

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1924.

THE Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Bristol on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

There was a large attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Merchant Venturers' Hall, Marsh Street, by kind permission of the Master, Mr. Henley Evans, who welcomed the members at the beginning of the meeting.

Before the meeting commenced some of the members (according to programme) visited the old Almshouses belonging to the Merchant Venturers and adjoining the Hall.

At 10.45 a.m. the members took the opportunity of viewing the Charters of the Society of Merchant Venturers which were exhibited for the occasion. Professor Sollas at the same time exhibited a few specimens to illustrate the Address he would deliver later in the morning.

At 11.15 a.m. the Annual Meeting began, when the chair was taken by the acting President, the Hon. Prof. Sir WM. BOYD DAWKINS, D.SC., F.R.S., and he was supported by Professor W. J. Sollas, LL.D., D.SC., F.R.S. (*President-Elect*), Messrs. Charles Tite and Henry Symonds (*Hon. Secretaries*), Mr. John E. Pritchard (*Chairman, Local Committee*), and Mr.

H. St. George Gray (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Excursion Secretary*).

The Annual Report.

MR. HENRY SYMONDS, F.S.A., one of the Secretaries, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“ In presenting the seventy-sixth annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last annual meeting 50 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses caused by death and resignation for the year 1923–24 have been 69. The net loss has been 19. The total membership at date is 1,063, against 1,082 at the Dulverton Meeting, 1923, 1,069 at the Clevedon Meeting, 1922, and 1,054 at the Crewkerne Meeting, 1921.

“ On September 26th last, the Society had the misfortune to lose the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P.,—the first President to die during his term of office. Dulverton received a further shock a few months later by the death of Dr. G. F. Sydenham, the Society’s local secretary for the district. Obituary notices of both these gentlemen have already appeared in the *Proceedings*.

“ Recently the Society sustained the loss of one of its honorary life members, Dr. R. Hensleigh Walter, F.S.A., who acted as local secretary for Stoke-under-Ham. Archæologically, his chief interest was centred in the antiquities discovered from time to time on Ham Hill,—a large number of which passed through his hands. Most of these objects found a home eventually in the Museum, and formed part of what is known as ‘The Walter Collection.’ He was also the channel through which many objects belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall were deposited for exhibition in the Museum.

“ On June 23rd Mr. Cecil J. Sharp, the master of folk song and dance, died ; he was editor of five numbers of *Folk Songs from Somerset*, in the first three of which he was assisted by the late Rev. C. L. Marson, representing a small proportion of their discoveries which began in Hambridge.

“ The Society also records with much regret the loss by death of :—Mr. G. E. Baker (1916) ; Mr. P. A. Baker (1923) ;

Mrs. Robert Blake (1911); Mr. Percy Boord (1905); the Rev. T. W. Bull (1881); Mr. C. A. Burroughs (1920); the Rev. Preb. W. E. Daniel (1875), sub-Dean of Wells, who was well versed in the archæology and history of the vicinity of Frome; Mrs. C. H. Fox (1909); Mr. C. J. Goodland (1899); the Lady Theodora Guest (1910); Mr. H. B. Harrison (1915); Mrs. Hincks (1919); Mr. James Lean (1900); the Rev. A. G. Locke (1918); Mr. H. B. Mason (1922); Dr. H. S. Pope (1920); Mr. M. H. Scott (1896); the Rt. Rev. Bishop Stirling (1906); and Mr. E. A. Whittuck (1904).

“There was a balance in hand of £34 18s. 9d. on the Society's General Account at the end of 1922; this became reduced to £18 16s. 6d. at the close of 1923. In neither case was the outstanding liability for printing taken into account. The net expenses attending the issue of Vol. LXIX of the *Proceedings* for 1923 (issued this year) amounted to £153 8s. 9d. Special thanks are due to Dr. A. C. Fryer for defraying the cost of the plates of monumental effigies in the last as in previous volumes. This book is one of the smallest of recent years, but it is hoped to issue a larger volume for the current year.

“It will be seen from the Statement of Accounts for 1923 that rather more than half the members of the Society still pay the old minimum subscription of 10s. 6d. Members elected subsequently to July 1920, obtaining the volume of *Proceedings* and all other privileges of membership, have to pay £1 1s. 0d. per annum, according to rule. These facts are emphasized in the hope that members who have not previously done so will consider the Society's need for a larger annual income to carry forward in adequate manner the work it has set itself to do.

“For some time past the roof of the Castle has claimed attention, and last winter repairs to the masonry, woodwork, leadwork and slating were carried out at a cost of nearly £50.

“Our Museum flourishes, but its contents are outgrowing the building. Elimination of certain specimens or provision of more exhibition space must be the ultimate issue. The chief item of interest in the Museum department is the provision of two plate-glass cases for the better display of some of the Ham Hill antiquities. The greater part of the cost is

being defrayed from a bank deposit account, the 'Museum Cases Fund,' a large part of which fund was provided by the late Dr. Walter.

"The Rev. F. J. Montgomery has kindly presented to the Society a transcription of an Inquisition of the Knights Templars' lands in England made by Geoffrey Fitz Stephen in 1185. The Council thinking this too large and general for the Society's *Proceedings* consulted the British Academy who has now decided to publish it.

"Mr. St. D. Kemeys-Tynte has presented his transcription of the Thurloxtton Parish Registers, 1558-1879, and a manuscript book of Arms of Somerset families, 1770. The West-Country Armory, given by Mrs. Spencer Perceval in 1922, has been indexed by Dr. R. L. Meade-King.

"Large numbers of Somerset deeds have been received during the year from Mr. E. F. Broderip and Mr. R. Neville-Grenville. In this department we take this opportunity of thanking Miss B. Masey for the voluntary work she has continued to do in connexion with the Society's collection of deeds. She is making good progress in preparing material for a catalogue.

"For some time past the Bronze Implements Committee of the British Association has been endeavouring to obtain outline drawings of the large collection of metal objects of the Bronze Age in our Museum. Mr. H. C. Charlewood, of Taunton, kindly undertook to make these drawings if the Curator would provide the weights and necessary literature. Since carrying out this work Mr. Charlewood has re-drawn all the implements to form an illustrated catalogue of the collection for the Society's library, and we wish to thank him for his very kind services.

"In the field of archæological excavation a good deal of work has been carried out in the county during the last year or so, including the clearing out of the 'Kingston bath' near the s.w. corner of Bath Abbey.

"At Ham Hill the Society conducted excavations, with the permission of the Duchy of Cornwall, in May and July last year,—work which the Society hopes to continue. Mr. St. George Gray paid attention chiefly to the inner vallum on

the west side of the northern spur of the Hill, in the endeavour to ascertain the age of its construction. Below the old turf line definite indications of prehistoric occupation reached to a great depth, and shards of pottery and other specimens have been collected from successive zones, but the evidence so far obtained is apparently not sufficient to determine to what *exact* period—following the Bronze Age—this vallum should be assigned.

“ At the Meare Lake Village, during a short season in the early autumn, Dr. Bulleid and Mr. Gray continued this interesting series of excavations. The dwelling-mounds examined were very productive, and adjacent mounds will be excavated early in September. No causeway was found connecting the western with the eastern half of the Village. We appeal for funds for carrying on this work.

“ Although not a part of the work of the Society, attention is again called to the excavations which, with voluntary funds, have been carried out in the cemetery at Keynsham by Dr. Bulleid and Father E. Horne, and to other Roman remains found in the same parish during the construction of Messrs. Fry's new factory and garden city at Somerdale.

“ Roman buildings have been revealed in excavations on the Westland estate at Yeovil. A large amount of tiling, pottery, some coins and other relics have been found; also several areas of mosaic pavement. The work, which is chiefly supported by voluntary funds, has not yet been completed.

“ In extending the quarry at Odd Down, south of Bath, in May last, a length of the stone fosse of Wansdyke was cut away, but the operations were watched by Mr. G. E. Cruickshank, F.S.A., who is about to report to the Society of Antiquaries on the subject.

“ At Butleigh in excavations on Mr. Neville-Grenville's estate the remains of a dovecot have been uncovered; and at Chilton Polden Mr. and Mrs. J. Maltwood have examined a mound on their property, the significance of which is somewhat obscure.

“ The Spelæological Society, University of Bristol, has again been very active in the Mendip district, as may be gathered from its volume of *Proceedings* issued recently.

“ At the suggestion of H. M. Office of Works, the Society has appointed a sub-Committee to consider the matter of drawing up a schedule of monuments in Somerset for the information of the inspectors of Ancient Monuments. An appeal has been sent to the local secretaries to give assistance in this matter. The names of all monuments included in the proposed schedule are submitted to the Council.

“ It will be fitting here to mention the excellent work carried out by the Bath and Wells Advisory Committee for the protection of churches, some of whose meetings have been held at Taunton Castle. Its sphere of influence, usefulness and work increases, and the fabric and ornaments of our churches are now considerably less in jeopardy.

