

The Presidential Address

The PRESIDENT (Colonel W. O. Gibbs) then gave a short address on the amenities of the countryside, laying stress on the defacement of interesting features and the excessive plucking of wild flowers, for which certain classes of town-dwellers are so frequently responsible.

Mr. P. STURDY, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President enlarged on this subject and spoke briefly on town and country planning and ribbon development in the county.

The vote was seconded by the Rev. R. G. BARTELOT, who deplored the demolition of beautiful old country cottages in Somerset under what are called slum clearance schemes.

St. Andrew's Church, Backwell

Soon after 3 o'clock the members left for Backwell Church (Rev. H. S. Urch, Rector) which was described by Mr. BLIGH BOND. (See his account of the Church in *Proc.*, lxviii, pp. xxxix-xlii; and *Parochial History of Backwell*, by the Rev. G. S. Master, Northern Branch, S.A. and N.H.S., 1898).

Barrow Court

At 4.50 p.m. the members arrived at Barrow Court where they were entertained to Tea by the President and Mrs. W. O. GIBBS in the Tithe Barn. Afterwards the house, gardens and the Church of St. Mary, Barrow Gurney (Rev. C. E. Garrad, Vicar) were visited, and before the party dispersed the host and hostess were cordially thanked. (See *Parochial History of Barrow Gurney*, by the Rev. J. A. Wadmore, 1897 and 1902, —two parts).

All Saints Church, Wraxall

This Church (Rev. H. S. Briggs, Rector) was visited at 6 o'clock and was described by Mr. BLIGH BOND. (A full description will be found in *Parochial History of Wraxall*, by the Rev. G. S. Master, N. Branch, S.A. and N.H.S., 1900).

The party arrived at Clevedon at 7 p.m., when the proceedings for the day ended.

Second Day's Proceedings

At 9.30 a.m. the motors left Clevedon, and proceeded to the

Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Yatton

(the Rev. W. N. Kempe, Vicar), where the building was described by Dr. F. C. EELES. (See Mr. E. Buckle's account of the Church in *Proceedings*, xlv, i, 24-28, and Mr. Bligh Bond's description in vol. lxviii, pp. lii-lviii; illustrations in vols. v and xlv. For important entries from the churchwardens' accounts relating to the building of the screen, see vol. liii, ii, 87).

Before the proceedings concluded Mr. T. G. SIMMONDS¹ referred to the dedication of the mortuary chapel of Sir John Newton and his wife Isabel de Chedde, who died respectively in 1487 and 1498.² This chapel was probably built in their lifetime. Dame Isabel was of Court de Wyck, and in her will she directed 'my body to be buried in the newe chapell of Saint John the Evangelist within the church of Yatton', and ordered 'a well disposed Preest to sing for my soule within the church of Yatton in the newe chapell of Saint John above rehersed, during the space of 5 yeres'.³

Sir John Newton made his wife his executrix, and left the residue of his goods to be disposed of by her 'for the welthe and ease of my sowle at hyr will and discrecion. In witnesse that this is my very effectuall and last wyll I have put hereto my seale'.³

In the Yatton churchwardens' accounts are many entries, in the fifteenth century, of expenditure on a Chapel of St. James which has been confused with the Newton Chapel, dedicated to St. John. In 1451 St. James' Chapel was enlarged, and an 'ale' was instituted for his day, 25 July. The other Yatton church 'ales' were on Hock-day (second Tuesday after Easter) and at Whitsuntide.

There is no room for doubt that the north transept was

¹ Mr. Simmonds died on 7 February 1939, aged 83 years.

² See Effigy, *Proceedings*, lxx, 84-5.

³ *S.R.S.*, xvi, 272, 374.

dedicated to St. James and that the discovery in 1905 of the chopped-off slab in the N.E. wall, with a receptacle underneath—probably for relics—was the remains of the altar.

In the time of Collinson the arms of the diocese were in the east window of the Newton Chapel, but have for many years been missing. In 1908 Mr. Simmonds obtained the blazon from Norroy King of Arms, and the shield was restored to the window.

The figures of SS. Peter and Paul on the west wall of the nave came with one of King David, and the organ which Bishop Law gave when the Rev. D. M. Clerk was vicar. The organ was formerly in the chapel at the Bishop's Palace at Wells; it was rebuilt in 1906 when the choir vestry was constructed behind it. Mr. Bligh Bond designed the screen for the vestry, and Yatton parishioners did the carving.

