

There were in hand a second volume of *Collectanea, Somerset Pleas* (vol. iv), and *Quarter Sessions* (vol. iv). The latter would cover the year of the Monmouth rebellion.

The list of subscribers grew very slowly. The future of the Society and the continuation and enlargement of its usefulness depended on an increase in the number of supporters.

The Presidential Address

The President, the Earl of CRAWFORD and BALCARRES, K.T., then delivered his address, entitled 'Recent Progress in Archæology'. He said he was glad to be associated with a society which ranked amongst the senior in the country, devoting itself to the science of archæology, as well as strong in membership and finance. That gave them a series of assets which he hoped would, for long, help them to maintain their tradition in archæology, their devotion to learning, and their active contribution to scholarship. Let him that afternoon take the opportunity of giving a very brief and general view of some of those forms of activity. In doing so he would boldly lay claim, on behalf of British Archæologists, to a position not of eminence, but of super-eminence in that particular pursuit. Their tradition went far back, but not so far back as that of France. None the less in Lycia and Mesopotamia, sixty or seventy years ago, the British laid the foundation of modern archæological pursuits. It would be found that, active as their scholars had been, the bulk of their work had taken place in foreign countries. Their own resources in Britain, relatively speaking, were small, that is to say if measured by the actual concrete results of excavation, and the study of the series of civilisations which had preceded the present one in this country.

He spoke of Stonehenge and a dozen other places, which had been examined and investigated, and said that, although they were of entrancing interest, they could not compare, in ethnographic or in archæological or in artistic importance, with the researches they had conducted in Crete, in Egypt, in Central America, or in Irak. It was in those four places that British research had established for itself the pre-eminence to which he

had referred. He mentioned the work of Evans in Crete, which had revealed what they had known from literary sources, but which was scarcely credible otherwise, of the existence of that singular civilisation, advanced in very many particulars, in others curiously backward, but one which had an immense influence upon Greece, and, through Greece, upon subsequent and different civilisations.

He then spoke of the work carried out recently by Mr. Howard Carter and said that here again the actual science of archæology had been respected with a greater scruple and care than ever before. The record of every incident, every article and circumstance of the tomb, was kept in such a way as to be an example to the world of the faithfulness with which that kind of work should be pursued.

The same remark applied to the equally sensational results of Mr. Woolley's recent excavations at Ur, which had displaced Egypt as the earliest recorded civilisation of a first-class intellectual power. There again, the care with which the excavation had been carried on had been little short of miraculous. So, he said, their activities were setting a standard of excellence to which foreign archæologists were going to have to conform, if they desired their work to compare favourably with our own. But he must acknowledge we laboured under one serious disadvantage, which did not affect the foreigners—the cost of English publications was so high that they had great difficulty in informing the public and their constituents of the good work that was really being done. One had only got to examine that work to appreciate the extraordinary and loving care devoted to it. But the cost of publishing those books was so high that he heard from all sides of societies having in their archives excellent works which they could not afford to place on paper, and which had consequently to remain in their archives. On the other hand they compared this with the cheapness and the excellence of the books published in Milan, Brussels, and Paris. For a very few shillings those countries were turning out excellent works, which in this country would cost a sovereign or more. He did not know if there was any solution of the difficulty, but he said there was no greater hindrance to the work of their societies. How greatly he regretted, in the

interests of archæology, that the cost of production should be so high as to be, in many cases, prohibitive.

Coming to the politics of archæology, very definite and concrete results arose from the active support given by foreign Governments. He took Albania—a curious, interesting, rather remote country bordering upon the great passage-way of the Adriatic. Then he looked at the opposite side of Italy, from Ravenna in the north to the 'heel' in the south. Nobody could go into Albania without permission. In Afghanistan he mentioned, significantly, that the chief archæological officer for twenty years past was a Frenchman.

He deplored the attitude of successive Governments of this country, who failed to realise for some inexplicable reason that the prestige of a country did not solely depend on its commercial greatness, but that they had as much right to the prestige of their intellect as any country in the world. So it came about that they did not have so good a chance in archæological research as other countries had. But let them not, therefore, think that they did not find many opportunities of doing admirable work. Their research was conducted primarily for historic reasons. What was the alternative? It was found in Tripoli, for example, or in many parts of Egypt. In most places whenever evidences of an occupied site were found, they dug for the statue, for the gold torque, for the fine piece of architectural frieze, for the ceramics, etc. They dug for a direct object as much as for the purpose of reconstructing history. The man who dug to reconstruct history defeated his own object if, in the process, he destroyed the evidence of the strata through which he was passing.

The man who dug for a bronze statue did not care whether it was five feet higher or lower, whether it lay on calcined remains or on virgin soil. What he wanted was the statue. In this country the objects were few and, relatively speaking, of small value. After all the long occupation of this country by Rome they had never found a life-sized Roman statue. If they scratched the sand at Thebes or other places, they were almost bound to find a treasure. Perhaps the temptation there was irresistible. But in this country, through the absence of the temptation, there had been laid down standards of excellence

in method of research and record, and that had been one of the contributory causes which had given so careful a training to their young archæologists. In Irak, at Tutankhamen's tomb, or anywhere else, they recorded the system and the method of their finds with an accuracy that was unparalleled.