“ At the invitation of the Society the South - Western Naturalists' Union held its second annual conference at Taunton at Whitsuntide, with Taunton Castle as headquarters. The Union had a very satisfactory meeting, and was joined on its expeditions and at its meetings by some of the members of the Natural History Sections of our Society. The visitors expressed themselves as very grateful for all that had been done to make their visit a pleasant and profitable one.

“ The Society's sections have been actively engaged on their special branches of natural history. They have provided several books for the Library useful for their studies. The Ornithological Section's report for 1923 covered 38 folio pages. The Essex Field Club presented a large number of herbarium specimens, chiefly from Somerset, collected a century ago by Dr. Southby *olim* Gapper, of Bridgwater. They have been examined by Dr. Watson and Mr. W. D. Miller, and Mr. T. W. Cowan has kindly mounted the selected specimens on 93 sheets.

“ Taunton Castle was visited during 1923 by 8,909 persons, including 2,345 attendances by members. This total has been exceeded only once previously.

“ The Council recommends the following appointments :— Mr. H. E. Balch, Hon. Curator of the Wells Museum, as an honorary life member, in recognition of his conspicuous services to Mendip research ; and Dr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A., the discoverer of the Somerset Lake Villages, as a Vice-President.

“In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. J. Byrchmore, Mr. A. E. Eastwood, the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet and Mr. H. B. Sheppard, and the three last-named have been nominated for re-election. The Council also recommends the election of Dr. R. L. Meade-King to fill the vacancy.”

Mr. JOHN E. PRITCHARD, F.S.A., in moving the adoption of the Report, said it was a fine summary of the year's work, and particularly as to its scientific excavations, which gave the Society a foremost position in the country. This was wholly due to the enthusiasm of its Council and to the special knowledge of its Asst.-Secretary and Curator, whose experience in archæological research work was unrivalled. The speaker referred also to the increasing value of the Museum at Taunton Castle which was ever a great attraction to the antiquary on account of its excellent classification.

Mr. H. STUART THOMPSON seconded the motion, which was carried.

Finances.

The Rev. Prebendary T. F. PALMER, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurers, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1923, and proposed their adoption.

Mr. CHARLES TITE seconded the proposition, which was carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1923. (*GENERAL ACCOUNT*).

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at Bank 31st December, 1922	...	34 18 9	By General Printing and Stationery	...	11 11 11
„ Members' Subscriptions 1922	...	14 0 6	„ Fuel and Light	...	46 5 8
„ „ 1923*	...	793 6 0	„ Repairs to Buildings	...	92 14 9
„ „ 1924	...	5 15 6	„ Repairs and Renewals of Furnishings	...	14 6 7
	813 2 0		„ General Postages and Telegrams	...	11 0 1
„ Less Refund of Subscriptions overpaid, 1923	2 12 6		„ Insurances	...	30 12 1
	-----	810 9 6	„ Rates and Taxes	...	73 5 2
„ Members' Entrance Fees	...	33 1 6	„ Petty Expenses	...	7 13 2
„ Donations	...	2 2 0	„ Sundry Payments	...	7 11 2
„ Museum Receipts	...	122 7 3	„ Watermain Wayleave	...	0 1 0
„ Publications	...	26 12 11	„ Assist.-Secretary and Curator's Salary	...	300 0 0
„ Rents	...	34 0 0	„ Wages of Staff	...	160 3 9
„ Dividends - New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	...	4 6 0	„ Accountants' Charges	...	5 5 0
„ 5% War Loan Bond	...	11 12 6	„ Museum Specimens	...	0 2 0
	-----	15 18 6	„ Books and Bookbinding	...	31 13 7
„ Miscellaneous Receipts	...	0 13 6	„ Subscriptions to other Societies	...	8 18 10
„ Transfer from Woodward Fund	...	3 1 9	„ Rent of Yard	...	3 0 0
„ „ „ Wiglesworth Fund	...	6 10 0	„ Legal Expenses	...	4 13 8
	-----	9 11 9	„ Short Guide to Taunton Castle, 2,500 Copies	...	19 5 0
	-----	£1,089 15 8	„ "Proceedings," 1922†	...	828 3 5
			„ Balance at Bank, 31st December, 1923	...	242 15 9
				-----	18 16 6
				-----	£1,089 15 8

* During the year 515 subscriptions not exceeding half-a-guinea, and 491 subscriptions of larger amounts were received.

† This does not include £18 17s. 10d., contributed to the Illustration Fund by Dr. A. C. Fryer.

The total cost to the Society of the "Proceedings," Vol. LXIX, for 1923, was £153 8s. 9d., of which nothing had been paid on 31st December, 1923.

Audited and found correct. 2nd February, 1924.

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

H. J. BADCOCK,

GEORGE F. IRELAND, }

Hon. Treasurers.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

WOODWARD FUND.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
To Transfer to General Account	3	1	9	By Balance from 1922	...	...	...	159	15	9	...	...	...
„ Balance c/d	160	13	1	„ Interest for the Year	...	...	...	3	19	1	...	...	...
							<u>163</u>							<u>163</u>			<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>		
								Balance b/d							£160	13	1

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
							By Balance from 1922, viz.—	...	...	...	
							5% War Loan (£300) at cost	...	...	282	4	3
							Deposit at Bank	0	6	6		
												<u>282</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

BOOK FUND.

By Balance from 1922 (New Zealand 4% Stock)	£107	11	4
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WIGLESWORTH FUND.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
To Transfer to General Account	6	10	0	By Balance from 1922	26	9	6		
„ Balance c/d	20	10	9	„ Interest for Year	...	...	...	0	11	3	...	...	...
							<u>27</u>							<u>£27</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>			
								Balance b/d						£20	10	9

MUSEUM CASES FUND.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
To Balance	63	16	0	By Balance from 1922	62	4	10		
							<u>£63</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	„ Interest for Year	1	11	2	
														<u>£63</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>			
								Balance b/d						£63	16	0

GENERAL STATEMENT.

		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Deposits at Parr's Bank:—				By Balances:—			
Woodward Fund	160 13 1	Woodward Fund	...	160 13 1	
Capital Account	0 6 6	Capital Account	...	282 10 9	
Wiglesworth Fund	20 10 9	Book Fund	...	107 11 4	
Museum Cases Fund	63 16 0	Wiglesworth Fund	...	20 10 9	
			<hr/>	Museum Cases Fund	...	63 16 0	
			245 6 4			<hr/>	635 1 11
„ General Account (Current)	18 16 6	By General Current Account	...		18 16 6
„ New Zealand 4% Stock at cost	107 11 4				<hr/>
„ 5% War Loan Bonds at cost	282 4 3				<u>£653 18 5</u>
			<hr/>				
			£653 18 5				

Audited and found correct, 2nd February, 1924.

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ON DECEMBER 31st, 1924.

TAUNTON CASTLE EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.			£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.			£ s. d.
By Grant, Somersetshire Archaeological and N.H. Society	...	...	11 0 0	To Wages of Workmen	...	...	24 18 6½
„ Grant, Taunton Town Council	...	...	5 0 0	„ Foreman's travelling expenses	...	...	0 12 9
„ Grant, Taunton Field Club	...	...	2 2 0	„ Insurance	...	...	0 11 3
„ Donations	...	...	8 10 6	„ Miscellaneous	...	...	0 4 9½
„ Miscellaneous	...	...	0 12 8	„ Cheque Book	...	...	0 2 0
			<hr/>	„ Balance at the Bank	...	...	0 15 10
			<hr/>				<hr/>
			£27 5 2				<u>£27 5 2</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The New President.

Professor Sir WILLIAM B. DAWKINS, F.R.S., expressed the Society's great regret at the death of the Hon. Aubrey Herbert which followed so soon after his Presidency of the Dulverton Meeting last summer. He referred to Mr. Herbert's many-sided activities, and then spoke of the fine Museum at Taunton Castle and the burden of its upkeep by the county society. He then proposed the election of Dr. W. J. Sollas, Professor of Geology and Palaeontology in the University of Oxford, as President of the Society for the year 1924-25.

Major-General W. DU G. GRAY, C.B., seconded the proposition, which was carried by acclamation.

Election of Officers.

The Rev. E. J. DAY proposed that the officers of the Society be re-elected, including three of the outgoing members of the Council, *viz.* Prebendary Hamlet, Mr. A. E. Eastwood and Mr. H. B. Sheppard; also the election of Dr. A. Bulleid as a Vice-President; Mr. Herbert Balch as an honorary life member; Dr. R. L. Meade-King as a member of the Council; and the following as Local Secretaries:—Mr. J. A. Barnes (*Minehead*), Mr. Humphrey Blake (*Crewkerne*), Dr. S. L. Brimblecombe (*Stoke-under-Ham*), the Rev. J. Byrchmore (*Bath*), Maj.-General W. du G. Gray (*Dulverton*), and the Rev. H. D. Lewis (*Langport*).