Mr. Simmonds said that many years ago he had heard from old villagers that Bishop Law used to drive through Yatton in a coach-and-four. No doubt this was on his journeys to and from Banwell Castle. He had also heard of notice-boards in the south porch and at the chancel door which were inscribed 'Please take off your Pattens'. Moreover he told the members that the rushes used for covering the floor of St. Mary Redcliffe Church on Whitsundays were still supplied from the parish of Yatton.

Finally he made reference to the gipsy graves in the churchyard. Merrily Joules, the wife of 'Old Isaac', was 'a beauty bright', according to the inscription on her tombstone. She belonged to the nomadic clan of the Coopers. Merrily's name in the parish register is spelt 'Morella'. Her two daughters were also of extreme beauty.

At 11 o'clock the members arrived at the

Church of St. Andrew, Congresbury

(the Rev. T. Goodchild, Vicar) and this building was also described by Dr. EELES. (See Mr. E. Buckle's account in *Proceedings*, xlv, i, 28-30, and Mr. Bligh Bond's description in vol. lxviii, pp. lx-lxi; illustrations in vol. xlv, and of the Old Parsonage, vols. x, i, 9, and lxviii, frontispiece, and p. lix.)

Mr. T. G. SIMMONDS said that that church, like Yatton, was another which had lost its Royal Arms. They were sold by the vestry in 1876 for the sum of 10s. There was on view that day their earliest original paper register, the binding of which had recently been repaired. It began in 1543. Another valuable document the Church possessed was an 'Award of the High Court of Chancery in the 44th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth', made 20 September 1602 between the governors of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol (which was endowed by John Carr, *d.* 1586, with his manor of Congresbury) and the parishioners, whereby a payment for ever of a yearly rent of Ten Pounds has to be paid out of the funds of the hospital, in lieu of an ancient right of the inhabitants to take 'spars and stretchers' out of King's Wood in the lord's manor. The Bristol Charity Trustees still pay the Ten Pounds and no more.

The Old Parsonage was also viewed by the members before leaving.

At 12 noon the conveyances arrived at the

Church of All Saints, Wrington

where the members were met by the Rector, the Rev. ARTHUR J. HOOK, who described the Church.

Before the Reformation, the manor of Wrington was held by the Abbots of Glastonbury, and partly because of this, and because of the entire absence of local records, it seems impossible to discover the exact date of the building of the Church or who were the people who made the efforts to build it. The Church was described by Prebendary Scarth in a paper, 'Wrington: a Sketch of Parochial History', contributed to the *Proceedings* in 1887 (vol. xxxiii), and also by Mr. Bligh Bond on the occasion of the Society's visit to Wrington in 1922 (vol. lxviii). Apparently the eastern portion of the chancel dates from the fourteenth century; the east window and the two external corner buttresses, with their very beautiful canopied niches for figures, are worthy of attention. The magnificent west tower, about which Professor Freeman and others have waxed eloquent, was built on to the end of the

earlier church, possibly about the middle of the fifteenth century. The line of the old roof can be seen within the church above the tower arch. Later in the same century the present nave was added. Externally the Church is almost perfect. It sits in its place as if it had grown there,—a marvel of dignity and proportion. It would be sacrilege to add vestries or other modern conveniences to it. As is common in North Somerset there is a fine range of gargoyles, and a very beautiful bell-turret on the gable of the nave roof. This last contains,—and this is rare,—its original bell which is inscribed *Sancta Maria*. There are two dials on the south face of the porch, and within it are the staircase and the door which led to the porch gallery. The gallery itself has disappeared. One of these galleries is seen in position at Weston-in-Gordano. It has been suggested that they were used in connection with the Palm Sunday procession, and possibly at weddings and other occasions when a ritual use was made of the porch. The interior of the Church is not so impressive as the outside. The nave appears to be too short, but this may be due partly to the fact that the present pews, which were put in at the restoration in 1860, are too high, too large and too crowded. The arcade is most graceful and beautifully proportioned, and the architect who planned it carried the outside member of the pillars up in a cusped design over the clerestory windows with the most satisfying result. The chancel-arch is wide, and on the western face of the piers are two angel corbels which carried the bressumer for the rood-loft. The loft has gone but the lower part of the screen stretches right across the Church. It is late in date, possibly sixteenth century, but is of beautiful and interesting workmanship. In 1860 when a good deal of damage was done, for example the destruction of at least one piscina, putting down tiles in the chancel on the top of old tombstones, obliterating the remains of the ancient carvings at the west door and the insertion of a considerable amount of unworthy stained glass, it was seriously debated whether or not the screen should be removed altogether. Though this disaster was happily avoided, the appearance of the screen is not improved by the pretentious stone pulpit that was erected at that time. The fifteenth-century font has, on the lower

portion of the bowl, the figures of angels carrying a scroll. The panelled tower-arch is very fine, as also is the fan-vaulting of of the tower ceiling.

