare, though not unique characteristic which enabled the growth of the structure to be traced without difficulty.

The Rev. G. DE Y. ALDRIDGE said Roman coins had been dug up in the churchyard, and it was possible this site had been associated for many centuries with religious observance. He believed it was certainly the fourth church which had stood on the site. He would like to believe the ancient font belonged to the period of the Saxon church and they had evidence of



COMBE ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

From a Photograph by Lionel Wyatt, Chard

a Norman building. It was in 1239 that a new church was dedicated there and that extended the whole length of the present nave. In the fifteenth century they had a great reconstruction of the church practically as it was to-day. Restoration was carried out in the last century. The remains of the fine rood-screen had of late years been restored in the parish by local labour. Mr. Aldridge also mentioned that they had the nucleus of a Combe museum.

Castle Neroche

On leaving Combe St. Nicholas the motors proceeded by the main road to Taunton. A mile N. of Combe a fine tumulus, Combe Beacon (altitude 822 feet), was seen on the left-hand side close to the road.

Castle Neroche was reached at 12.30 p.m., but before 'the Beacon' was climbed a drizzly rain began and increased rapidly, which caused several of the members to make a hurried departure for luncheon.

Mr. H. St. George Gray, addressing the remainder, said: There is little new to be recorded about Castle Neroche. My report in vol. xlix of the *Proceedings* describes the results of the excavations conducted at Neroche in 1903, when the work was paid for to a large extent by the owner, the late Viscount Portman, when he was Patron of the Society.

Castle Neroche occupies an elevated point at the eastern extremity of the Blackdown Hills, at a distance, as the crow flies, of 6 miles S.S.E. of Taunton, and 5½ miles N.W. of Chard. The Beacon, which overlooks the vale of Taunton Deane, stands at an elevation of 905 feet above sea-level, 4 feet lower than Pillesdon Pen, the highest point in Dorset. But it is only in elevation that these two earthworks correspond. As yet nothing discovered at Castle Neroche can be ascribed definitely to prehistoric times; whereas the excavations have produced much which is undoubtedly of the Norman period.

An interesting part of my work in connection with this site was the collection of thirty-seven different spellings of 'Neroche' and 'Rache' with references, chiefly taken from

records of Neroche Forest. Since publishing these in 1903, three more have been added to the list.[1]

The whole hill-top of Neroche was apparently fortified by lines of earthworks thrown up along the edges of the natural declivities by which it is surrounded, without any consideration as to the quantity of the camping-area to be enclosed. In places on the northern side these declivities are very steep. The strength of the ramparts corresponds inversely to the natural strength of the position ; and in some places where a steeper declivity than usual occurs, no ramparts were found to be necessary, the artificial defence in those places probably being confined merely to a stockade. At present it is impossible to determine with certainty which were the original entrances to the interior of Neroche camp.

The first cutting was made through ramparts and ditches on the S.S.E. side, and this being the weakest side of Neroche, it was defended by three ramparts and intervening ditches. A large cutting, 10 ft. wide, produced little that was important as evidence of date. We found that the inner ditch was 5 ft. deep below the present surface, and that the outer ditch was 9 ft. deep. It should be noted that nothing pre-Roman or Roman was discovered.

On the N. side of the farmyard and just to the S. of ' The Beacon ' a pit was excavated which proved to be 6 ft. in diameter and 9·2 ft. deep below the surface. From a depth of 1 ft. to the bottom all the pottery and other relics discovered were medieval and Norman, and included a typical spout of a medieval water-pot, which has been figured.

On the Beacon we dug on the W. side into a deep hollow which already existed ; the workmen were rather excited and told stories about this hole in connection with the ' Castle Revel or Play ', formerly held annually on the first Sunday after the 7th of July.