Mr. F. W. HEMBRY seconded the motion, which was carried.

Somerset Record Society.

The following is a summary of the Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER'S remarks at the Bristol Meeting:—

During the year twenty-seven new members were enrolled; the Society lost eight in the same period, which gave a net gain of nineteen in response to the urgent appeal made a year ago.

Volume xxxv, "Two Beauchamp Registers," by Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte was issued for the year 1920 in the early autumn of 1923.

Volume xxxvi, "Somersetshire Pleas," by Mr. Lionel Landon, a continuation of Mr. Chadwyck-Healey's Volume xiv of the series, was ready at the end of 1923 (issued for the year 1921).

Work was in an advanced state on Volume xxxvii, "Autobiography of Bishop Kidder" (from a manuscript in the Wells Cathedral Library), by Mrs. Armitage Robinson. It would be issued for 1922. The volume for 1923 would consist of the "Accounts of the Chamberlains of the City of Bath"; that for 1924 of a collection of short early medieval documents.

As compared with the pre-war volumes the pages of the present issues were fewer; but a further increase of subscribers in the current year would enable the Society to return to former conditions.

The Presidential Address.

The President, Professor W. J. SOLLAS, D.S.C., F.R.S., then delivered his address entitled "The Antiquity of Man," which was illustrated by a diagram, etc. It is printed as the first paper in Part II.

The speaker was cordially thanked for his address, on the proposition of Prof. Sir W. B. DAWKINS, seconded by Colonel E. St. C. PEMBERTON.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon at the Royal Hotel, College Green.

St. Peter's Hospital, Bristol (*Frontispiece*).

After luncheon the members were conducted through part of the city in two groups, one being taken by Mr. J. E. Pritchard and Mr. C. Wells, the other by Mr. J. J. Simpson and Mr. C. E. Boucher.

All met at Peter Street, and at St. Peter's Hospital they

were welcomed by the Rev. T. J. Bowen, chairman of the Bristol Board of Guardians.

Mr. J. J. SIMPSON said that they were visiting one of the most interesting examples of early domestic architecture remaining in Bristol; in fact a portion of the building was of fourteenth century date. The first known owner was John Corne, who in 1401 disposed of the building to Thomas Norton, who was one of the bailiffs of Bristol in 1393 and mayor in 1413. Attention was directed to the east end of the churchyard front which was believed to be part of the original structure,—the whole frontage being at one time in that style.

The mansion remained in the Norton family until 1580, when Sir George Norton who had acquired the fine old court house at Abbots Leigh sold it to Henry Newton of Barr's Court. The next known owner was Robert Chambers who disposed of it in 1607 to Robert Aldworth, a wealthy merchant and one of the best known of Bristol men of that time. In 1612 Aldworth made extensive alterations, and St. Peter's Hospital to-day was one of the finest examples existing of that particular type of architecture. Attention was drawn to the elaborate street frontage of Aldworth's reconstruction, to its bold spurs and brackets, carved fillets, grotesque woodwork, bay windows and gables, extending along two-thirds of that front, the remaining one-third belonging to the original Corne or Norton mansion as before stated. The gem of Aldworth's work was the old Court room, originally the principal sitting-room, with its oak panelling, choice plaster ceiling, and handsome mantelpiece. Above the plaster ceiling of that apartment there still remained the original open-timbered Gothic roof of XV Century date, which was carefully preserved by the present owners, and had recently been opened up to admit of more convenient inspection. The old kitchen was also of much interest and should be inspected, as well as the quaint sculptured figures in the porch on the river front, near the Aldworth monogram and date 1612.

Mr. Simpson briefly sketched the history of the building from Aldworth's time,—its passing to trade uses as sugar house, etc.; and in 1696 and 1697 its use as a mint for the coinage of silver money to assist the government of the day,

and examples of coins actually minted in the building were exhibited.¹

Then came the purchase of the old house in 1698 by the predecessors of the present owners, namely, the Corporation of the Poor which was established by the "Bristol Poor Act, 1695," and was the first Board of Guardians to be formed in England.² The Aldworth sitting-room was fitted up as the Court room, and had been continuously used for meetings up to now, although the meetings of the Board of Guardians had since 1901 been held in the new room in which the party was sitting. Many points of interest in connection with the occupation of the building by the Guardians were mentioned, and the members were then conducted round.³

St. Peter's Church.

From the Hospital the members passed to the Church of St. Peter (Rev. G. F. Clement Dobson, Rector).

Mr. C. E. BOUCHER said that the Society was visiting the Mother church of Bristol, it being the oldest religious foundation of the city, as evidenced by a deed of confirmation by Simon Bishop of Worcester (1125-40), which referred to St. Peter's Church as being "primitivam et principalem esse omnium ecclesiarum de Bristo."

Mr. Boucher gave a brief account of the architectural history of the Church and pointed out the features of interest. He drew attention to the fine brass on the north-east pier of the tower, representing a chaplain of the Church named Robert Lond vested in eucharistic vestments and bearing in his hands a chalice and the host.

1. This recoinage at Bristol was for the purpose of converting the hammered silver money of Tudor and early Stuart times into the milled (*i.e.* machine-made) currency which was introduced shortly after the Restoration.—H.S.

2. The first medical officer to give voluntary service in that hospital was Dr. Thomas Dover, who was second captain of the Duke privateer, which vessel brought Alexander Selkirk ("Robinson Crusoe") to England from Juan Fernandez.

3. See also *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XLVII, i, 34-36.

Among the interesting monuments in the Church was an altar-tomb in St. Catherine's Chapel bearing the letters IA and RA on shields in the spandrels of the arch. These letters referred to Robert Adams and his wife Jane. In the south chapel, which was dedicated to the Virgin, was a cadaver, the only remains of a table-tomb erected to the memory of one of the Nortons who resided in St. Peter's Hospital. In the same chapel was a magnificent tomb with the kneeling effigies of Robert Aldworth and his wife, and close to it another fine monument in Renaissance work with the effigy of a lady resting on a sarcophagus. There was an inscription stating that it was erected to the memory of a maiden lady, an ancestor of the Newton family of Barr's Court. This was, however, incorrect, and probably the late Mr. Ellacombe was right in assigning the tomb to Antholin the wife of John Newton.

Other features in the Church were the beautifully carved wooden altar-piece erected in 1697 by a London carver named Mitchell, the altar rails and a finely carved tabernacle near the entrance, which was once the shrine of the Blessed Mary of Belhouse, the patron saint of an important fraternity attached to the Church. Among other objects of interest were the churchwardens' staves assigned to the reign of Queen Anne, a pre-Reformation seal box and the communion plate.¹

The Red Lodge (Plate I).

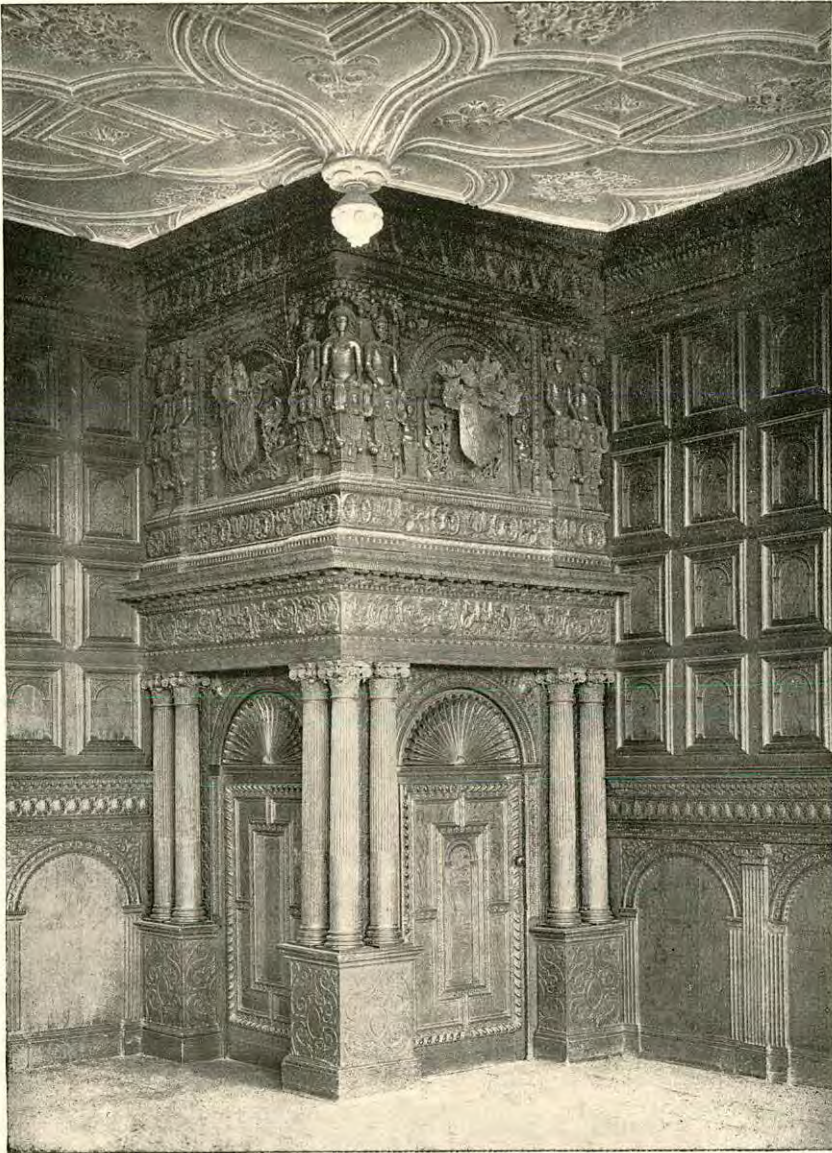
At the Red Lodge the members of the Society were received by the President of the Bristol Savages (Mr. F. Stuart Richardson, R.W.A.) and Alderman J. Fuller Eberle, who kindly entertained the members to Tea in the "Wigwam." Before the close of the proceedings there they were cordially thanked for their very kind hospitality by Mr. Charles Tite.

