

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1926

THE Seventy-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Glastonbury on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 13th, 14th and 15th. It proved to be the largest meeting in the history of the Society, about three hundred members and friends taking part in the proceedings. The best attended meetings previously had been Glastonbury 1902, Crewkerne 1921, and Langport 1925.

There was a large attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Assembly Rooms. The chair was taken at 11.15 a.m. by Major M. Cely Trevilian (*the outgoing President*), and he was supported by Mr. R. Neville Grenville (*President-Designate*), the Very Rev. Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, Dean of Wells, Prof. Sir W. Boyd Dawkins, the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. A. F. Somerville, Dr. A. Bulleid, and Prof. A. Hamilton Thompson (*Vice-Presidents*), Messrs. Charles Tite and Henry Symonds (*Hon. Secretaries*), the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet (*Chairman of Council*), the Rev. Father E. Horne (*Hon. Editor*), Mr. H. St. George Gray (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Excursion Secretary*), and members of the Local Committee.

The Annual Report

MR. HENRY SYMONDS, F.S.A., read the Annual Report, which was as follows :

Vol. LXXII (Fourth Series, Vol. XII), Part I.

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‘ In presenting the seventy-eighth annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last annual meeting 57 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation for the year 1925–26 have been 63, and the net loss is six. The total membership at date is 1,044, against 1,050 at the Langport Meeting last year.

‘ Death has again accounted for a large proportion of our losses, and the following names are recorded here with much regret :

‘ The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, F.S.A. (1900), for six years chairman of the Society’s Council, an obituary notice of whom was given in the last volume of *Proceedings* ; Mr. H. H. Pleydell Bouverie, of Brymore, Bridgwater (1878), who was a trustee from 1911 and a generous supporter of the Society’s funds both for excavations and the restoration of the Castle ; Colonel W. Long, C.M.G., of Clevedon, our representative on the Axbridge Town Trust, whose membership of the Society goes back to 1869 ; Mr. Thomas W. Cowan, D.Sc., whose knowledge of natural history and particularly of botany has been of considerable service to the Society and Museum since he came to settle in Somerset in 1906 ; Mr. William S. Clark, for several years local secretary for Street, who joined the Society in 1873 ; Mr. Albany F. Major, F.S.A. (1907), an obituary notice of whom was issued in our last volume ; Mr. Major, Mr. G. E. Cruickshank and Lt.-Col. A. B. Prowse, all members of the Society and keen students of Wansdyke, passed away within a few weeks of each other.

‘ The Council regrets also to record the deaths of : Mr. F. L. Bartelt (1914), Mr. J. Trevor Davies (1874), Mrs. Ernst (1897), Mr. Hubert Garle, F.S.A. (1923), Mr. A. H. Giles (1887), Mr. Edwin Goodman (1896), Mr. H. G. Wyndham Gray (1925), Mr. G. E. Grimsdale (1911), Miss Henvey (1925), Miss C. M. Jennings (1916), Mr. A. M. Lewis (1887), Mr. G. Lissant (1909), Miss F. G. Lucas (1914), the Rev. C. J. McConnell (1894), Mr. J. Manfield (1922), the Rev. F. Meade-King (1919), Mrs. T. F. Palmer (1924), Mr. A. Locke Radford, F.S.A. (1915), the Rev. A. Richardson (1888), Mr. John Rose (1912), Mr. A. J. Smith (1898), Miss Sparks (1921), Lord Teignmouth (1896), Mr. Henry Vassall, F.S.A., Bursar of Repton (1908), Mr. M. Vonberg (1909), and Mr. G. H. Wetherman (1912).

‘ There was a balance in hand of £40 0s. 1*d.* on the Society’s General Account at the end of 1924; this was reduced to £27 11s. 10*d.* by the close of 1925, but on the other hand £50 was placed on reserve for repairs to the Society’s property. In neither case was the outstanding liability for printing taken into account.

‘ For many years past it has been the custom of the Council to publish the Society’s accounts a year late. For instance the 1924 accounts were printed in Vol. lxxi for 1925. Now it has been decided to bring the publication of the finances up-to-date, and in the next volume (Vol. lxxii) the accounts for the years 1925 and 1926 will be included.

‘ The expenses attending the issue of Vol. lxxi of the *Proceedings* for 1925 (issued recently) amounted to £223 3s. 10*d.*, and it is a book of equal dimensions to Vol. lxx for 1924. Special thanks are again due to Dr. A. C. Fryer for defraying the cost of the plates of incised effigies.

