

The Local Museum.

IN connection with the *Conversazione* given by the Frome Literary and Scientific Institution, a local Museum was formed in their rooms. The arrangements were made by a sub-committee, to whom Mr. J. W. Singer acted as Secretary. The large reading room was fitted up with a glass case on one side, and round the walls were hung pictures and portraits of local interest. Mr. Singer was instrumental in bringing together a very large collection of Church books, plate, etc.

The plate, etc., from the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Frome, included chalices (one of which Bishop Ken presented to the Vicar of Frome), two ciboriums, and the processional cross.

There were also chalices and other church plate from St. Mary's, Frome; Beckington; Tellisford; West Bradley; Holcombe; East Pennard; Leigh-on-Mendip; and Downhead.

Mr. A. Mackay, of Holt Manor, lent a valuable and interesting collection of old English plate, which came into his possession some years ago by purchase. There were fifteen pieces, besides a dozen each of forks and spoons. It appears to have been deposited at Child's Bank for a great number of years, until the box containing it fell to pieces. A letter was found therein, and to a lineal descendant of the writer the plate was handed.

Mrs. Penny lent four cases of mediæval keys.

Mrs. Knatchbull exhibited a watch which formerly belonged to James II.; it was left at Babington House on his visit, when coming from Bath; also four miniatures; and a very beautifully jewelled needle-case.

Major Sheppard lent a gold medal given to Sir Thos. Bayard for a victory over the Dutch.

Mr. Singer lent seven old processional crosses, two thuribles, and a large number of very beautiful examples of silver work; also seven views of old Frome.

Miss L. Beatrice Thompson and *Miss Wilfred H. Thompson* lent drawings of old houses in Gentle Street and on the bridge.

The Rev. H. Prince lent a pewter flagon from Norton St. Philip; and two stone heads of the "Fair Maids of Foscott," (mentioned by *Pepys* in his diary).

The Registers and Churchwardens' Books of Accounts relating to Churches in the Deanery of Frome, brought together by *Mr. Singer*, included one Register from Tellisford, commencing 1538; four from Witham Friary; two from Marston Bigott. Also Churchwardens' Books from Frome, 1567: Norton St. Philip; Berkeley; Buckland Dinham; Leigh-on-Mendip; Road; Overseers' Book of Frome, 1655 to 1678; Books of Accounts from Mells, including a Court Roll of the Manor; a Terrier from Doultling, dated 1525; and papers from Whatley Church.

Portraits of local worthies were lent by *Mr. Horner*, *Major Sheppard*, *Mrs. Sheppard*, *Miss Bennett*, and many others.

Mr. F. J. Parsons lent some choice water-colours by his brother, Mr. Alfred Parsons.

A large collection of books written by Frome men; specimens of china, plate, wood-work, fossils, etc. were exhibited in the upper room of the Institute, where the ordinary Museum also created much interest.