Mr. H. E. ROSLYN gave a brief history of the Red Lodge and the Bristol Savages, and how the two became associated. He said some months before the Girls' Reformatory established

1. Those requiring fuller particulars of this Church should refer to Mr. Boucher's illustrated account in the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, XXXII, 260-300.

in the mansion by Mary Carpenter was closed in April, 1919, Alderman Fuller Eberle, Chairman of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee, took steps to prevent the property being despoiled. With the aid of several friends, notably Sir George A. Wills, he was able to buy it. Then the question arose as to what use should be made of it. At the time the Savages, a club founded by the leading artists of Bristol, which had done much to stimulate a love of art in the district, were anxious to secure permanent headquarters. They undertook to raise a sufficient sum of money to build a large meeting-room on part of the garden and carry out numerous alterations in the modern part of the building, needed to adapt it to their requirements. Simultaneously, the older sections were carefully "restored." When the entire work was completed the trustees, a body formed from those who had contributed the necessary funds, granted a lease of twenty-eight years to the Savages, and then, subject to that lease, handed the deeds of the Red Lodge to the Lord Mayor as representing the Corporation. In that way the last remaining XVI Century dwelling-house in Bristol was preserved for the benefit of the citizens for ever, and at the same time it was placed in the custody of a body whose aims and traditions ensured its sympathetic maintenance. All this was accomplished without the rate-payers being called upon to contribute a penny. In 1920 when the Savages took possession of the old mansion it was an empty shell. Under their fostering care it had become a treasure-house such as few cities possessed.

Other particulars of this interesting house will be found in the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society*, Vol. xli, pp. 121-123; and its heraldry is fully described by the late Mr. F. Were in the same journal, Vol. xxiv, pp. 262-266, where among the arms mentioned are those of the Yonge family, which are also represented on a monument dated 1631 in St. Mary's Church, Taunton. Another heraldic shield exhibits, among others, the arms of Wadham, Popham and Walrond, and is regarded by Mr. Were as the coat of John Wadham of Edge in Devon.



VESTIBULE OF OAK ROOM, RED LODGE, BRISTOL.

From a Photograph by Mr. F. Bromhead, Clifton.

The University Buildings.

On leaving the Red Lodge, the members enjoyed a modern interlude, for under the guidance of the architect of the imposing new buildings of the University of Bristol, Mr. GEORGE H. OATLEY, F.R.I.B.A., they were privileged to inspect the Great Hall and the Council Chamber; also the Library (under the guidance of the Librarian, Mr. W. L. Cooper). The magnificent English oak roof of the hall was much admired. The tower was 57ft. 6ins. square, and would rise to a height of 206 feet above the ground. The belfry would contain one bell weighing $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons, which would sound the note B \flat .

The Museum and Art Gallery.

At the Museum the party was welcomed by the Director (Mr. H. BOLTON, D.SC.) and the chief members of his staff. After a few words of explanation in the Hall of the Art Gallery, the staff conducted the members through the galleries. Time permitted of only a hurried visit, for at 6.10 p.m. the Society had to meet at

The Lord Mayor's Chapel (St. Mark's).

MISS M. P. PERRY, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Hamilton Thompson, gave a description of the building and its history, of which the following is a résumé:

The late Alderman W. R. Barker in his monograph on St. Mark's has assembled the documentary evidence on the subject. He shows that Maurice de Gaunt grandson of Robert Fitzhardinge granted the first charter referring to the foundation of the Hospital of St. Mark at Billeswicke, and that this was confirmed by his nephew and heir Robert de Gournay. Maurice de Gaunt died in 1230. In 1534 the first steps were taken for the suppression of the Hospital, and in 1539 the final deed of surrender to the king was executed. In 1541 negotiations were opened for the sale of the Hospital and its possessions to the City, and the purchase was soon completed. In 1720 it was decided to use St. Mark's as the civic chapel.

An examination of the building shows that there was originally an aisleless cruciform church of which the N. and S. walls of the nave remain, together with portions of the transepts. On the exterior, the most interesting feature of this period is the fine corbel-table of considerable salience, evidently intended to support a roof with dripping eaves. This is enriched by a row of grotesque heads, human, devilish, and animal. A change in the masonry of the lateral walls, from ashlar at the east end to rubble at the west, would probably indicate that other buildings abutted at the west end of the Church, a conclusion supported by indications of various openings at different levels to be seen in the walls at the N.W. corner of the building. In the interior of the Church the capitals of the transept-arches have foliage of characteristic stiff-leaved style. There has been a great amount of restoration, but in the windows and transept-arches this appears to be based on the older work. In the north wall of the S. aisle chapel may be seen the outer jambs, and bases of the original windows, which were blocked when the chapel was added; the angle-shafts of these are bonded into the wall, and the bases are the triple roll, indicating an advanced date in the Early English period, compatible with the documentary evidence of about 1230.

To the geometric building period belongs the S. aisle at the W. end of the Church, communicating with the nave by plainly chamfered arches, springing at the W. end from a beautiful corbel, with a lion and characteristic foliage as decoration. The blocked S. windows contain simple geometric tracery, whilst the W. window, largely restored, has tracery of a more advanced type. In the eastern gable of the aisle is a later window, with a border of quatrefoil tracery, similar to that of the windows of the S. transept of St. Mary Redcliffe Church.

In the Braikenridge Collection there is an engraving, which shows the W. front before restoration. This has a W. nave-window, narrower than the existing one, and below it a small porch of debased Renaissance style, so insignificant that it raises a doubt as to whether there was originally a W. doorway. At the W. end of the Church on the S. side is a blocked archway which suggests a possible lateral entrance.

The next addition to the building was the tower, the proportion of which was determined by the area of the transept. In the N.W. corner of the tower is a turret-stairway, the ground storey of which must have been in position before the tower was built, as in it a window-opening is blocked by the masonry of the present tower. It seems probable that two grotesque corbels within the tower may be from a portion of the corbel-table of the nave roof, removed when the tower was set up, though it is not at present possible to verify this by measurement of the sculpture of the corbel-table still in place. Mr. Barker stated that an inscription was found saying that the masonry of the tower was finished in 1487. The tower has been very completely restored and it appears to have had alterations in the middle ages.

In the XV Century the chapel between the s. aisle and the transept was added with a hagioscope to the high altar of the Church and a door of communication with the nave.

At the end of the XV Century, or in the first years of the sixteenth, the chancel was remodelled by Miles Salley, Bishop of Llandaff, whose tomb is on the N. side. He is probably responsible for the screen-work, though this does not appear to be in its original position.

The latest addition is the chapel added on the s. side of the Church to the E. of the tower, as a chantry of the Poyntz family. It is a fine example of the latest phase of gothic art with a fan-vault. Sir Robert Poyntz died in 1520, and was buried there, but he left directions for the completion of the chapel. The rebus of the family, the 'poing,' or fist, occurs in the spandrels of the doorway and elsewhere. On the N. side are two interesting large and deep recesses with communicating slits in their dividing wall. Their purpose is obscure. There is also a series of smaller niches with good tabernacle-work. The domed tops of those at the E. end presage the approaching change of style. The floor is laid with a collection of medieval tiles, some of which are Spanish.

In this chapel are preserved some fragments of wall-painting, the subjects being Christ in the tomb, and two scenes connected with St. Mary Magdalene, one of them being Christ's appearance to her in the garden, which has the detail that the

Christ is represented with a spade. There is also a defaced fragment, the subject of which is possibly St. Christopher.