‘ The Council has appointed an Excavation Committee to supersede what was formerly known as the Somerset Earthworks Committee and to embrace a wider field. The existing committees for local excavations will now be regarded as sub-committees, and their accounts will be brought before the Society’s Finance Committee and published in the *Proceedings*.

‘ During the past year excavations have been continued at Ham Hill (Stoke-under-Ham) and at the Meare Lake Village, and a report on the former was published in the *Proceedings* for 1925. Work has also been in progress in a rock-shelter at Chelm’s Combe, Cheddar. It has not been possible to continue the excavations at Taunton Castle since July 1925, but the work is by no means complete.

‘ Considerable interest is being taken in the resumption of the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, which are now being conducted under the joint auspices of the Society of Antiquaries and our own Society under the direction of Mr. Theodore Fyfe. The work had been in abeyance since 1921.

‘ The Council has given consideration to the new Law of Property Act, as to the disposal, preservation and housing of manorial deeds relating to the county; but it is regretted that the Society’s premises are inadequate for the storage and

maintainance of such a bulk of material. Likewise there would be insurmountable difficulties in taking over the custody of the wills now in the Probate Registry at Taunton. These matters have recently been before the Records Committee of the Somerset County Council.

‘The question of the protection of Ancient Monuments in Somerset has received considerable attention from the Council. and the Rev. Father Horne has acted as chief correspondent with H.M. Office of Works. The members will learn with much satisfaction that final arrangements have now been made for the preservation of Nunney Castle : it has been in a dangerous condition for some time past.

‘The President and Council have also been successful in saving what remains of Muchelney Abbey, as the owner of this monument has now agreed to place it under the protection of the Commissioners of Works, who stipulate, however, that certain land (less than two acres) between the abbey house and the churchyard wall, belonging to another owner, must be acquired before they can accept the guardianship.

‘The scheduling of some of the minor ancient monuments has also been proceeding, and they include comparatively small buildings, tithe-barns, bridges, crosses, etc. As time goes on all the more important tumuli will be included in the scheduled list. Comparatively few of them are marked on the last edition of the 6-inch ordnance survey.

‘It will have been noticed that a list of Somerset monuments already scheduled appeared in the *Proceedings* for 1925.

‘The Society’s Natural History Sections have been very active and have done good work during the year ; the Ornithological Section has increased to over eighty members.

‘Taunton Castle was visited during 1925 by 7,763 persons, including 1,810 attendances from members. In these figures there is a small decrease ; on the other hand there has been an increase for the past half-year as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

‘The Council recommends the appointment of Mr. John Morland, of Glastonbury, as a Vice-President of the Society. It further asks the Annual Meeting to confirm the appointment of the Rev. Father Ethelbert Horne as general editor of the

Proceedings, and that in future the editor shall be one of the Society's recognized officers.¹

'In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. Prebendary Palmer, Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton, Captain E. A. B. Clive and Dr. H. Downes, all of whom have been nominated for re-election.'

The Rt. Hon. HENRY HOBHOUSE, in proposing the adoption of the report, referred to the custody of manorial records which were most important to the local history of the county. Various bodies within and on the borders of Somerset were now considering the matter of housing those documents. The speaker also made allusion to the excellent work carried on by the National Trust and particularly to the attention that body had paid to Somerset. Mr. Hobhouse drew attention, finally, to the preservation of the amenities of the country-side and to the measures being enforced to prevent advertisement placards being erected near the main roads.

The Hon. Prof. Sir W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., who described himself as the 'father of the Society,' having joined in 1861, seconded the motion.

The report was then adopted.

Finances

The Rev. Preb. J. HAMLET, Chairman of Council, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1925, and proposed their adoption, which was seconded by the Rev. Father E. HORNE. The proposition was carried.

¹ See *Proceedings*, lxxi, 1925—Preface.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1925

WOODWARD FUND																
					£	s.	d.									
To Balance c/d	145	12	10	By Balance from 1924 ...	...	...	142	1	8	£	s.	d.
								„ Interest for Year ...	...	...	3	11	2			
											<u>£145 12 10</u>					
								By Balance b/d ...	...	...				<u>£145 12 10</u>		

CAPITAL ACCOUNT																
					£	s.	d.									
To Transfer to General Account				By Balances from 1924 :	...	...				£	s.	d.
„ Balance c/d :								„ 5% War Loan (£300) at cost ...	...	...	282	4	3			
5% War Loan (£300) at cost	282	4	3	„ Deposit at Bank ...	...	...	32	11	2			
Deposit at Bank	32	7	0									
											<u>314 15 5</u>					
								„ Bank Interest for year ...	...	...	0	15	10			
											<u>£315 11 3</u>					
								„ Balance b/d ...	...	...				<u>£314 11 3</u>		

