

The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

THE ANNUAL EXCURSION.

One of the pleasantest excursions in the history of our Society took place this year, and attracted an unusually large gathering of members and their friends, Chequers Court, seated in what may be called the beauty spot of Bucks, being the chief item in the programme, where we were most kindly received and entertained by its new tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee.

WENDOVER.

Wendover took the first place in the day's programme and most of the party assembled at the Grange, where Dr. Leonard West read a paper on Wendover, which will be found elsewhere in this issue, and his interesting garden was inspected.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The church of St. Mary was then visited, and described to us by Mr. C. C. Durston, who has been engaged upon the survey of South Bucks on behalf of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. I hoped to have been able to print a short paper by him upon this church, but he regrets that he is unable to have anything printed and published until after the Commission's own report has appeared. This is expected about the middle of December, but may be a little later.

The church is rather far removed from the town and has, compared with its immediate surroundings, a low situation. It consists of a clerestoried nave of five bays with north and south porches, chancel, modern chapel and a west tower containing six bells, of which four date between 1623 and 1651.* The chancel was restored in 1839.† It has been described as Decorated, and Mr. Durston put the date 1340-50 on it. The windows are no doubt of that time but the walls appear to me earlier, containing a piscina of the 13th cent. It has a priest's door in the south wall and a later sacristy door in the north side.

Mr. Durston called attention to the leaning northward of the chancel, which is moreover wider at the east end than the west. In these inclinations of chancels from the centre line of the nave subtle symbolism has been discovered by ingenious ecclesiologists. I believe they were never intentional, knowing no instance of a church and chancel, built all at one time, showing this variation. Dual ownership of nave and chancel and the long period often occupied in carrying through a re-building scheme were probably the chief causes of it. Moreover in the Middle Ages the chancel, always within screens (*cancelli*, whence its name), was regarded more as a separate though adjoining building than it is to-day. Let us suppose the case of an old church of perhaps the 12th cent.,

*Church Bells of Bucks by A. H. Cocks, M.A., Etc., 1897.

†Ecclesiast. & Archit. Topog. of England, Bucks, 1849.

which had become either dilapidated or too small for present use. So it was decided in the 14th cent., to re-build it completely. A scheme was made and the work begun, probably with the nave. Progress was slow, it was done in small sections, the church never going out of use. The old work had failed perhaps in its foundations, and it was decided to take the new ones deeper and to disregard the older entirely; or perhaps there was a new setting out altogether. As the intention was to re-build the chancel also, there was no need to worry about getting the new nave to line with the old chancel. Time went on and its inevitable changes came about. Perhaps the parish was sore stricken by the terrible "Black Death," which in 1348 is variously estimated to have carried off from one half to two thirds of the population, or other sickness, causing stoppage or postponement of all work. Chancel or nave having at length been completed the remaining portion of the building had to be taken in hand. Rigid economy may have had to be practised and repair decided on for the second portion instead of re-building. Or we can suppose the possibility of a new rector telling his people that they might do as they pleased with the nave, but that he was not going to alter the line of his chancel nor go to the expense of new foundations. Something of this kind may have happened here.

Both screen and rood loft seem to have remained in Lipscomb's time (1847). He wrote that there was a "perforated screen between nave and chancel, having mullions. Above is a gallery." The doorway which gave access to this gallery or loft on which stood the once famous rood still remains.

In the north aisle of nave the windows have early 14th century character. The arcades are carried upon clustered piers, their capitals having rather naturalesque foliage, with varying round and octagonal abaci. The south doorway has an excellent decorated arch, tastelessly restored in Bath stone.

The whole church, especially outside, has lost interest by over-much restoration which was carried out in 1869 under the direction of the late G. E. Street, R.A., at a cost of about £5,000.

After lunch at the Red Lion Hotel and a wait for the brakes, which were behind time, we proceeded to

CHEQUERS COURT.

This Society seems only once before to have visited Chequers, namely in 1886, when Mr. Bertram F. Astley was host and guide. The report of that excursion (RECORDS VI., 76) tells us that the gathering was smaller than usual owing to the very bad weather. A brief paper on the history of the manor was read by Mr. Astley, which is printed p. 72 of the same volume.

Mr. Lee was well advised in going to Mr. Reginald Blomfield, A.R.A., for advice in the extensive improvements contemplated, and we are much indebted to the latter for his compliance with a request that he would tell us what has been done under his direction in the way of alterations. Much of the work has consisted in merely uncovering what was already there. But elsewhere in this issue Mr. Blomfield tells his own tale. In his paper he tells us plainly that some of the old fittings now in the house are importations. It is to be feared that much in the way of oak panelling, etc., made for the house was removed, and probably destroyed, when other most injudicious alterations, in the "early Victorian" period, were carried out; for such things were then nothing accounted of. Of all the mischief then done we have no record, but, as regards the recent alterations and improvements, we have now recorded, at first hand, what is new, what has been only uncovered, and what has been introduced from elsewhere, and this, of itself, gives great value to Mr. Blomfield's communication to the RECORDS. So that the expert visitor in the future will not be able to say—

as, unfortunately, in many other instances of our historical seats he well might—that he is unable to distinguish between what is genuine Bucks work and what has been brought higher from a distance.