The Church is rich in effigies and tombs, though these have been badly displaced. The two most interesting effigies are those of knights in chain-armour in the s. aisle chapel, which have been regarded as the effigies of the founders, Maurice de Gaunt and Robert de Gournay, though Professor Prior points out that the attribution of the effigy, which, judged stylistically, is the earlier, is to the later of the two men. Though not a contemporary effigy, it is quite possible that it may have been made at a later date to commemorate the founder.¹ Both these effigies have the lines of the chain-mail parallel to the arm instead of across it as is more usual in English work. The same peculiarity occurs locally at St. Mary Redcliffe and elsewhere, and is found in French chain-mail effigies.²

A Renaissance tomb on the n. side at the w. end of the nave has an interesting frieze of scriptural subjects, which have been confused by being misplaced, but Adam and Eve, the sacrifice of Abraham, and Samson and Delilah,³ can be distinguished.

Above the flat wooden ceiling of the nave is a fine arch-braced roof.

Bristol Central Library.

Mr. JAMES ROSS, F.L.A. (Deputy City Librarian), in welcoming the members of the Society said the building in which they were assembled was the munificent gift of the late Mr. Vincent Stuckey Lean, a member of an old Somersetshire family. The Library was the lineal descendant of the old City Library in King Street, founded in 1613. During the XVIII Century the Bristol Library Society was formed and

1. M. Émile Mâle, *L'Art Religieux en France, La Fin du Moyen Age* (chap. iii, 2), quotes several instances where this has been the case in France.

2. In an effigy to Haymon Count of Corbeil, at Corbeil, and in one to Robert d'Artois, at St. Denis, figured by Mâle, *op. cit.*

3. Though probably Samson, this might be intended for the decapitation of John the Baptist.

the old Library became the headquarters of a brilliant literary coterie, which included S. T. Coleridge, Robert Southey and Humphry Davy. The old Library had been reproduced in facsimile in the Stuckey Lean Library, and the oak presses, panelling and doors, and the beautifully carved mantelpiece attributed to Grinling Gibbons had been transferred from King Street to the new building. The room thus reproduced was known as the Bristol Library, and here were gathered the local collection, books in MS., the early printed books, the Braikenridge Collection, and also the unique collection of Somersetshire books bequeathed by the late Emanuel Green, F.S.A., who was so intimately connected with the Society.

The chief features of the Central Reference, Lending, Commercial and Children's Departments were also briefly explained by Mr. Ross.

Second Day's Proceedings.

A large party left the Royal Hotel, Bristol, in motor-cars and motor-coaches at 9.30 a.m., driving to Whitchurch, where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Bennett.

Church of St. Gregory (now St. Nicholas), Whitchurch.

Dr. A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, F.S.A., said the township of Whitchurch or Felton was a member of the manor of Keynsham, which, with the parish church of Keynsham and its chapels, was given to the abbot and canons of Keynsham as part of the foundation endowment of their monastery. The parochial chapel at Whitchurch thus passed into the hands of the abbey, with those of Queen Charlton and Brislington, and was probably served by secular chaplains appointed by the vicar of Keynsham. In spite of its dependent position, the Church, though not large, was of considerable interest and beauty. It had been well described by the late Colonel Bramble in the report of the last Bristol meeting in Vol. XLVII of the Society's *Proceedings*, and there was little to add to his account.

In its present state the building was an enlargement of an aisleless cruciform plan, with tower between nave and chancel, which appeared to have been completed about 1200, and was itself probably an enlargement of an earlier building. In the course of the XIII Century the chancel was rebuilt and lengthened. About 1300 the east window and the window in the end wall of the north transept were inserted; and in the XV Century a south aisle was added, which absorbed the south transept, with a new chapel to the east.

The most striking architectural feature was the carving of the corbel-shafts from which the four tower-arches sprang. The treatment of the capitals varied between the tubular form of scalloping which prevailed in Somerset, Gloucestershire, and adjacent areas during the later part of the XII Century, and a well developed type of conventional foliage springing from the shaft without any neck-moulding. This combination pointed to a date, *c.* 1190-1200. The XIII Century sedilia were of an ordinary type, but the tracery of the windows made about 1300 was singularly delicate and beautiful. The south aisle had a good roof, and the screen of the chapel had details which, in the judgment of Mr. Bligh Bond, show some connexion in workmanship with the screen at Wrington.

It might be noted that the building of the tower and north transept, which, apart from the corbels already noted, were very plain, followed within some thirty years of the foundation of Keynsham Abbey. No definite conclusion with regard to the connexion between the two events may be drawn from this: the responsibility of the appropriators of a parish church for the upkeep of parochial chapels was not a point which was much pressed, and the maintenance of the chapel generally devolved upon the inhabitants of the chapelry. The subsequent lengthening of the chancel, however, which was contemporary with the rebuilding of that of Keynsham Church, might have been undertaken by the abbey as rector of the parish, and, if so, the east window might also have been provided at its expense and made, as was not at all unlikely, by its masons.

At 10.45 a.m. the members left for Keynsham, *via* West Town and Brislington Hill.

Roman Remains, Keynsham.

The party arrived at Keynsham Cemetery at 11 o'clock and were received by members of the Excavation Committee,¹ including Mr. John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., Chairman, Dr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A., and the Rev. Father E. Horne, F.S.A., Hon. Secretaries and Directors of the work, and Mr. G. E. Chappell, Chairman of the Parish Council and Treasurer of the Excavation Fund.

Mr. J. E. Pritchard welcomed the members on behalf of the excavation committee, and Mr. Chappell said a few words in his official capacity. Dr. Bulleid also made a few remarks.

The Rev. Father HORNE, standing at the western end of the great corridor, gave the chief description of the excavations. He explained that the corridor ran from where they were assembled in an easterly direction for a length of 212 feet. At its western end it turned at a right angle and ran south. There, as the members could see, the corridor passed under the embankment of the high-road, under the road itself in all probability, and out into the field beyond. What the exact length of that corridor was would not be known until it had been excavated at the far end. The corridors were about 10 feet in width, and there, in front of them, they could see a sample of the mosaic floor with which they were covered for the greater part of their length.

As the corridor ran from east to west it met the difficulty of the sharply rising ground by the insertion of two flights of steps. The first flight, which they could see near the chapel, did not extend right across the corridor, as there was a small alcove on each side of the steps. The second flight, which they could see just in front of them, consisted originally of four large freestone steps which extended right across the passage. Under the second step was a curious trough cut in the stone, which was evidently intended to carry water from the higher ground on the south side of the building across to the north side where the natural fall of the land was.

1. The other members of the Excavation Committee are :—Messrs. C. H. Abbott, G. Lawrence Bulleid, H. St. George Gray, Gerald J. Grey, E. W. Hilton and Hugh H. Mansey.

If the chapel were taken as roughly half-way along the length of that great corridor, they would see that there was about as much of it destroyed by the graves as there was exposed by the excavations. All the rooms that led out of that corridor were of course destroyed along with it,—the chapel itself stood on the site of at least one beautiful floor, which was broken up when the foundations were put in in 1875.

All along the north side of the corridor were rooms to the number of six, none of them having any remains of interest. At the corner where that corridor turned to the south was a group of large rooms with their floors in fairly good condition. There was a great hexagonal room in the centre, $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, with parts of its floor intact, the central design being nearly perfect.¹ To the right is a room about 12 feet in length, with an apsidal end, so common in Roman houses; also with a floor of high-class work and design. On the left was a hypocaust with a few of the pillars made of large-sized bricks still standing. The small triangular rooms at the base of the larger buildings had been examined, and that completed the excavations to date.

The few small objects of interest found were exhibited in a case for the visitors to see, and consisted of bone pins, metal rings, iron nails, a bronze fish-hook in good condition having a barb, etc. Some fifty bronze coins had been found, dating from the middle of the third century.

Continuing their journey the members arrived at Somerdale on Keynsham Hams at 11.45 a.m., where Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd., are erecting their new factories, and where in the early stages of the new constructional work, Roman remains had been discovered.

Mr. E. W. HILTON welcomed the members on behalf of the directors of the firm, and said that the first intimation that the site had been occupied by the Romans was the finding of small pieces of pottery, and subsequently the workmen uncovered two stone coffins. Later the foundations of a Roman

1. This pavement is figured in *Journal of Roman Studies*, vol. XII, pt. 2 (for 1922), "Roman Britain in 1923," plate ix. The same report also contains a plan of the Keynsham Roman house; and this plan also appears in *The Antiquaries Journal*, IV, 156.

building (which the members now saw before them) had been cleared. Among the small 'finds' were about sixty coins dating from A.D. 37 to *circa* 365 (four of them of silver), a quantity of pottery, two spoons, fragments of a musical instrument, pieces of querns, animal remains, etc.

As the large modern building the members saw before them was only the first of eight blocks of similar buildings to be erected, it was probable that further discoveries would be made as the work proceeded westwards in the direction of Keynsham Cemetery.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said the two coffins had been found in 1922, and that he had fully described and figured them in two journals.¹

Mr. J. E. PRITCHARD thanked Messrs. Fry and Mr. Hilton for the privilege afforded the members of seeing these remains.