BOOK FUND																
								By Balance from 1924 (New Zealand 4% Stock) ...	...	...				£	s.	d.
																107 11 4

WIGLESWORTH COLLECTION																
					£	s.	d.									
To Transfer to General Account	2	6	9	By Balance from 1924 ...	...	...	21	0	9	£	s.	d.
„ Balance c/d	19	3	6	„ Interest for Year ...	...	...	0	9	6			
											<u>£21 10 3</u>					
								By Balance b/d ...	...	...				<u>£19 3 6</u>		

MUSEUM CASES FUND																
								By Balance from 1924 ...	...	...				£	s.	d.
																10 16 3

REPAIRS RESERVE																
								By Amount transferred from General Account ...	...	...				£	s.	d.
																50 0 0

GENERAL STATEMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1925

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Deposit at Westminster Bank :							By Balances :						
Woodward Fund	145	12	10				Woodward Fund	145	12	10			
Capital Account	32	7	0				Capital Account	314	11	3			
Wiglesworth Collection	19	3	6				Book Fund	107	11	4			
Museum Cases Fund	0	16	3				Museum Cases Fund	0	16	3			
				197	19	7	Wiglesworth Collection	19	3	6			
„ General Account (Current) :							Repairs Reserve	50	0	0			
Balance <i>per</i> Receipts and Payments Account	27	11	10								637	15	2
Reserve for Repairs to Buildings	50	0	0				By General Account (Current)				27	11	10
						77	11	10					
„ New Zealand 4% Stock at cost				107	11	4							
„ 5% War Loan Bonds at cost				282	4	3							
				£665	7	0					£665	7	0

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1926

WOODWARD FUND

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to Current Account	...	...	...	1	10	0	By Balance from 1925	...	...	...	145	12	10			
„ Balance c/d	...	...	...	147	15	8	„ Interest for year	...	...	...	3	12	10			
				<u>£149 5 8</u>													<u>£149 5 8</u>
							By Balance b/d							<u>£147 15 8</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to Current Account		0	7	9	By Balance from 1925:									
„ Balance c/d:								„ 5% War Loan (£300) at cost	...	...	282	4	3				
5% War Loan (£300) at cost	282	4	3	„ Deposit at Bank	...	...	...	32	7	0				314 11 3
Deposit at Bank	48	14	0	„ Life Membership Fee	...	...	...							15 15 0
				<u>330 18 3</u>			„ Interest for year	...	...	...							0 19 9
				<u>£331 6 0</u>													<u>£331 6 0</u>
							By Balance b/d							<u>£330 18 3</u>

BOOK FUND

By Balance from 1925 (New Zealand 4% Stock)														£107 11 4
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WIGLESWORTH COLLECTION

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to Current Account	1	10	6	By Balance from 1925	19	3	6				
„ Balance c/d	18	2	0	„ Interest for year	...	...	...	0	9	0				19 12 6
				<u>£19 12 6</u>													<u>£19 12 6</u>
							By Balance b/d	...	...	...							<u>£18 2 0</u>

MUSEUM CASES FUND

By Balance from 1925 £0 16 3

REPAIRS RESERVE

By Balance from 1925 £50 0 0

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE CASES FUND

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance c/d	18	4	6				
By Donations					18	0	10
„ Interest					0	3	8
					<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
By Balance b/d					18	4	6

GENERAL STATEMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1926

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Deposit at Westminster Bank :						
Woodward Fund	147	15	8			
Capital Account	48	14	0			
Wiglesworth Collection	18	2	0			
Museum Cases Fund	0	16	3			
Meare Lake Village Cases Fund	18	4	6			
				<u>233</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>
„ General Account (Current) :						
Balance per Receipts and Payments Account	153	9	9			
Reserve for Repairs to Buildings	50	0	0			
				<u>203</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
New Zealand 4% Stock at cost				107	11	4
5% War Loan Bonds at cost				282	4	3
				<u>1826</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>
By Balances :						
Woodward Fund				147	15	8
Capital Account				330	18	3
Book Fund				107	11	4
Museum Cases Fund				0	16	3
Wiglesworth Collection				18	2	0
Meare Lake Village Cases Fund				18	4	6
Repairs Reserve				50	0	0
				<u>673</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
By General Account (Current)						
					153	9
					<u>1826</u>	<u>17</u>
					<u>1826</u>	<u>17</u>