The Beacon of Neroche, from a military point of view, is a position of extreme strength, and must have been even more so when the Forest of Neroche practically surrounded it on

[1] 38. RACCHER.—*Cal. of P. R.*, 1467–77, p. 205.
39. RACHISH.—*Proc. Clifton Antiq. Club*, iii, 79.
40. NERACCHIST.—Temp. Ed. I, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* xliii, ii, 120.

three sides. From the summit of the Beacon downwards, in a N.W. direction, four ramparts (now slight) with intervening ditches can be traced. It would be well-nigh impossible for an invading force from a westerly, northerly, or easterly direction to gain the summit of the Beacon ; but in the event of the defenders *not* being able to hold it, they had the main camp itself to fall back upon—a very obvious expedient.

At the summit a 12-ft. square cutting was dug to a depth of 12½ ft. before the natural sand was reached. The highest part of the Beacon, therefore, proved to be artificial, and we found pottery down to a depth of 8 ft.

Further to the N. and a little way down the slope of the Beacon, we made two more excavations ; one through the fosse only ; the other through fosse and rampart in the same position. Here the ditch was 10 ft. deep below the surface of the silting ; close to the bottom were found a piece of unglazed pottery of Norman character, and portion of a netting-needle, also apparently of medieval date. In the more easterly section we found the ditch to be over 12 ft. deep ; and several relics of similar date to those previously described were found on the old surface line under the rampart.

In my paper of 1903 I described the pottery found at Neroche in some detail. Six hundred and seventy-five fragments in all were found ; and it is of precisely similar character to that discovered on various Norman sites, such as Castle Orchard (Pen Pits), near Wincanton, Caesar's Camp, Folkestone, Maddington (Wilts), the Cambridge Ditches, Tollard Royal (King John's House), and in the excavations at Taunton Castle, including the pottery found deep in the square well.

The relics discovered at Castle Neroche have not been very numerous, but the fact that nothing of Roman or pre-Roman date was discovered has some significance. If any part of Neroche was constructed in early British times, the antiquities produced by the excavations have provided us with no material for proving it. We were fortunate in finding metal objects, which are, particularly in an exploration of this nature, valuable in confirming the conclusion to which the pottery points.

At what precise period in Norman or medieval times the

earthworks on the Beacon of Neroche were constructed must, for the present, remain in doubt, until further excavations can be undertaken. It is possible they may have been erected during those troubled days of anarchy, when Stephen was reigning but not ruling, and when the whole country bristled with fortresses. If so, Castle Neroche would prove to be of much about the same date as the Keep of Taunton Castle and the Castle at Castle Cary held against Stephen by William Luvel in 1138. It is just possible that the foundations of a keep may be found some day in the level part of Neroche Camp, now used as the outer farmyard.

Lunch was now taken, some visiting the farm and others the Castle Inn.

After lunch, the journey was resumed and in due course

Ilminster

was reached. Here the fine church of St. Mary was first visited, the members being received by the Vicar, the Rev. J. N. Boughton. Describing the church Professor THOMPSON said that this beautiful building belonged from an early date to the abbot and convent of Muchelney, and formed the *corpus* of the prebend in Wells Cathedral appropriated to the abbot. Although the present building was almost entirely of the fifteenth century, and was far larger in its proportions than its predecessor on the site, there could be no doubt that the existing crossing was on the site of the old, and that the cruciform plan with central tower was preserved from at any rate the church which stood here in the twelfth century. The tower was one of the most noble towers in the county : the two stages of window openings with pierced stone filling, the easy transition from the angle buttresses to pinnacles, the continuation of the flat buttresses between the windows above the parapet as intermediate pinnacles, and the bold staircase turret at the N.W. angle, formed a design of remarkable unity, the parts of which were strongly emphasised by the string-courses, the upper one being ornamented with carved rain-water heads where it crossed the buttresses. Another feature was the additional strength given to the lower stage by piercing the middle panel