In 1937 some repairs to the Church were carried out under the direction of Mr. W. H. R. Blacking. Among other things done, the chancel and sanctuary were repaved with stone, and three interesting tombstones, previously hidden by tiles, were revealed. They are those of Francis Roberts, a rather famous rector of the parish who died in 1675, Dr. Henry Waterland, rector 1728-1779, and Thomas Sydenham who died, aged 45, in 1710. It would be interesting to know in what way this member of the Sydenham family became connected with Wrington. There is also in the Church a recumbent effigy of a priest in mass vestments. This effigy was brought from Wrington House, which is now demolished, where it was built into a wall. It dates from the fourteenth century, and as none of the rectors died at Wrington between 1327 and 1405, it seems impossible even to guess whom it represents. It is not mentioned by Collinson or other historians, and it seems possible that the former owner of Wrington House may have imported it from elsewhere as a garden ornament.

The aisles of the Church extend beyond the screen to about half the length of the chancel. That on the north, which is at present entirely blocked up by the organ, is the lady chapel. The dedication of the south chapel is uncertain. Edmund Leversage in his will dated 1547 desired that his body should be buried before 'St. Erasing's Altar' in Wrington Church. From this Prebendary Scarth concluded that the south chapel was dedicated to St. Erasmus. On the other hand in twelve out of thirteen wills connected with Wrington between the dates 1502 and 1530, money is left for the High Light, Our Lady's Light and St. Nicholas' Light. This seems to suggest that possibly there were the three lights, one in front of the rood, one in the lady chapel, and the third in the corresponding south chapel, which would be that of St. Nicholas. A hint, which further suggests that the chapel was not of St. Erasmus, was discovered last summer after the visit of the Society to Wrington. The Church possesses registers dating from 1538, both the original paper register and also the copy made on

parchment in 1599 being extant. In the original paper register certain notes were made which were afterwards scratched out, probably because it was thought unnecessary to copy them into the new register in 1599. Thanks to the kindness of Dr. Veale, who deciphered it, we now know that one of these notes, inserted at the end of the baptisms for 1545, is to this effect : ' Memorandum, the 9th day of September, Saint Erasmus' Altar was hallowed, and the Suffragan sang Mass himself *in pontificalibus* '. It is dated at the end, 1545. It is not possible that the south chapel should have been without an altar until 1545, so St. Erasmus' Altar must have been in front of the screen or elsewhere, and it seems most probable that St. Nicholas is the patron of that chapel. It would be interesting to know why a cult of St. Erasmus arose, as apparently it did in this part of England, in the sixteenth century.

There is a considerable amount of information, more or less interesting, as to the care and repair of the Church and its bells in the churchwardens' accounts, as for instance the fact that there was almost continuous warfare between the churchwardens and the inhabitants of Wrington for two hundred years over the matter of playing fives against the walls of the Church. The churchwardens took this very seriously, and made almost frantic efforts to stop the practice, not so much, it appears, because of the irreverence of the proceedings as because of the constant repairs to the windows entailed thereby. It is interesting also to notice the unremitting care of, and the large sums of money expended by the churchwardens on the bells throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the rather unusual fact that neither of the two altar frontals which were in use during the greater part of that period was red (as it should have been had the dictates of the modern disciples of the English use been followed), but one is described as ' green ' and the other as ' striped '. The reactions of the Civil War on the relationships of the wardens, one with the other, as divulged in the accounts is entertaining too.

It is a matter of thankfulness that the Church has escaped destruction, for it alone remains out of the many glories of old Wrington. The Court House, the Priory, the Church House (the deed of conveyance of which dated 1447 still exists), the

old churchyard cross, the market cross, the old houses described by Collinson, and the birthplace of John Locke, of which the inhabitants, without knowing why, professed to be very proud, have all been utterly swept away, some of them within living memory. Probably the ambition of those who did these things was to turn Wrington into an industrial centre. In that, fortunately, they failed.

At 12.50 p.m. there was an interval for lunch (Golden Lion Hotel, Wrington). At 1.30 p.m. the party proceeded *via* Wrington Hill and Oatlands to the Quarry at the extreme w. end of

Goblin Combe

At this point Dr. F. S. WALLIS, F.G.S., demonstrated the fact that the varied and delightfully contrasted scenery of northern Somerset is primarily due to the structure and weathering of the older rocks. Chief amongst these older rocks are the Carboniferous Limestone beds so well seen in Mendip, the two ridges converging on Clevedon, Broadfield Down and elsewhere.