HAM HILL EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1925

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1924	...	37	1 1	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	...	43	13 0½
" Donations	...	12	4 6	" Employers' Liability Insurance	...	1	7 0
" H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (Duchy of Cornwall, 2nd Grant)	...	5	0 0	" Mr. H. St. George Gray (Director):			
" Grant 2, Society of Antiquaries of London	...	10	0 0	Personal Expenses at Stoke-under-Ham	...	5	12 6
" Excavation Box	...	0	19 9	Travelling Expenses	...	1	16 2½
" Bank Interest	...	0	14 11	Foreman—Travelling Expenses	...	0	14 6
				" Tools and Appliances (Purchase, Hire, Haulage and Transport)	...	3	4 5
				" Postage, Stationery, Cheques, etc.	...	0	4 8
				" Photographs of Excavations	...	2	2 0
				" Nightwatchman—Taunton	...	1	0 0
				" Balance at Bank, 31st December 1925:			
				Deposit Account	...	5	7 0
				Current Account	...	0	18 11
						6	5 11
		<u>£66</u>	<u>0 3</u>			<u>£66</u>	<u>0 3</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1926

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1925	...	6	5 11	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	...	16	8 0
" Donations	...	9	1 0	" Employers' Liability Insurance (see Contra)	...	2	0 9
" H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (Duchy of Cornwall, 3rd Grant)	...	5	0 0	" Travelling Expenses—two men	...	1	1 3
" Grant 3, Society of Antiquaries of London	...	10	0 0	" Mr. H. St. George Gray (Director), part personal			
" Excavation Box	...	0	8 7	Expenses	...	1	6 6
" Bank Interest	...	0	4 10	" Travelling Expenses	...	1	7 10
" Employers' Liability Insurance, Shares of Premium paid by Glastonbury Abbey and Meare Lake Excavation Funds (see Contra)	...	1	9 5	" Tools and Appliances (Purchase, Hire, Haulage and Transport)	...	2	10 3
				" Postage and Stationery	...	0	2 6
				" Photographs of Excavations	...	1	4 0
				" Hudson and Kearns—part cost of Illustrations	...	1	9 4
				" Nightwatchman—Taunton	...	0	10 6
				" Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926:			
				Deposit Account	...	3	13 10
				Current Account	...	0	15 0
						4	8 10
		<u>£32</u>	<u>9 9</u>			<u>£32</u>	<u>9 9</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1925

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1924	22	11 3	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	47	5 4
„ Donations	23	0 6	„ Insurance of Shed	0	5 8
„ Government Grant (<i>per</i> The Royal Society)	35	0 0	„ Travelling Expenses and Transport of Specimens	4	17 6
„ Grant—Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London	10	0 0	„ Compensation to Tenant	7	0 0
„ Gate Money	7	5 0	„ Joint Director (Mr. H. St. George Gray):		
„ Royalties, Copies of Fibulae	0	11 0	Personal Expenses at Meare	6	7 6
			Honorarium	9	5 0
			„ Photographs	0	18 0
			„ Postages, Telegrams, Cheques, etc.	0	7 2
			„ Sundries	0	1 7
			„ Balance at Bank, 31st December 1925	22	0 0
	<u>£98</u>	<u>7 9</u>		<u>£98</u>	<u>7 9</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1926

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1925	22	0 0	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	35	14 6
„ Donations	29	15 0	„ Employers' Liability Insurance and Insurance of Shed	0	14 8
„ Government Grant (<i>per</i> The Royal Society)	35	0 0	„ Travelling Expenses and Transport of Specimens	4	8 5
„ Grant—Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London	10	0 0	„ Compensation to Tenant	7	0 0
„ Gate Money	4	3 4	„ Joint Director (Mr. H. St. George Gray):		
			Personal Expenses at Meare	6	13 6
			Honorarium	8	15 0
			„ Photographs and Slides	2	2 0
			„ Postages, Telegrams, Cheques, etc.	0	7 5
			„ Repairs to Shed and Painting	2	15 11
			„ Barbed Wire and Sundries	0	13 2
			„ Balances at Bank—on Deposit Account	25	0 0
			on Current Account	6	13 9
	<u>£100</u>	<u>18 4</u>		<u>£100</u>	<u>18 4</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Joint Secretary and Director.*
JOHN MORLAND, *Hon. Treasurer.*