During the last ten or fifteen years, collaboration between British archæologists had been growing more complete and more intimate. He attached the greatest value to the annual meetings of the Congress of Archæological Societies. The Master of the Rolls, and those who dealt with public documents, listened with the greatest sympathy to the recommendations they made. The preservation notably of manorial documents was very important, but much remained to be done, and he commended this branch of activity to the Somerset Society.

Dr. J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON, Dean of Wells, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to his lordship.

The Rt. Hon. H. HOBHOUSE, in seconding, thought the Society ought to be congratulated upon having Lord Crawford as their President that year.

The vote of thanks was heartily carried, and the annual meeting then closed.

The Pump Room and Bathing Establishment

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, Mr. JOHN HATTON, Director of the Baths, gave a short address on their history (illustrated by lantern slides), and afterwards conducted the members over the bathing establishment.

At 4.40 p.m. the members were entertained to tea at the Old Red House, New Bond Street, as the guests of the Bath Branch of the Society.

Subsequently the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution was visited, and Mr. P. E. Martineau described the various objects of special interest.

The Evening Meeting

At 8.20 p.m. the members met at the Pump Room at the reception kindly given by the Mayor, Alderman CEDRIC CHIVERS, and the Mayoress, Madame SARAH GRAND. Over

500 guests were present, and after the formal reception was concluded a move was made to the Concert Room where two short lectures were given.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, secretary to the Society, spoke on *The Excavations at Avebury, 1908—1922*, as a preparation for the visit to be paid there on the following day, and Mr. MOWBRAY A. GREEN, F.R.I.B.A., described *Eighteenth Century Bath*. Both lectures were illustrated with lantern pictures and were most instructive and interesting. A musical programme, recitations, songs and Somerset stories, followed, and refreshments were served on the Terrace during the evening. The Mayor and Mayoress were cordially thanked for their hospitality.

Second Day's Proceedings

A goodly party started from outside the York House Hotel soon after nine o'clock, and made their way into Wilts. The first halt was at

The Church of St. Cyriac, Lacock

where Mr. HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A., gave an account of the building. He pointed out that the church obviously preceded the Abbey, but no trace remained of the original Saxon edifice. The chief feature of the present building was the fine fifteenth-century N. aisle, ending in the Lady Chapel with its richly decorated roof, still retaining traces of colour. He also called attention to an interesting brass and two ancient monuments.

Lacock Abbey

was next visited, by the kind permission of Miss Talbot, M.B.E., and was very fully described by Mr. H. BRAKSPEAR. He explained that it was founded by Ela, countess of Salisbury, in 1232, as a convent of Augustinian Canonesses. So good was the reputation of the Community that when the smaller monasteries and convents were suppressed in 1534, the nuns at Lacock were given a license to continue. Five years later, in the general destruction of the greater houses, Lacock was

taken possession of by the King, who granted it to William Sherrington, the Controller of the Mint at Bristol. He at once made it into his private residence, and this explained why it was still in such an excellent state of preservation. The party then went through the building and its chief features were very ably pointed out. At the end of the visit, on the motion of Mr. Henry Hobhouse, a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Brakspear.

On leaving Lacock the journey was resumed to

Silbury Hill

on the main road between Calne and Marlborough. Nearly the whole party climbed to the top, and here Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY made some remarks. He said it was the largest artificial mound in Britain, having a vertical height of 130 ft., and a diameter of 552 ft. at the base and 104 ft. at the top. It covered 5 acres, and the circumference at base was 1660 ft. It was situated midway between the 'Longstones' at Beckhampton and the destroyed stone circle on Overton Hill; and it was 4,750 ft. in a s.s.w. direction from the centre of Avebury. Excavations had taken place at Silbury in 1777, 1849, 1867, 1886 and 1922, but the small results obtained did not reveal the purpose nor date of the hill.

The party proceeded to

Avebury

via the Kennet Avenue, and lunch was taken on arrival at the Red Lion Hotel.

Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY, in describing the monument, said that in points of size and grandeur Avebury stood out prominent among the ancient monuments of Great Britain. At the same time it was very difficult to realise what Avebury and its appendages were when in the height of their glory. The monument had been terribly mutilated, and the vandalism must have gone on for many years to have caused the destruction of no less than 95 per cent. of the stones, which with the Kennet and Beckhampton avenues were originally about 650.

The area, which is encircled by a ditch within a vallum, covered nearly 29 acres.

Having described the monument as it is seen to-day, Mr. Gray made a few remarks on the excavations he had conducted there during five seasons between 1908 and 1922, on behalf of the British Association. The great fosse had claimed most of his attention, and this in places was found to reach a depth of 30 ft. below the surface of the silting, which gave a vertical height from the crest of the vallum to the floor of the fosse of about 55 ft. The maximum width of the fosse at the bottom was 14 ft., and this floor in places was found to be strewn with picks, hammers, levers, etc., of red-deer antler. The total absence of metals in the silting of the fosse and in the vallum afforded strong negative evidence of date; whilst the persistence of tools of stone, antler and bone at least strongly suggested Neolithic date.