Mr. C. TITE took this opportunity of thanking Mr. Pritchard in the name of the Society for the great practical interest he had taken in the archæology of Bristol and the neighbourhood during the last quarter-of-a-century, and antiquaries in general owed him a great debt of gratitude.

Queen Charlton.

Lunch was partaken of at the Wingrove Arms, and after a brief inspection of Keynsham Church (which was not on the programme), the members continued their drive to Queen Charlton to visit the Church of St. Margaret (the Rev. G. E. Walters, Vicar).

Dr. A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, F.S.A., said the history of the church was similar to that of Whitechurch, and it was still dependent upon the parish church of Keynsham. Its architectural history was also closely parallel. The west wall of the nave contained some large stonework and quoining which seemed to have survived from a building existing before the XII Century. The lower part of the tower and north transept were of the last quarter of the XII Century, slightly earlier

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXVIII, 87-92; *The Antiquaries Journal*, II, 371-375.

than those at Whitechurch : the east and west arches were here also pointed and unmoulded, and the capitals of the corbelled shafts were merely scalloped. It could hardly be doubted that the work at Whitechurch was a more elaborate and refined edition of Queen Charlton, possibly by the same designer. In both places the towers were of the axial type, forming separate buildings between nave and chancel, with transeptal annexes : the south transept at Queen Charlton had been pulled down, but the arch which led into it remained and was now filled by a plain window.

The chancel was lengthened in the XIII Century, and a chapel was added on the south side. This had been destroyed, but the arcade of two bays remained. The capitals of the pier and responds were exceptionally beautiful examples of XIII Century sculpture, *c.* 1230-40. As in the corbels at Whitechurch, the foliage sprang directly from the heads of the shafts without intervening neck-moulds : that type of design was peculiar to that architectural district, and was seen at its best here and in the arcades at Nymphsfield in Gloucestershire.

No further additions were made to the body of the Church, though the nave was largely rebuilt in the XV Century. The tower rose in two stages above the Church. The lower of them had wide two-light window-openings with round heads and moulded arches, and was completed soon after the work on the ground-floor. In the XV Century a tall upper stage with a battlemented parapet was built and buttresses added at the angles of the tower.

The Church and the houses round the village green form a picturesque group of some architectural beauty, and this quiet and remote village, lying among country lanes, is singularly unspoiled by modern buildings. In the middle of the green is a fine cross upon a lofty stepped base. Here the members were photographed in a group.

Wansdyke.

Proceeding to Cottle's Farm, Pensford, the members were able to see a well preserved section of Wansdyke, by permission of the owner, Mr. Farnham Flower, and the tenant, Mr. Frank

Flower. Owing to standing grass, Wansdyke was approached from near the railway arch at the foot of Hursley Hill on the main Bristol to Pensford road.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY explained, with regret, that Mr. Albany F. Major was unable to be present. We had in that position a vallum and fosse very clearly defined and of much larger dimensions than most of Wansdyke in Somerset. It was here he had hoped to make a sectional cutting in time for the visit of the Society, but it had been impossible owing to the lateness of the season, and the grass, intended for hay, was still standing. No excavations,—except a few on a comparatively small scale,—had taken place across Wansdyke since the end of last century when General Pitt-Rivers made some systematic cuttings in the neighbourhood of Devizes, when he (the speaker) gained his first experience in the methods of archæological excavating. In that part of Wiltshire the dyke proved to be Roman, Romano-British, or post-Roman, Pitt-Rivers found that in one position the builders of the dyke disregarded an earlier entrenchment, the fosse of Wansdyke cutting right through the camp.

Mr. Gray drew attention to the Society's last visit to Wansdyke at the Bath Meeting in 1914 (*Proc.*, LX, i, 62–67, with illustrations), and suggested that excavations might be conducted some day in the neighbourhood of Compton Dando; after which he proceeded to read a résumé of Mr. Major's paper on "The Course of Wansdyke through Somerset," which is printed in Part II of this volume. Before leaving Lt.-Col. A. B. Prowse, M.D., made a few remarks.

Stanton Drew.

The ancient remains and stone circles at Stanton Drew were visited next by the kind permission of Mr. J. Eaton Coates (the owner of the two most northern circles) and Mr. Comber the tenant of Church Farm.

Professor C. LLOYD MORGAN, F.R.S., standing on one of the prostrate stones of the N.E. circle, gave an interesting address which, on paper, he subsequently recorded in the following words :

An ancient structure is before us. Unhewn blocks of differing source are here grouped in three circles. There are outlying stones arranged in avenues. Further off is "the Cove" in one direction, the quoit in another direction. There seems to be definite alignment—for example, (i) that of the centre of the Great Circle down the avenue therefrom; (ii) that from the Cove through the centre of the Great Circle to that of the N.E. Circle. Questions, then, arise. For what purpose was this elaborate structure designed? When? By what folk? Whence came the stones? How were they brought? The answer to the last question is wholly conjectural. We can, however, say with some confidence that most of the stones were brought from the neighbourhood of West Harptree where similar unhewn blocks still lie at the surface. Others came from elsewhere—from sites to which probability points. There is little doubt that the folk were pre-Aryan immigrants who came across Europe from North Africa where they were in contact with, and influenced by Egyptian culture. This gives a clue to the "when." On diverse grounds we may provisionally assign an initial date somewhere between 2,000 and 2,500 B.C. But the construction was probably not all of one date. There seems evidence that it preserves a record in stone of an earlier cult when the year was divided into two half-year periods, with the hinge-points early in May and November; and a later cult with solstitial turning-points. Stonehenge seems to have been re-constructed when the later cult had prevailed; traces of the earlier cult are scanty. Stanton Drew may preserve a fuller record of both. In accordance with the May-November year the avenue from the Great Circle is approximately aligned to the rising sun early in May. In accordance with the later June-December year the alignment from the Cove, through the circle-centres (ii) is approximately to the rising sun at the summer solstice. If this be so, the purpose on the part of the wiser few who did the planning, earlier and later, may well have been to aid the ignorant many in their agricultural procedure in due season. But the wiser few may have been priests as well as men of science who knew not a little of astronomy. We may be in presence not only of an observatory and a calendar—not only

of a training-ground for scientific work (and used as such in our own day by undergraduates of the University of Bristol)—but of a temple for religious observances. Who can tell with assurance? Some perhaps may say that all this is merely conjectural theory. But what does this mean? I take it to mean, at bottom, that we should accept only the bare facts that lie open to trained inspection, and should studiously refrain from any attempt to furnish an historical interpretation. Is not this rather a “dry as the stones” outlook on Stanton Drew? Should we not try to link it up with the life of those who once lived here, and with still-current customs and folk-lore?

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said we had yet to see the southern circle of the group and the so-called ‘Cove’ near the west end of the Church. There was a good deal of printed material on Stanton Drew which had been set out chiefly by C. W. Dymond in his monograph on “The Ancient Remains of Stanton Drew.” Since that was issued in 1896, the circles had been a good deal neglected, and several of the prostrate stones of the great circle had become covered with turf. They were, however, systematically cleared by H.M. Office of Works in 1912, when a new plan was made by the authorities.¹ There had been no alteration in the measurement of the diameter of the circles; the great circle was 368, the s. circle 145 and the N.E. circle 97 feet in diameter.

The centre of the great circle, the centre of the N.E. circle and ‘the Cove’ were nearly in line; while the centre of the s. circle, the centre of the great circle and ‘Hauteville’s Quoit’ were nearly in line. The ‘Quoit’ stone was named after Sir John Hauteville, who, tradition told, pitched it down from Maesknoll.

Besides that group of circles there was no other stone circle in Somerset, so far as we were aware, except that (a comparatively small example) which some of the members visited on Withypool Hill last year.

The four most important circles, or groups of circles, in

1. Stukeley’s autograph memoranda and engravings of the Stanton Drew monument were sold at Sotheby’s auction rooms on 15 July, 1924, Lot 283.

England were Stonehenge, Avebury, Arbor Low (Derbyshire), and Stanton Drew. Excavations were still going on at Stonehenge under the supervision of Colonel Hawley; at Avebury the speaker had worked on behalf of the British Association for five short seasons; at Arbor Low he directed excavations as long ago as 1901 and 1902. Stanton Drew had not been touched by the spade, except in the clearing of some of the stones.

Although Sir Norman Lockyer never visited Stanton Drew he worked at it astronomically on the ordnance maps, and his observations were recorded in his work on "Stonehenge and other British Stone Circles."

The Manor House, Chew Magna.

(Formerly called "Firgrove").