TAUNTON CASTLE EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1925

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
				£	s.	d.							
To Balance at Bank—December 31st, 1924 (<i>Proceedings</i> LXX, XX)				0	15	10	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen				£	s.	d.
„ Grant, Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society				14	0	0	„ Contractors for cleaning out the Norman Well				19	6	11
„ Taunton Field Club, including visit to Excavations				3	15	0	„ Foreman's Travelling Expenses				8	10	0
„ Grant, Weston-super-Mare Branch				1	1	0	„ Insurance				0	13	10
„ „ Northern Branch				1	0	0	„ Balance at Bank				0	8	4
„ Donations				15	19	0					9	0	7
„ Miscellaneous Receipts				1	8	10							
				£37 19 8							£37 19 8		

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1926

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
				£	s.	d.							
To Balance at Bank—December 31st, 1925				9	0	7	By Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926				£	s.	d.
„ Taunton Field Club				1	1	0					12	3	10
„ Donations				1	16	9							
„ Garden Produce				0	5	6							
				£12 3 10							£12 3 10		

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1926

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank	35	19 3	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	76	8 5
" Grant from the Administrative Trustees, Glastonbury Abbey	100	0 0	" Employers' Liability Insurance	1	0 3
" Taunton Field Club	1	1 0	" Fencing	11	13 2
" Anonymous Donation	1	0 0	" Wheelbarrows, Cartage, etc.	3	6 11
" Box Collections during the season at Glastonbury Abbey	56	11 5	" Mr. Theodore Fyfe (Director):		
" Interest on Deposit Account	0	12 8	Lodgings, Travel and Fee	29	14 0
			Mr. Chester Jones (Assistant):		
			Lodgings during part of the period	7	17 6
			Mr. C. E. Clayton:		
			Honorarium as Assistant Director	10	0 0
			Mr. St. George Gray:		
			Travelling Expenses as Treasurer and Acting		
			Secretary	2	10 0
			Cheque Book	0	2 0
			Assistant Director's Postages	0	1 9
			Balance at Bank, 31st December 1926:		
			Deposit Account	40	12 8
			Current Account	11	17 8
				52	10 4
				£195	4 4
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, <i>Hon. Treasurer.</i>	£195	4 4		£195	4 4

All the above Accounts audited and found correct, 29th January 1927.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*

The New President

Major M. CELY TREVILLIAN, in a complimentary and humorous speech, proposed the election of Mr. Robert Neville Grenville, of Butleigh Court, as President of the Society for the year 1926-27.

Major-General W. DU G. GRAY seconded, and the motion was heartily carried.

Election of Officers

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE proposed that the officers of the Society be re-elected, including the four outgoing members of the Council, viz. the Rev. Preb. T. F. Palmer, Col. E. St. C. Pemberton, Capt. E. A. B. Clive and Dr. H. Downes ; also the election of Mr. John Morland as a Vice-President ; Lt.-Col. H. R. Phipps as a member of Council ; and the confirmation of election by the Council of the Rev. Father E. Horne as Editor of the *Proceedings*.

This resolution was carried.

Somerset Record Society

The following is a summary of the Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER'S remarks at the Glastonbury Meeting :

The year 1926 completes the fortieth of the work of the Somerset Record Society. In 1922 the publications were four years in arrear. Our Vol. 40, for 1925, is nearly ready for issue, and Vol. 41, for 1926, is well advanced.

During 1925 we lost six members and gained four : our numbers stand now at 140 against 142. We are continually circularizing libraries, public bodies and individuals, but the result is not commensurate with the effort made.

We received with great regret an intimation from the Rev. Dr. W. Hunt that he finds himself, owing to increasing age, compelled to resign his seat on the Council. Dr. Hunt is one of our founders and original members. Now that with Vol. 40 the arrears due to the war are gone, we look forward to a resumption of our normal publication, one volume a year.

The 1926 volume will be a continuation of *Somerset Pleas*, by Mr. L. Landon. *Collectanea II*, a Muchelney volume, and the documents recently brought to light by Mr. R. Holworthy in the Bishop's Registry, are under consideration.

The continuance of high prices in the printing trade is limiting the number of pages we can afford each year. The only hope of a return to pre-war size lies in an increase in the number of subscribers.