Broadfield Down forms an unusually prominent feature in the topography, abruptly rising as it does from the Yatton moors, the vale of Wrington and the Flax Bourton valley. The area is a greatly weathered dome-shaped uplift, although denudation did not reach the underlying Old Red Sandstone rocks. The Down is wrapped round by that peculiar beach deposit of Triassic times known as the Dolomitic Conglomerate.

Broadfield Down, in common with other Carboniferous Limestone areas, has its surface gouged by a number of picturesque valleys, which, although obviously formed by water action, are now entirely dry. Goblin Combe is a characteristic gorge of this type, probably due either to the progressive unroofing of a series of underground caves, or to the action of surface melt-waters during or at the close of the Ice Age.

In the midst of the extremely charming hamlet at the entrance to Goblin Combe, the leader referred to the four chief determinants which together form the scenery of any particular place, namely the structure and composition of the underlying rocks, the vegetation, the atmospheric and climatic conditions and the work of man.

Subsequently members walked up the Combe, especial attention being given to the formation and extent of the abundant scree and the band of chert which is responsible for the prominent feature known as Cleeve Toot. Dr. Wallis also drew attention to the volcanic rocks; these are rare in Somerset, but here are found in a few places near the top of the Combe.

Before going on to Chelvey some of the members took the opportunity of visiting Brockley Church, where they were accompanied by Dr. Eeles.

Chelvey Court

was visited by permission of the tenants, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Wyatt. A short description was given by Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

Chelvey Court is a mansion of the reign of James I, but now reduced from its former magnificence through the loss of its southern half, and the complete alteration of its upper storey which has lost its ancient outline. Most of the windows have been modernized, and in this respect the west side has suffered least.

Externally, the east porch retains some semblance of its antiquity, and its twisted columns and enriched parapets are noteworthy.

Internally, the chief feature preserved is the fine massive staircase of oak ascending two storeys, above which there still depends from the ceiling a large Jacobean plaster pendant, with enrichments of foliage and fruit said to be intended for the cocoa-plant. At the foot of the great staircase five horse-shoes are nailed, and at one time there were six of these. They were so placed as a supposed security against witches, who were believed to be unable to pass over them.

There are ancient tables along the south wall of the living-room which appear to date from the fifteenth century and are unaltered. Others of similar character are to be seen in the Middle Temple Hall.

Some ancient chimney-pieces are preserved, and also a certain amount of panelling on the walls of rooms on the first

floor (*i.e.* the east porch level) and here there is an example of the earliest form of 'graining'. The inner room, now known as the Blue Room, shows the same original treatment of the panels under a blue-grey paint of later date. The coats of Tynte and Gorges appear in this room.

The original stone-tiled roof was at a higher level and no doubt the house was gabled. Now all gables are shorn off and externally the beauty of the house is sadly diminished.

Chelvey Court has been well illustrated in *Country Life*, 21 May 1910.

Chelvey Church

dedicated to St. Bridget, was next visited (the Rev. J. C. James, Rector). It was described by Dr. EELES. (See *Proceedings*, xlv, i, 32-34, and lxviii, pp. xliii-xlv.)

At 4 o'clock the large party arrived at

Nailsea Court

where, in the unavoidable absence of the owner, Lt.-Commander C. E. EVANS, R.N.V.R., the description was given by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY. During the visit tea was served in 'the Barn', for which Mr. Evans was cordially thanked.

Nailsea belonged, in the thirteenth and the early part of the fourteenth century, to a family named le Frye of Nailsea: the last of that family to own it was Elys le Frye, brother of Roger le Frye. He leased it, prior to 1327, to Walter de Chaney and Alice his wife, 'saving the service of the Lord King and suit at my Court at Naylsy'. Before 1331 Elys le Frye sold the estate to Robert de la More, and to the de la Mores, or Bythemores, are due the main features of the present house.

Of the fourteenth-century work but little remains except the chimney-piece of the kitchen concealed behind the panelling in the Library.

The Percevals followed the de la Mores by inheritance. Richard Perceval, a picturesque figure, 'Secret Remembrancer' to Queen Elizabeth, was probably born at the Court.

In the year 1574 Elizabeth came to Bristol and this date is inscribed on a chimney-piece at Nailsea Court. Carved on it

are the initials 'G.P.' and 'E.P.'. They stand for the father and mother of Richard Perceval.

