

Report of the Curator of the
Somerset County Museum, from July 21st, 1920,
to July 19th (Annual Meeting), 1921.

THIS report must be read in conjunction with the Report of the Council of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, in order that a proper survey of the year's work at the Society's headquarters may be obtained.

The additions to the Museum during the year have not been quite so numerous as in some former years ; but a good deal of time has been given up to arrears of work especially in the ticketing and repairing of Museum specimens. The Walter Collection (Ham Hill antiquities) continues to grow. Newly discovered Roman sites in Somerset are represented by " finds " of pottery, etc., recorded among the donations. The Tylor Collection has been added to, but most of the specimens were presented in 1917. Among the larger objects given are the bell believed to have been used at the hangings at Ilchester Gaol, and the " treasure chest " given by Colonel Byne. In the natural history department attention should be drawn to the Nutcracker—a bird which the Museum did not possess previously, and a rare variety of the Orange-Tip butterfly.

Special attention has been given to the preservation of the iron objects in the Museum. The Lace and Needlework and the Lamp and Lighting Appliances are among the collections which have been rearranged. Several of the bird cases have been renovated.

In the Library there has been a good deal of ticketing of manuscripts,—now rendered more easily available for reference. Miss Masey has continued her work of cataloguing the Society's large collection of deeds.

My duties as Assistant-Secretary of the Som. Arch. & N.H. Society have taken up a larger proportion of my time than

usual, more particularly on account of the readjustment of members' subscriptions and their tabulation.

The Society of Pewter Collectors held their summer meeting at Taunton on June 20th, in order that they might inspect the Charbonnier Collection of Pewter exhibited on loan in the Somerset County Museum. They were entertained to tea by members of the Som. Arch. & N. H. Society, and the Curator addressed them in the evening.

The Botanical Section held a general meeting at the Castle on December 16th, 1920; this Section also held a joint meeting with the Microscopical Section on March 17th, 1921. The latter Section arranged a joint meeting with the Taunton Field Club on November 25th, 1920. The Annual Meeting of the Entomological Section took place on February 12th, and that of the Ornithological Section on April 7th, 1921. In addition to the joint meeting mentioned above the Taunton Field Club held *conversazioni* on February 3rd and March 31st, 1921; on the latter occasion the Rev. G. F. C. Peppin gave a lecture and recital on Somerset Folk Songs.

The Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society consisted of 1054 members on July 19th, 1921, including nineteen life members and three honorary members.

The Museum and Library were visited by 7313 persons in 1918, 8760 in 1919, 8962 in 1920, and 8393 in 1921; the total for 1920 is the highest number yet attained.

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