It is said that the foundations of a former house here show work of the time of Henry VII and other parts are Elizabethan and Stuart. The old house appears to have been rebuilt in 1656 by Richard Vickris, a merchant of Bristol. His grandson, Richard, received pardon at the hands of Judge Jeffreys,—at what cost is unknown. Robert Summers, of Haverfordwest, bought the property from the last of the Vickris family. One of the outbuildings bears the initials R.S. 1750 on the weather-vane. In 1766 he purchased the manor of Chew Magna with North Wick and the manor of Dundry. Anne, daughter of Robert and Mary Summers, married James Harford and through this marriage the property came into the hands of the Harford family. In 1845 it was dispersed by auction. William Adlam, who married a grand-daughter of John Harford, bought the house and some of the land, but not the manorial rights, which were acquired by the Rev. E. A. Ommanney, vicar of Chew Magna. He sold them to John Colthurst, who left them to his daughter, Ellen, from whom the late Mr. Edward J. Thatcher bought them and united house and manor once more.

On arrival the members were entertained to Tea—delightfully laid out in two reception-rooms—by Mrs. E. J. Thatcher.

She was cordially thanked on behalf of those present by Dr. Hamilton Thompson.

After tea the house was inspected, and the initials R.V. (Vickris) and date 1656 were seen on the staircase and on the fireplace in the hall. Some early panelling attracted attention in the west bedroom, and in the west drawing-room a door *temp.* Henry VII. Three overmantels, probably by Flemish artists, were seen in the reception-rooms,—“The Adoration of the Magi” said to be by Albert Dürer, and two of later date, “The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian” and “The Martyrdom of St. Catherine of Alexandria.”

St. Andrew's Church, Chew Magna.

It was 5.30 p.m. when the members began to assemble at the Church, where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. Chas. Browne, LL.D.

DR. A. HAMILTON THOMPSON said the manor of Chew Magna belonged to the bishopric of Bath and Wells, and the bishops had a house to the east of the Church. The Church was in the bishops' collation, and, though it actually formed no prebend in the church of Wells, was occasionally referred to as the prebendal church of Chew, and was within the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter. A pension of ten marks was annually paid by the rector, by ordinance of Bishop Jocelyn, towards the maintenance of the daily service of our Lady in Wells Cathedral. In 1341 the Church was appropriated to the 'table' or private revenue of the bishops, by commissaries appointed by the archbishop of Canterbury in pursuance of a papal bull. The rector, Thomas of Haselshaw, canon of Wells and prebendary of Wormestre, continued to hold the living for some years after; but a vicarage was ordained by Bishop Ralph in 1349, by which the demesne tithes and rectorial jurisdiction, together with a pension of £10 yearly, were reserved to the bishop, and the vicar was charged with certain pensions to the churches of Bath and Wells, with the payment of ten marks yearly to the choristers of Wells, and with the provision of parish chaplains in the church of Chew

and the chapel of Dundry. By the same ordinance, three chantries were founded in the church. At the Reformation, the manor, rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were transferred to the Crown and came into lay hands.

The Church had been described in Vol. XLVII of our *Proceedings*, and the interesting monuments, including the striking wooden effigy in the south aisle (*Proc.*, LXVII, Plate iv)¹ and the remarkable St. Loe monument in the north chapel (*Proc.*, LXX, Plate iv, fig. 1 and Plate v, fig. 3), had received full comment in articles by Dr. Fryer. The building was large and without great architectural interest, apart from the beautiful tower. Broad aisles and chapels were added to the Church in the XIV Century: the south arcade of the nave might be somewhat earlier. The tower, in four stages, was nearly identical in design with the neighbouring tower at Winford, though somewhat less graceful: a noticeable feature in both was the prominent turret in the north-east corner. Of the chapels, that on the north was the burial-place of the St. Loes and Stracheys of Sutton Court, while the south chapel was appropriated by the Baber family, to whom the manor came in the reign of Elizabeth. The south chapel was divided, apparently in the XVI Century, into two floors, and was connected with the manor-house by a gallery, now destroyed. The dividing floor was now removed, but the large plain mullioned windows of the upper stage remained. The chancel screen appeared to be modern, although it might contain some portions of old work: the thinness of its detail was somewhat relieved by gilding and colour.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said they had seen three Norman fonts that day—at Whitchurch, Stanton Drew and Chew Magna, of which the two latter were the earlier. Four silver chalices had been seen, that at Whitchurch without marks, the Queen Charlton specimen with date-mark 1574, and the two examples at Chew Magna, one of which had the date-letter for 1570, the other inscribed on the button 1576. There was

1. The effigy of oak marked as being erected to the memory of Sir John Hauteville cannot be intended for him, as he lived in the reign of Henry III, and the figure was not carved until 1340-50. It is probably to John Wych, who acquired the manor of Norton Hauteville in 1328 and died in 1346.

also a cup marked 1571 at Butcombe (four miles west of Chew).¹

The motor-coaches left the church gates about 6 o'clock, and arrived at the Royal Hotel, Bristol, at 6.30 p.m.; the programme had been very full and varied.

Third Day's Proceedings.

This morning was devoted to Bristol, and at 9.40 a.m. the members assembled at

St. Mary Redcliffe Church (Plate II),

the Rev. Canon J. N. Bateman-Champain, Vicar.

Mr. HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A., was the chief speaker here, and at the close of the proceedings he was very cordially thanked for having come from Corsham to give the Society the benefit of his great knowledge of this noble edifice.

The following is a résumé of his description of the Church : The renewal of the masonry, the scraping of the walls, and much so-called restoration makes the task of elucidating the architectural history of this beautiful church a very difficult one.

There is no doubt that there was a great Church here in the XII Century. Of this Church the north porch remains almost intact and is not later than 1190, and also the south-west angle with its vice and the core of the west wall. This Church was probably cruciform with a central tower. The nave was approximately the same width as the present one and was vaulted throughout. The wall ribs of the main span are still visible in the south wall of the tower.

Indulgences for the building of the Church were granted in 1232, 1246, 1278, and 1287; and if, as seems certain, the Church had been completed about 1190, these indulgences, granted so soon after, suggest some catastrophe, probably the settlement or falling of the central tower.

1. "At the Bridgwater Assizes, 14 August, 1809, Sarah Crocker, aged 22, for stealing the sacramental plate from the parish church, Butcombe, was sentenced to Death."—*Western Flying Post*, 21 August 1809.

A new tower was commenced at the west end of the north aisle, as there was no room for it between the west end and the street. It was only carried up one story, and a groove for the flushing, which is still to be seen above the floor of the ringing-chamber, suggests that it was then covered with a flat lead roof.

The beautiful addition to the north porch was probably made to accommodate pilgrims to an important relic of Our Lady which was presented to the Church towards the end of the XIII Century.

In the second quarter of the XIV Century the south aisle of the nave was rebuilt and made wider. This was vaulted and the south porch added. But further work was brought to a standstill by the Black Death in 1349.

When the parish had recovered from the scourge, *c.* 1355, it was determined to entirely rebuild the XII Century Church upon a magnificent scale. First, a crypt was made below the north transept to contain the bones disturbed by the new work, but no further work was done on this side. The first section to be carried to completion was the south transept and a straight joint against the nave and chancel walls of the old church can still be traced.

The eastern Lady-chapel and presbytery were then built up to the walls of the existing Church. The chapel was to have been one bay in length, but was extended to the boundary of the churchyard, and a processional path was formed under the added bay. This work was in progress in 1385, as is proved by wills of this time. Before the western part of the presbytery was completed the north transept was raised upon the crypt already excavated and completed.