Richard Perceval was instrumental in giving to Queen Elizabeth tidings of the preparation of the Spanish Armada. He was an extravagant youth and quarrelled with his father, especially over his marriage. He went to Spain for four years and on his return published a Spanish Dictionary and a romance, *The Myrroure of Knighthood*. He was a friend of Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, and when a 'pacquet' of papers was captured from a Spanish ship chased in the Channel, and none of Elizabeth's cabinet could decipher these papers, Burleigh proposed that Richard Perceval should be entrusted with the task. Richard next day presented them himself to the Queen deciphered, and translated into Spanish, Latin and English. Her Majesty was so pleased that she took Richard into special favour, made him Secret Remembrancer and gave him a pension of 800 marks a year.

The next owners were the Coles,—worthy Bristol magnates. Richard Cole the first was Mayor of Bristol. His initials and those of his wife, Alice, with dates, may be seen on some of the chimney-pieces; in one case, 1593, the year in which Richard was elected M.P. for Bristol. Alice Cole's charities are administered in Bristol to this day. Their great-nephew, Richard, who also lived at Nailsea Court, raised monies for the repair of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in 1633. They were related to the Royalist family of Hopton and to the Pophams of Littlecote.

Later, Major Nathaniel Wade, conspirator and patriot, resided at Nailsea. This Wade fled from the Battle of Sedgemoor, and later returned to Nailsea.

Mrs. Damaris Daniel, daughter of Major Wade, it is said brought Alexander Selkirk to tell his story to her friend, the author, Daniel Defoe, at her house in Bristol.

After the Wades, Madam Rogers, sister of the last Lord Coleraine and wife of Dean Rogers, the holder of many livings and chaplain to George II, came to reside at the Court. After this the Court became a farm-house for 160 odd years, tenanted mostly by the Willcox family. Gradually it fell into an almost ruinous state. Buckler's drawings show it with the southern

wing broken down, and the condition in 1906 when Commander Evans bought the place was even worse. Repair and restoration took seven years to complete. Two illustrations of the house are given in *Proceedings*, vol. lxxiii; see also *Country Life*, 21 December 1912.

The members left the Court at 5.15 p.m., and returned to Clevedon via Cleeve and Yatton.

Reception in Evening

In the evening Mrs. R. G. BURDEN entertained the Members and other guests to a Reception at Clevedon Hall.

Third Day's Proceedings

The motor-coaches left the Walton Park Hotel at 9.30 a.m., and proceeded to the

Church of SS. Peter & Paul, Weston-in-Gordano

(the Rev. Canon P. E. Lee, Rector). Dr. EELES described the Church. (The building was fully described by Mr. F. Bligh Bond in *Proceedings*, vol. lxxvii, pp. xxii-xxvi; and there is an earlier account in vol. xlv, i, 36-42, chiefly by Mr. Buckle; illustrations will be found in vol. x).

At 11 o'clock the party reached

Battery Point, Portishead

at the N. end of the Esplanade, and walked on the rocky foreshore. Dr. F. S. WALLIS explained that although the detailed disposition of the rocks near Portishead was not fully understood even at the present time, it was clear that the main outline of the topography was due to two ridges of the older rocks. One of these ridges trends north-east and south-west, forms the hills which stretch between Portishead and Clevedon and determines the direction of the coast between the two places; the other ridge strikes due east and west through Eastwood and is responsible for the direction of this part of the coast of Somerset.

Dr. Wallis pointed out the main structure and characteristics

of these two ridges, and then briefly explained to the members the rocks in the immediate vicinity. Folding on the small scale was seen in a diagrammatic series of five arches and troughs in the Lower Carboniferous Shales (K beds) while the prominence of Battery Point was shown to be due to included chert bands. The motor-coaches proceeded along the Esplanade, giving members an opportunity of seeing more of the features which had been demonstrated.

St. Peter's Church, Portishead (Plate I)

This Church, of which the Rev. P. W. Rees Rowlands is Rector, was described by Dr. F. C. EELES :

The Church of St. Peter consists of chancel, nave, north aisle to both, west tower, south porch and vestry on the north of the chancel. It is a somewhat unusual building and its architectural history has been strangely obscured by the way in which it has been handled.

The nave was originally of no great size and distinctly short ; the chancel of moderate length. The chancel was of the fourteenth century, the nave of the fifteenth. Late in the fifteenth century the great west tower was built. Later still a very wide north aisle was added, extending westwards alongside most of the tower and eastwards along part of the chancel. It was probably built round an earlier and smaller aisle, for a late fourteenth-century arcade of two very wide bays was allowed to remain and a small arch was opened to connect the eastern part of the aisle with the chancel.