only on each face, those on either side being ornamented with tracery, but left unpierced. The date of this tower was probably about 1500. The rebuilding of the chancel, for which credit must be given to the abbot and convent of Muchelney as rectors, was somewhat earlier. The usual date attributed to the Wadham or N. transept was 1452, the year of the death of Sir Nicholas Wadham, whose fine tomb, with a mutilated inscription, remains at the S. end. It was possible that it was not begun till after his death. The decoration of the parapet and buttresses externally and of the roof internally was very elaborate, and, when the Society visited the church in 1903, Mr. Buckle had expressed the opinion that it was not Somerset work. This view was possibly wrong, and, though the details showed some departure from the ordinary local practice, the differences were not so great as to justify the statement : it was probable, however, that the design was made by a master-mason engaged by the Wadhams, without reference to the rest of the structure. The present arrangement of the nave arcades, in three very wide bays, was due, as the vicar pointed out, to alterations made in 1825, when two of the piers were entirely removed and the nave remodelled with galleries as an auditorium for preaching. Ugly as the proportions were, the detail of the rebuilt work was in itself far from bad, and was at any rate guided by precedent. The modern reredos, an elaborate piece of stone-carving filling the high space beneath the E. window, covered remains of an older altar screen.

The visitors afterwards went to the N. transept and examined with great interest the tombs of Sir William Wadham and his mother, and the more famous tombs of Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham, the Founder and Foundress of Wadham College, Oxford. The S. transept had also been refitted as a chapel.

As Professor Thompson had to leave the party at Ilminster, Father HORNE expressed the members' deep gratitude for his interesting addresses at the various places visited.

The Chantry House was visited, and then the journey was continued to

Whitelackington, Church of St. Mary

Speaking in the church, Mr. H. St. George Gray said that in Domesday this manor was called *Wislagetone*. 'Almar held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for ten hides.'

The Montsorrels were owners of Whitelackington from 1100 to 1327. There is recorded a confirmation of gift to this church by James de Monte Sorelli in the first year of Richard I (1189). In a later record the name of Robert de Monte Sorelli, A.D. 1277, is found.

Sir Thomas Beauchamp held Whitelackington in the earlier half of the fifteenth century; his daughter married Sir John Speke, *circa* 1430. This is mentioned because Thomas Gerard of Trent wrote: 'Unto this Sir Thomas Beauchamp I believe I may without prejudice to any other ascribe the building of that *ancient faire house* still remaineing in Whitelackington, because both in it and the adjoining church I have frequently found his arms.'

The following deed poll, 10th August 1614, is of interest. It records that Sir George Speke of Whitelackington, knight, grants a yearly rent of £26 issuing out of his manors of Whitelackington and Atherstone, to his trusty and loving friends (named) 'for the maintenance of a sufficient lecturer preacher to preach and perform a lecture sermon every Wednesday in the parish church of Whitelackington'. The lecturer to be M.A. of Oxford or Cambridge and to be specially approved by the heads of Magdalen and Corpus Christi, if an Oxford man, and by Christ's and St. John's, if a Cambridge man.

The Somerset Hearth Tax, 1664–5, states that Whitelackington House had no less than twenty-two hearths. To-day Mr. S. Creed, the occupier, tells us there are thirteen chimneys. The Hearth Tax was a payment to the king of 2*s*. on every hearth. Owing to its inquisitorial nature this tax was very unpopular and was finally abolished by statute, 1 William and Mary. It is calculated that when the tax was discontinued it produced over £200,000, equal to nearly a million of the face value of our money of to-day.

Mr. Philip Sturdy then described the architectural features of the church at some length. He said that of the original

Early English church but few characteristics remained. Of the Decorated period of the fourteenth century, there was work in the S. transept, particularly in the S. wall, where there was a trefoil-headed arched piscina, having a shelf above the deeply coned and fluted basin. The delicacy of the two label drops, carved as dogs' heads, and the stops of the jamb mouldings, were notable considering the coarseness of the stone in which they were worked.

Behind some eighteenth-century oak panelling at the end of this transept, and lying on the floor, were two effigies in stone. One was probably that of John de Brideport, *c.* 1370, and the other is the figure of an unknown knight. These effigies are fully described by Dr. Alfred Fryer, F.S.A., in vol. lxiii of the Society's *Proceedings*.