The members were shown what remained of the great outer circle and the inner circles, as well as the 'Cove', after which

The Manor House

by the kind permission of Colonel L. C. D. Jenner, C.M.G., and Mrs. Jenner, was viewed by the party, and the beautiful garden was afterwards inspected.

Tea was taken at Avebury and the journey was then continued to

Bishops Cannings

where the church of St. Mary the Virgin was visited, and fully explained by the Rev. E. H. Goddard, F.S.A.

Leaving Bishops Cannings, the next stop was at

Devizes

the Museum of the Wiltshire Archæological Society being the only place visited. Here the party, under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. B. Howard Cunnington, inspected the very fine collection of local objects brought together and arranged with admirable care, the time proving all too short to do justice to the display before them.

The return journey to Bath, which was reached at 6.45 p.m., brought to a close a very crowded day. At the

Evening Meeting

which was held at the Pump Room, there was an Exhibition of some of the City Charters and the Civic Plate (by kind permission of the Mayor and Corporation of Bath). A paper on the 'Arms of Bath' was read by Mr. F. D. WARDLE, and Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY gave a description of the 'Excavations at Kingsdown Camp, Mells', which was illustrated with lantern slides.

Third Day's Proceedings

The morning was spent in the City of Bath. At 9.30 the members assembled at the Roman Baths, and Mr. A. J. TAYLOR, F.R.I.B.A., the Baths' architect, gave an interesting account both of their re-discovery by the late Major C. E. Davis, the City Architect, and of the baths themselves. After the visit to the Roman Baths was concluded, Mr. MOWBRAY A. GREEN, F.R.I.B.A., took the party on a walking tour through Bath. From Union Street, built subsequent to 1798, the Upper Borough Walls were passed, and Beau Nash's house was noticed. Queen Square, commenced in 1729, was next visited, and then by Gay Street, to the Circus and the Royal Crescent, the way was taken, and so to Milsom Street and High Street over the famous Pulteney Bridge with its double row of shops, designed by Adam in 1770. At the end of Pulteney Street, before the Holburne Museum was entered, Mr. Mowbray Green was heartily thanked by the members. An inspection of the art treasures of the museum followed, Mr. A. C. COLLIER, the curator, conducting the party. This closed the morning's programme.

Afternoon Excursion

The members left Bath about two o'clock, and the first stop was made at

Prior Park College

where Mr. MOWBRAY A. GREEN again acted as guide. He gave a short account of Ralph Allen the builder, whose object was to show the enduring quality of Combe Down stone, which was not believed in, at the time. He pointed out the Palladian bridge, which dated from 1756, and said it was not the work of Wood, as was sometimes stated.

On leaving Prior Park the next halt was made at

Wellow Church

The church of St. Julian was described by Mr. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A., who said it was rebuilt by one of the Hungerford family, and that he was believed to be the same as the Hungerford who was the first Speaker in the House of Commons. He regretted that the Hungerford chapel on the N. side was blocked up with the organ chamber, as the interesting family monuments could not be seen properly. Attention was also called to the font and the bench-ends (see *Proc.* lvii, i, 70-73).

Some of the members also visited the ancient house of the Hungerfords, the Dovecote, St. Julian's Well and the Bridge.

Soon after leaving Wellow the members passed the site of the famous Roman villa to the N. of Wellow cemetery, in what is now called 'Upper Hayes' (*V.C.H.* i, 312). On the other side of the valley and across the railway line and Wellow brook, at Stoney Littleton, stands the finest and best preserved long-barrow in Somerset (*Proc.* viii, ii, 35; *V.C.H.* i, 189).

The party proceeded *via* Radstock and Writhlington cross-roads to

Kingsdown Camp, Mells

Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY added to the remarks he had made the evening before, and gave an account of the Camp as it had been revealed by the recent excavations. A coin of Domitian, about eight brooches and pottery of a coarse type, were among the chief finds. Mr. Gray related how it was largely owing to the keen interest that Lord Hylton took in this spot and the substantial help he gave, that the work was undertaken at all,

as it was not a particularly attractive site when viewed before the excavations began. To Lady Horner, the owner of the land, who had given the necessary permission to dig, the best thanks of the Society were due. The party then walked round the camp and examined the finely cut ditches where they had been cleared of the silting and stone that had filled them.

On leaving the camp, the visitors made their way through Kilmersdon to

Downside Abbey

where they were received by the Abbot and Community to tea in the grounds. Unfortunately so much time had been taken up at the various places visited in the afternoon, that there was scarcely any opportunity of seeing the Abbey church or the School buildings, before the visitors had to leave in order that they might catch the evening trains to London and the West of England. The Abbot spoke for a few minutes welcoming the guests, and after a vote of thanks had been accorded him by Mr. John Morland, the greater part of the members returned to Bath in the motor-coaches. Several members driving in private cars took advantage of the opportunity to stay later. About 230 members had taken part in the excursions