When the church was enlarged in 1879-80 the work was done with great skill, but in a manner eminently calculated to deceive the student of the history of the building.¹ The western half of the chancel was pulled down and the nave extended to cover its site, the chancel-arch being rebuilt further east. To compensate for the curtailment at its western end, the chancel was extended eastwards. The eastern part of the south chancel wall was allowed to remain. The corresponding part of the north chancel wall was pulled down to make an

¹ What was done is elucidated by a drawing from the Pigott collection, reproduced as Plate I (*frontispiece*), dated 1829.

opening into an extension of the aisle on that side. In these extensions care was taken to preserve old work and to retain as much as possible of the familiar appearance of the church. The masonry of the nave extension was made to resemble the small ashlar of the rest ; the window in it was copied from the one further west ; the old sacring bell-cot was replaced on the top of the new east gable of the nave. The extension of the chancel was carried out in masonry resembling that of the old parts of the chancel, the new window was copied from its original neighbour, the old corner buttresses were rebuilt, the old east window reused (save for new mullions) with its beautiful Decorated tracery. The side window in the north wall was set further east. The piscina was replaced near the east end within. The small arch that led from the west part of the chancel into the east end of the later north aisle now became the eastmost arch of the nave arcade, albeit separated from the two wider and earlier arches further west. Thus as first sight it is difficult to realize that any such eastward extension has been carried out.

The east window is in three trefoiled lights with tracery in form of a rose or wheel in a circle containing six radiating lights trefoiled. The label has small rose stops. The chancel side-windows are in three trefoiled ogee-headed lights running up to a square head. There is a small south doorway, blocked, and now near the west end, with an ogee-head under a crocketed label. The piscina is small : the pointed arch has a hollow moulding with paterae, some of those at the top never having been finished. Its appearance suggests a later date than that of the chancel, which is probably the second quarter of the fourteenth century.

The south side of the nave and the large porch were rebuilt about the middle of the fifteenth century, or perhaps a little earlier. They are of ashlar. A two-light window west of the porch and one of three lights east of it have cinquefoiled lights and rather tall tracery-lights under square heads. The rood-loft staircase has a shallow rectangular projection with a gabled top : it is now some distance from the rebuilt chancel-arch and has been adapted to form a staircase to the pulpit.

The porch doorways are rather deeply moulded, the arch

mouldings of the outer doorway fading on to two recessed chamfered orders below. The terminals of the outer doorway are hollow-sided lozenges ; those of the inner doorway uncarved rectangular blocks. There is a small trefoil-headed niche for the stoup on the right of the inner doorway. Over the outer doorway is a square-headed window with two trefoil-headed lights. The porch is one which was constructed for an internal gallery such as still remains at Weston-in-Gordano. The staircase to it is in the east wall and a modern gallery occupies the exact position of the original, but it is closed on the porch side and opened to the church through an archway made in the wall in the nineteenth century. A niche with a richly crocketed canopy now in the west wall of the porch seems to have been transferred to that position when the opening in to the church was made. The porch retains its original waggon-roof with embattled wall-plate on a moulded stone cornice.

The nave roof is similar : it has three purlins, carved foliage bosses and small corbels in the embattled wall-plate at the feet of the braces.

The arcade on the north side of the nave has two exceptionally wide arches and appears to belong to a late fourteenth-century aisle. The pillar and responds are compounds, square on plan with a semi-circular shaft on each side ; the capitals are bell-shaped with simple mouldings and the arches are of two recessed orders, the outer chamfered, the inner wave-moulded. The bases are hidden owing to the whole floor of the church having been raised.

East of this arcade a small single arch of later date originally on the north side of the chancel is now included in the nave.

The wide north aisle overlaps most of the tower. It has a flat roof, a plain parapet, pinnacles on shafts springing from the buttresses and grotesques at the intersections of shaft, and string-course. The windows are of four lights cinquefoiled with large cinquefoiled tracery-lights, one above each pair of lights and a third in the apex above the fork of the central mullion—a tracery formula very common in the granite districts of West Devon and East Cornwall.

A north doorway has a wide hollow with carved leaf ornaments.

The eastmost bay of the aisle is narrow. This was originally alongside the chancel. It is separated from the rest of the aisle by a wide strainer arch of stone resting on wall shafts evidently placed there to take the thrust of the chancel-arch, now moved further east. The responds are old, but the arch itself is a modern renewal. It is of low pitch, four-centred, with a pierced quatrefoil in a circle in each spandrel. It may be a reproduction of what was there before. On the south side a grotesque head at the spring of the arch seems to have been re-cut in modern times even if it is not wholly modern.

A modern arch leads to a modern eastern extension of this aisle alongside the chancel. Beyond it is the vestry.