In the N. transept should be noted a piscina of unusual design, and also the late sixteenth-century tomb. It seems probable that this may be the monument to Sir George Speke, who, in his will dated 25th February 1582-3, desires to be buried in the 'ile' of Whitelackington church. He had married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Andrew Luttrell, and the arms, Speke impaling Luttrell, occur several times on this tomb. On the tomb are two helmets in an excellent state of preservation, and lying on the window-ledge above them are some wrought-iron wall brackets which appear to have been designed to hold the staffs of banners, and perhaps these helmets as well.

The main part of the existing church, together with the tower, is fifteenth-century Perpendicular. The date of the work in the chancel is not easy to fix, and the windows with their curious details may be much later than they would at first sight appear to be.

The two squints or hagioscopes cut through the chancel arch are obviously more modern than the arch itself, and neither of them give an axial line to the centre of the altar.

The nave is in three bays of graceful Perpendicular arches on slender piers. The wall at the W. end of the nave is the tower wall, and above the present arch into the tower are the remains of the water-tabling of the original nave roof, showing that it must have been much lower than the present roof. I

hazard the guess that the Perpendicular tower was built against an aisleless nave of the same date, and that shortly afterwards this nave was replaced by the present nave, which was built much higher than the previous one, with the aisles that now accompany it. This nave and aisles are roofed, rather unusually but very effectively, with a single span.

At the E. end of the N. aisle, on the cill of the window, are a pair of brasses, each $18\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{8}$ in. in size. One is to Anthonie Poole 1587 aet. 70, and the other to Margerie Poole his widow 1616 aet. 84.

In the ringing chamber are some remains of an old clock, the dial still being outside. There is part of a painted internal dial, with the figures reading the reverse way, as it was back to back with the exterior face. It had one hand, and was doubtless sufficient guide to the bell-ringers. It is inscribed W.B. R.H. C.W. 1770.

In the bell chamber are four bells, which have all been recast, except No. 2, which dates 1779. They are fully described by Ellacombe in his *Church Bells of Somerset*.

Father HORNE said that the questions asked by Mr. Sturdy as to the purpose served by the squints or hagioscopes cut through the sides of the chancel arch, needed some answer, particularly as these openings had been noted in other churches visited during the last couple of days.

The object of the squint was to enable some one in the church to see the high altar, at a particular part of the mass, that was otherwise blocked out for him by a wall. From the thirteenth century, and even earlier, the ceremony had been introduced into the mass of lifting up first the Host and then the Chalice immediately the words of consecration had been said. The *Lay Folk's Mass Book*, edited by the Early English Text Society, gives directions as to what those present were to do at that moment, and the prayers they were to say. These squints were to enable those who were in the transepts, or anywhere out of direct vision of the altar, to get a view of this all important ceremony, the elevation. Even if all the worshippers, say in a transept, could not see what was going on at the altar, a certain number who were better placed could get a view through the squint, and from their behaviour those

about them would know the moment of the elevation. These openings may be found in all periods of architecture, from Norman right up to the Reformation.

So much time had been spent in the church that there was not much opportunity of seeing the Manor House, which had been considerably modernised. Some of the members, however, walked through the house by permission of Mr. Samuel Creed.

Monmouth Tree

Proceeding southward over a pasture field, the members came to the remains of the 'Monmouth Tree', where Mr. H. St. George Gray read a short paper on 'Whitelackington and the Duke of Monmouth in 1680', which is printed in Part II of this volume.

This concluded the places to be visited by the Society, and the return journey was made to Chard by Windwhistle. At Oaklands, Chard, the President, Colonel J. W. Gifford, and Mrs. Gifford entertained the members to tea, and afterwards the President showed and explained many of his scientific instruments to the party. After a suitable vote of thanks had been given to Colonel and Mrs. Gifford for their kind hospitality, the members returned to Chard, and the Annual Meeting for 1927 concluded.