

Third Day: Excursion.

The excursionists were conducted over

Maesbury Camp

by the REV. W. A. JONES, who, in the absence of the Rev. F. Warre, explained the general features of the earthwork. From thence they descended to

Chilcot,

where there are remains of a small manor-house of the time of Henry VIII., in which there is a mixture of the older plan and arrangements of the mediæval period, with the later ones of Elizabeth, which are nearly the same as those of modern houses. The entrance to the hall is by a lofty doorway, high enough for a man on horseback to ride in and dismount in the screens, which was not very unusual in mediæval halls; but there is no back-door for the horse to be led out into the servants' court, as was usual; and the kitchen is at the opposite end of the hall, quite contrary to the mediæval plan. It also had a room over it, which is not usual in mediæval kitchens in a house of any importance. The kitchen is usually at the same end of the hall as the screens, from which it is separated by the buttery and pantry, and is a semi-detached building with its own roof. But the arrangement of a small house was often different from that of a large one, and the caprice of the owners must also be considered. In Elizabethan houses the situation of the kitchen is often reversed, as here, and the alteration was sometimes made in houses formerly built but adapted to the fashion of that period.

Croscombe

was the next point of interest. The church was examined under the guidance of MR. FREEMAN.

Croscombe Church

consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, a tower and spire. The general architectural features of the building differ from those prevailing in the district. The windows are flat headed, and such as were not usually placed in a very prominent position. The clerestory windows also are not characteristic of the neighbourhood, where they are generally narrower and more pointed. The roof comes nearer to the local type, because it is a coved roof, though not the usual coved-roof, but a pointed one. It is, however, singularly fine and in good preservation, and Mr. Freeman hoped it might remain there for ages to come. Several most interesting parish records and old books were exhibited to the members.

MR. PARKER gave the following account of the domestic architecture in the village :—

This village is full of old houses, chiefly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The ancient hostelry is a very good example of a

Village Inn

of the fifteenth century, with a remarkably good bay window for people to sit and carouse in, while they could see all that was passing. It is square, with a flat stone ceiling richly carved, with a shield supported by angels in the centre; this probably had upon it the arms of Glastonbury Abbey, to whom it is said to have belonged. Along the hollow moulding of the cornice is a series of scrolls for inscriptions, but these as well as the arms are defaced.

The window-frames are of wood, but they are original, and are let into a framework of stone with a sloping sill, and with very curious buttress-shafts at the cornices detached from the frames on a very singular plan. The ceilings of this room and one adjoining to it are original, and well moulded. These two rooms are separated by a very thick wall, also original, with the wall-plates of the ceiling let into it on both sides. The fire-places are plain but original, and there is a good octagon chimney on the gable. One of the windows has the dripstones carved with two heads, one a mitred abbot, the other apparently a fool : probably some history attaches to this.

Another house off the road, now a dissenting chapel, is the hall of a manor-house of the fifteenth century, with two Perpendicular windows on each side, a front and back door, and the marks in the end wall of the buttery hatch and pantry door. There is a good corbel between the windows, apparently for lights ; it is a stone shaft corbelled out from the wall, and has the same shield of arms upon it as seen also on the carved ceiling of the nave of the church.

After having visited the church at Dinder, the members were hospitably entertained by the Rev. T. J. Bumpstead, at the rectory, and at Dinder House, the residence of J. C. Somerville, Esq.

The cordial thanks of the members having been presented to Mr. and Mrs. Somerville, and to the Rev. T. J. Bumpstead, for their hospitality, and likewise to the officials for their services, the meeting was duly closed.