The splendid tower belongs to a north Somerset group of which Batheaston, Publow, Dundry (save the parapet and pinnacles), Winford and Chew Magna are the other members. It has four stages with double buttresses which have offsets in the middle of each stage as well as at the string-courses. The west doorway has rather deep mouldings but no special enrichments. The large five-light west-window has triple-panel tracery of a type very common all over the north-west of the county. The other stages have each a two-light window, blank or pierced. The parapet has trefoiled piercings, large massive compound pinnacles at each corner set diagonally and bases of small pinnacles in the centre of each side. A small pinnacle is set on the face of the base of each compound pinnacle immediately above the corners of the tower. A large octagonal staircase-turret at the north-east corner rising out of a square base ends in a spirelet of two tiers, the upper one like the other compound pinnacles. The tower-arch has two recessed orders with wave mouldings. The total height is 98 ft. 9 in. It was built after the nave was reconstructed in the fifteenth century, but before the building of the existing aisle.

There is a fine Norman font which was dispossessed in the nineteenth century to make way for an ornate Victorian one. It consists of a square basin in the form of a cushion capital rising from a circular stem. The base is not ancient, in its present form at any rate; it may perhaps have been re-cut.

The pulpit is ancient and one of a class of stone pulpits of the later Perpendicular period of which several remain in the

district. It has been reconstructed in modern times on a modern base in isolation from the wall to which it was most likely attached at one time. Each side has two shallow cinquefoil-headed panels. There are four-leaved ornaments below and a narrow vine-trail in the cornice at the top. No doubt these pulpits were at one time richly coloured and gilt.

The lower part of the churchyard cross remains ; it has four perfectly plain steps, supporting a square base-block and the lower part of an octagonal shaft.

Mr. BLIGH BOND has sent the following note on the Musicians' Gallery over the south porch :

Sometime in the Victorian period—the churchwardens' accounts may indicate the time—the space over the little wooden gallery in the porch, which had made it a counterpart of the surviving one at Weston-in-Gordano, was partitioned off from the porch and thrown into the church by the opening of an arch into the nave over the south door of entrance. The intention was to form a gallery for the musicians leading the choral singing. This reflects well the earlier use and tradition attending galleries in this position. So we have here a Victorian survival and a Victorian adaptation of a medieval feature, and perhaps the only one of this kind.

In Vol. i, Bond and Camm's *Roodcreens and Roodlofts*, p. 114, we have a note of this gallery and a sketch showing the arrangement of the musical instruments as they were seen about the year 1907.

On the recent visit of the Society it was a great disappointment to find that no trace remained of this quaint collection, which had included a hand-organ, a large drum, and several wind-instruments, sufficient to form a powerful orchestra. On enquiry it developed that in the time of the War, the wind-instruments had been given to the military authorities for their use. But the barrel organ is still there, though covered and invisible from the church.

The Court House, near the Church, was visited by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gale. (An illustration of this building is given in *Proceedings*, x, pt. i, plate facing p. 13.)

At 12.20 p.m. the members arrived at the

Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Portbury

of which the Rev. W. J. Jenkins is Vicar. Here, again, Dr. EELES described the building. (An account of this church, by Mr. Bligh Bond, will be found in *Proceedings*, vol. lxviii, pp. xxxvi-xxxviii.)

Refreshments were afterwards taken at the Priory Hotel, Portbury, following which the conveyances moved off to the

Church of St. Michael, Clapton-in-Gordano

(Rev. S. Warren, Rector), where Dr. EELES took charge of the party. (This Church has already been fully described by Mr. Bligh Bond in *Proceedings*, lxviii, pp. xxxiii-xxxvi; see also the illustrations in vol. x.)

Clapton Court

Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Young, the exterior of Clapton Court was seen. This was the seat of the Arthur family, lords of the manor *temp.* Edward II, from whose reign the earliest part of the fabric is said to date. Richard Arthur married Alice, daughter of James, Lord Berkeley, c. 1465, and their arms impaled on a stone shield attached to the tower-porch attest its date. (Illustrations, *Proceedings*, vol. x, pt. i, plate facing p. 8.)

At 2.50 p.m. the members arrived at Clapton Nursery, and a large number of them climbed the hill to

Cadbury Camp

which was described by Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, who conducted trial-excavations there in 1922—the year of the previous Clevedon Meeting. The results of that work are recorded in his illustrated paper in *Proceedings*, vol. lxviii, 8–20.

This is one of the three Cadbury camps in Somerset, but its importance is overshadowed by the much better known fortress of the name in the parish of South Cadbury and $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles N. of

Sherborne. Cadbury Hill Camp, near Yatton, has been to a large extent destroyed.