Presentation to Mr. St. George Gray

Professor Sir WM. BOYD DAWKINS said he had been invited by members of the Society to make a presentation to Mr. St. George Gray in appreciation of his long services to the Society, he having completed a quarter of a century's work at Taunton on April 25th last. The speaker had particular pleasure in acting in that capacity, not only because his membership extended back to 1861, but because he knew Mr. Gray when he was working under the direction of General Pitt-Rivers, than whom there could not well have been a better master in archæology. Mr. Gray had not only had the responsibility of the County Museum for this long period but the added responsibility of conducting the business of the Society, and the speaker could not imagine a more difficult or complicated position for a man to occupy. The Museum of the Society had grown and developed considerably during the present century, and now it had become an important institution in the educational system of the country. Mr. Gray had done his utmost to organize the Museum and to promote the interests of the Society. He had also earned their gratitude for the part he had taken as an investigator and field-archæologist, not only in Somerset, but in several other counties. For those reasons the speaker was extremely glad to be the instrument through which the Society extended to Mr. Gray its grateful appreciation of his services by presenting him with a cheque for £250. The list was not complete and there would be other subscriptions to be added.¹

¹ The Fund was kept open until the end of September, the total amount paid over to Mr. St. George Gray being £277 14s. 0d.

MR. ARTHUR J. SOMERVILLE, hon. treasurer of the fund, said that the names of over 350 members appeared on the list of subscribers, and he had received numerous letters speaking in high terms of the object for which the appeal was made.

MR. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY said that on an occasion of that nature it was difficult to speak adequately on the subject which caused him to rise, and he had an extremely vague idea that anything in the form of a presentation was going to take place that morning.

A couple of months ago the outgoing President and others had expressed themselves, on behalf of the Council, in exceedingly kind and generous terms on the fact of his having completed twenty-five years' work at Taunton Castle and in that county, and a record was made in the minute book of Council. He thanked the subscribers very cordially for the testimonial they had thought fit to present him with.¹ A quarter of a century was a large slice out of a man's life, and especially when some of his best years were represented. Mrs. Gray and himself had sustained an irreparable personal loss, but it had not shaken them so far as keenness in archæology and in method and in hard work were concerned.

The speaker said he greatly appreciated the presence of so many friends that morning, including an unusually large number of Vice-Presidents. But there was nobody whose presence attracted him more than that of Sir W. Boyd Dawkins, for it was he who sent the speaker to Somerset, because he regarded a Pitt-Rivers training as an asset of some value in an archæological career, and also because Sir William was the father of the Society—a well known scientist who was to be heartily congratulated on his perpetual youth.

Mr. Gray added that the Society had made rapid strides, for the membership had risen by over ninety per cent. since 1900. He emphasized the need of better exhibition space being provided to display to proper advantage the almost unique remains from the Meare Lake Village. The collection was one of which any county might justly be proud. The

¹ Mr. Gray wishes to take this opportunity of thanking all those individuals who kindly contributed to the testimonial fund. He felt it would hardly be their wish that he should acknowledge the donations separately.

speaker concluded by making brief reference to the valuable assistance he had always received in his work from his wife.

The Presidential Address¹

The President, Mr. R. NEVILLE GRENVILLE, then delivered his address entitled 'Somerset Drainage,' which was illustrated by diagrams and maps. It is printed as the first paper in Part ii.

The Very Rev. J. A. ROBINSON, Dean of Wells, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, said the address was a valuable contribution to the Society's *Proceedings*, which contained little of a like kind.

Col. E. ST. C. PEMBERTON seconded, and the resolution was carried by acclamation.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon at the George Hotel.

The Men's Almshouses and Chapel

After luncheon the members made their way to the Almshouses in Magdalene Street. These were originally built on the same principle as those of St. Mary's Hospital at Chichester, now the only building of its kind in England. The whole of them, eleven in number, were under the roof of a nave, the centre of which served as a hall, while the chancel formed the chapel of the inmates. The roof, however, has been removed, and the eleven dwellings turned into five. The bell-turret on the chapel is a good piece of work, and is figured in Parker's

¹ In connection with the Presidential Address it might be recorded here that John Aubrey Clark (1826-1890), land surveyor of Street, had three prize essays published in the *Bath and West of Eng. Agric. Journ.*, viz. 'On the Bridgwater & other levels of Somersetshire,' with map, 1854; 'On the Somersetshire levels, their present state & capabilities of improvement,' 32 pp. and coloured map, 1854 (reprinted as pamphlet); 'On the scouring land of central Somerset,' 1855. A man of great originality, he discovered several fungi new to Britain and to science (*V. C. H. Som.* i, 59-60); two books of his drawings of fungi are in the Library at Kew; and in 1897 a volume of 350 pp. of his *Selected Verses and Essays, written from 1839 to 1889* was published, with portrait, for private circulation.—H. S. THOMPSON.