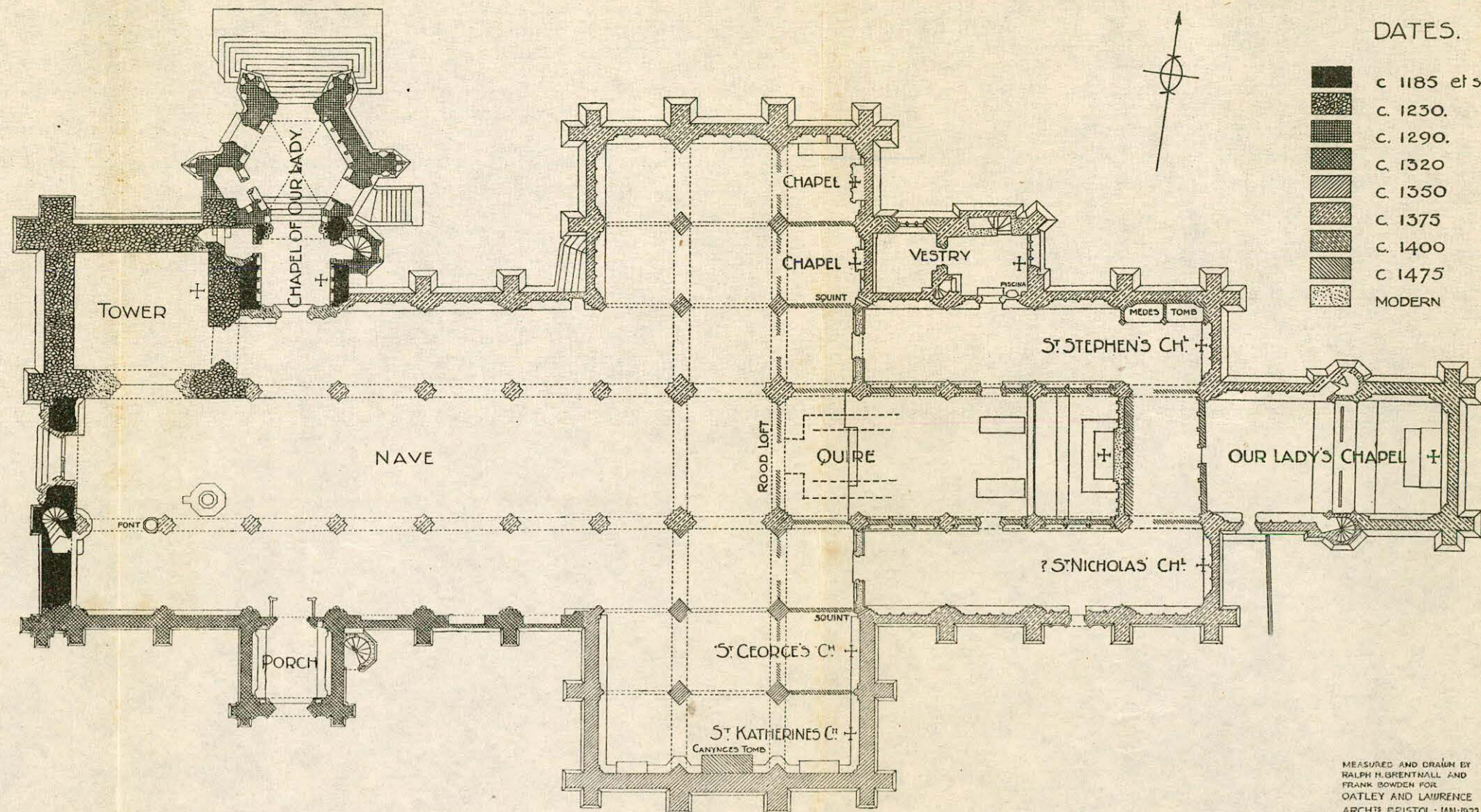
Over the crossing the main walls were carried up to form a low tower to cover the junction of the steep roofs, but there is no evidence that it was intended as a lantern open to the Church.

The presbytery on completion would be available for divine worship and so allow the work in the nave to be proceeded with at leisure.

As we have seen, the south-west angle of the old Church, the vice, and the core of the west wall were retained in the new

ST MARY REDCLIFFE BRISTOL

PLATE II.



MEASURED AND DRAWN BY
RALPH H. BRENTNALL AND
FRANK BOWDEN FOR
OATLEY AND LAWRENCE
ARCHT^s BRISTOL JAN. 1922



building. The south aisle, begun before the Black Death but perhaps not completed, was adapted to the new work, and differences from the other aisles may be noticed in the four-centred windows which fit the curve of the vaulting.

The whole church was vaulted in stone apparently *pari passu* with the different sections of the work. Though the great rebuilding could not have been completed much before the end of the XIV Century, new work was being done in the middle of the XV Century.

The clerestory windows of the presbytery, nave, and north transept were removed, and larger ones, which do not fit the vaults, inserted. The walls were panelled, the transepts were raised to the level of the presbytery and nave, and all the steep roofs were dropped. The open parapet which surrounds the upper part of the Church seems to belong to the XIV Century building. In raising the transepts the south transept vault was not interfered with, but that in the north transept has been altered next the side walls to jump over the inserted windows.

The spire which had been added to the completed tower was destroyed during a thunderstorm in 1445.

The completed Church, as it is to-day, consists of an eastern Lady Chapel of two bays; a presbytery of five bays, with aisles; a north transept of three bays, with east and west aisles, over a crypt under the two northern bays; a south transept of similar size; a nave of six bays, with aisles; north and south porches; and a great tower, occupying two bays at the west end of the north aisle.

A fuller account of this noble Church, by Mr. Brakspear, will be found in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, Vol. XLIV.

Church of St. Nicholas.

On leaving St. Mary Redcliffe Church some of the members inspected Canynges' House in Redcliffe Street. At 11 o'clock the Church of St. Nicholas was visited for the purpose of seeing the ancient crypt.

Here the members were met by the Rev. Canon C. P. Wilson

who said that originally there was a church in that situation on the old city wall. The earliest church was built *c.* 1030; it was repaired and beautified in 1361, and the crypt dated from *c.* 1503. The Church became dangerous about 1762–68, when it was taken down and rebuilt, and the structure was again restored in 1823. The groined roof and bosses of the crypt were very perfect.¹

Bristol Cathedral.

From St. Nicholas' Church the members proceeded to the Cathedral, where they were welcomed by the Rev. Canon R. J. Fletcher, D.D., on behalf of the Dean and Chapter.

Dr. A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, in the course of his address, said the two great churches of Bristol differed widely in their original character and purpose. While St. Mary Redcliffe was merely a parochial chapel attached to the Church of Bedminster, the revenues of which formed a prebend in Salisbury Cathedral, and while its present splendour was due to the munificence of citizens, the Cathedral Church was the church of an abbey of Augustinian Canons, who formed a community living outside the life of the city. At its foundation in the XII Century, the abbey became a member of the order or congregation of Victorine canons, whose chief house was the famous abbey of St. Victor at Paris, illustrious for the contributions of its members to philosophy, mystical theology, and religious poetry. Its medieval history, for so important a house, was uneventful; but it was one of the churches selected by Henry VIII as the seat of a new bishopric after the suppression of the monasteries, and in 1542 it became the somewhat inconvenient head of a diocese which, apart from Bristol and a few neighbouring parishes, consisted of the distant county of Dorset, an arrangement which survived until the union of the sees of Gloucester and Bristol in 1836. The see of Bristol recovered its independence in 1897, and was now the head of a more manageable diocese.

1. See the two plates in the Bristol volume of the *Archæological Institute*, 1853, p. 122.

The Church and monastic buildings had been fully described, with a coloured plan, by Mr. Roland W. Paul in *Archæologia*, Vol. LXIII (1911-12). To this little could be added. The utter disappearance of the XII Century nave, which appeared to have fallen into decay before the suppression was much to be regretted, and nothing was known of its design. The work of that period in the transept was plain walling without architectural features; but, in compensation, the magnificent chapter-house with its vestibule, built late in the XII Century, is comparable to the best work of its age, although its effect had suffered by the destruction of its eastern bay or apse. Equally fine from the point of view of detail was the Elder Lady Chapel, east of the north transept, with its elaborate XIII Century arcading.

The architectural importance of the rebuilding of the choir, begun in 1298, had perhaps not received sufficient attention. The peculiarity of its design was well known: the arrangement of a central space and aisles of uniform height, with arches buttressing the middle vault across the aisles, was more original than beautiful, and the effect was somewhat awkward. In the treatment which it involved, however, an early step was made towards that predominance of vertical lines which characterises later Gothic art and towards the subordination of decorative detail and sculpture to the design of a stone framework with superficial ornament of a stereotyped kind. Similar tendencies appeared in the choir of Wells and at Ottery St. Mary, though on more conventional lines, during the first half of the XIV Century, and were steps in the progress towards the premature appearance of the latest Gothic style in the choir at Gloucester about 1350. Bristol, however, might claim the earliest place in this development.

Fourteenth-century work of great beauty on a smaller scale occurred in the vestibule to the Berkeley chapel south of the choir. Of the XV Century, the central tower was the principal feature: the cloister walk belonged to the same period, and the gateway of the monastery, with its XII Century arch, was remodelled about the same time. The building of the nave and western towers by G. E. Street, and the rearrangement of the choir and its stalls by J. L. Pearson had their own merits,

but somewhat obscured the older features of a building which, if its full interest was not visible at first sight, nevertheless contained individual features which were as worthy of attention as those of many greater and more striking churches.

Mr. Paul had expounded with great clearness the plan and extensive remains of the monastic buildings. Recently, the dormitory upon the first floor of the eastern range of the cloister had been carefully restored to provide accommodation for vestries and meetings, and was accessible from the church by the old night-stair of the canons in the south transept. Thus at Bristol, as at Chester, the buildings of the monastery were being turned to account for the purposes of a church which was a centre of diocesan activity.

The Avon Gorge.

In spite of unfavourable weather about thirty-five of the members accompanied Dr. S. H. REYNOLDS, Professor of Geology in the University of Bristol, to the Avon Gorge to learn something of its geology and geography.

After lunch the party travelled by train from Clifton Down Station to Sea Mills, and in the station waiting-room Professor Reynolds gave a short address before proceeding on the 2½ miles' walk, following the winding course of the Avon to Hotwells. The members had to shelter once or twice in the huts along the route, when the natural features of the gorge were pointed out and explained.

Professor Reynolds' paper on the subject, with diagrams, is printed in Part II of this volume.

At the termination of the journey the leader was cordially thanked by General W. DU G. GRAY, C.B. This concluded the Bristol Meeting of 1924.