Cadbury Camp, in the parish of Tickenham, is a scheduled ancient monument and the property of Sir Ambrose Elton. It is 3 miles in a bee-line from Clevedon railway station, and 2 miles from the sea. It is situated 390 ft. above sea-level, and the earthworks enclose about $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres. It is simple in construction. There is an interesting, but not intricate entrance on the north, with inflected ramparts. It is probable that when the camp was in use the base of the hill was washed by an arm of the sea.

Hoardings of Roman coins have been found in the neighbourhood, and at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the camp, and 50 yards N. of Birdcombe Court, a magnificent bronze torc of Late Celtic design weighing 3 lb. 10 oz. was found in 1837; it may be seen in Bristol Museum.

Judging from the excavation made into the vallum in 1922, where pottery, etc., were found on the old turf line, it was evident that the camp dates from the Prehistoric Iron Age. Worlebury, Cannington and Dolebury Camps are apparently of the same date.

At 4 o'clock a large party of members assembled at

Clevedon Court

where tea was kindly provided by Sir AMBROSE and Lady ELTON, for which they received a cordial vote of thanks. Afterwards the members were taken round the house in parties and when the weather improved the gardens were inspected.

Sir Ambrose pointed out several newly discovered features in the fabric of the house. (For his accounts of the Court, members are referred to *Proceedings*, vol. xlv, pt. i, 14-20, and vol. lxviii, pp. xxvi-xxviii.)

At 5.10 p.m. the members took their departure and a large number of them proceeded to the

Church of SS. Quiricus and Julietta, Tickenham

(the Rev. Basil J. Langham, Rector). Dr. EELES took charge of the party here. (Members are referred to the *Parochial*

History of Tickenham, by the Rev. J. Byrchmore, published by the Northern Branch of the Society in 1895.)

Tickenham Court

was seen by permission of the owner, Mr. H. C. M. Hamblin, and the tenant, Mr. W. A. Selman.

Since Domesday two manors have existed in the parish, held respectively by the Saxons Saulf and Teulf. Under William they passed to William of Ewe, who was executed for high treason against William Rufus. Early in the twelfth century Tickenham passed to the Berkeley family, being purchased by Robert Fitzhardinge, praepositus of Bristol. John Berkeley, last of the male line, died 1480, leaving as heiress his daughter Cecilia, wife of James Ashe. The Ashe family held the estate till the time of Elizabeth, when it came by marriage to the Bassets, since whose time the house has passed in rapid succession to the families of Ashfield, Goodrick, Gorges, Codrington, Bamfylde, Prothero and Smyth.

The hall of the manor-house known as Tickenham Court is a late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century building. When complete the house was in the form of an H, the eastern member of which has now gone. The hall occupied the position of the middle bar of the H, and until recently was fairly perfect. The roof is of plain, open timber, the principals arched to the collar, with good stone corbels. At the lower end are three doorways to the kitchen and buttery; the latter are now destroyed. At the upper end is the arch of a former oriel to the dais. Almost a hundred years later in date is the withdrawing-room wing by the s.w. angle of the hall; it marks the change in domestic habits when the lord withdrew with his family leaving the hall to his dependents. The ceilings are still panelled. There are few if any other examples of panelled ceilings in this county which can compare with these in quality of workmanship or refinement of design. Over the mantel were shields of Rice Davis and Rodney. (See A. B. Connor's *Monumental Brasses* in this volume—under Backwell.) The upper storey is reached by a circular stair in an octagonal turret. Decay is beginning to make its mark: the place was for sale at the time of the Society's visit.

EXCURSION TO ABBOTSBURY

21 July 1938

The Excursion Secretary conducted an excursion to Abbotsbury on 21 July 1938, for members living on the border-land of the River Parrett and to the west of that river and for members of the Taunton Field Club. Starting from Taunton a short stop was made at Bridport and West Bay for lunch, and then the motors proceeded *via* Burton Bradstock, Swyre and 'Abbotsbury Castle' camp to the sub-tropical Gardens at Abbotsbury, where they arrived at 2 o'clock. At 3 o'clock a visit was paid to the Swannery. At 4 p.m. the Tithe Barn and other remains of the Abbey were seen, and here Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY read a short paper on Abbotsbury and its associations. After tea at the Ilchester Hotel, a large number of the members walked to St. Catherine's Chapel, and before leaving the Church of St. Nicholas was visited. Soon after 6 o'clock the motors left for Taunton, proceeding *via* Portesham, Dorchester, Wynyards Gap, Crewkerne and Lopen Head.

Thanks are due to the Earl of Ilchester, the Ven. Archdeacon W. S. Moule, H.M. Office of Works, the assistant Swanherd, and Mr. J. Hutchings, sub-agent of the Strangways Estates, for their help in making the excursion a success.