Of course we must all hold that fittings made long ago for a special house or room have far more value while in their original position than they can possibly have when re-erected elsewhere; but there are cases where the destruction of their first home has become inevitable, and then we can only rejoice that such things as choice old wall panelling, etc., should be re-used by competent hands for adorning another old house rather than be “adapted” for faked side-boards and cabinets.

Mr. Arthur Hamilton Lee very kindly snatched a little time from the House of Commons to receive his guests, and gave us an interesting account of the history of Chequers and its owners. I am sorry not to be able to refer the reader to a satisfactory report of this lecture which Mr. Lee did not commit to paper. But he tells me that he revised the historical and descriptive account by Mr. Tipping, which appeared in “Country Life” of December 31st, 1910. There we read that “its name, Chéquers, has belonged to it certainly for eight centuries; and, if the earthworks in the park really represent the ancient stronghold where Caractacus was born, is must have been the habitation of British chieftains some two thousand years ago. The finding of coins of Cunobelinus or Cymbeline, father of Caractacus, strengthens this belief. . . . It was the property of Elias de Scaccario (or of the Exchequer) temp. Henry II. With what Exchequer were the place and its owner connected? Was he a subordinate official of the central Exchequer of London, that great institution of our Norman Kings of which Bishop Stubbs told us that ‘the whole framework of society may be said to have passed annually under its review. It derived its name from the chequered cloth which covered the table at which the accounts were taken.’ . . . Tradition makes our Elias *ostiarius*, or porter, of the Exchequer building; and if that is so, not only was he named after it, but his estate also. This would be unusual, and has led to the theory that British, and after them Saxon, kings had a residence and a local treasury at Ellesborough which becoming the property of Elias, gave its name to him and his descendants, who continued in the male line for more than a century after him. The devolution of Chequers is very similar to that of Boarstal in this county—frequent descents in the female line, and one example of a transfer away from the blood to a connection by marriage. But there has been no sale and no forfeiture—the estates, since Norman times, have passed by inheritance only. The last of the male line of de Chequers was Sir Ralph, who died about 1261, when the estate went to his daughter’s husband, Sir William Hawtreay. Hawtreay is a corruption of Haut-Rive. . . . Chequers was the home of the Hawtreys from the days of Henry III. to those of Elizabeth, when William Hawtreay rebuilt the house much as we now see it in red brick with dressings of local stone. “The original glass in one window has a series of shields of the arms of William Hawtreay, his ancestors and connections, while the round-topped panels in the parapets repeat some of these in stone, and also display the initials of the builder and of his second wife, with the date 1565. . . . Chequers is now a quadrangular house, with most of its court filled up by a comparatively modern central hall. But it probably formed originally a hollow square, open to the south with a large outer forecourt entered through a gatehouse. So at least a small presentment of the house on an old estate map leads us to suppose. . . . William Hawtreay probably made use a good deal of old foundations, if not old walling, and this will account for the house, even in his time, not being on a recognised Elizabethan plan.”

William Hawtrej was a *persona grata* to Elizabeth and her ministers, and as in the year 1565, when he was finishing his building, a place of detention, not quite amounting to a prison, was needed for one of the ladies whose misfortune it was to have Tudor blood in her veins, Hawtrej was entrusted with the disagreeable office of custodian. Lady Mary Grey had aroused the queen's anger by her marriage with so lowly a gentleman as Thomas Keys, attached to her household, and Hawtrej was informed that the Lady Mary was to be in his custody and not to "go out of his house abroad, except it be necessarily for to take ye ayre for hir helth." She was to be allowed a single groom and gentlewoman, and he was required to see "that she be not dieted otherwise than shall be convenient for her sustentation." The attic which formed her prison, and which is approached from the first floor by a special stair, was visited with great interest. After two years she was delivered to her step-grandmother, the Duchess of Suffolk.

With William Hawtrej, who lived for thirty years or more after he was relieved of his charge, the male line ended. The eldest of his grand-daughters married Sir Francis Wolley and died at Bodicote, Oxon. A portrait of her in black and scarlet hangs at Chequers. Dying childless she was succeeded by her sister Bridget, wife of Sir Hen. Croke, of Chilton, who later became Clerk to the Pipe.

Lipscomb tells us that Chequers was in the hands of the Parliament Commissioners in 1649. The prevalent idea that Cromwell himself resided here, or, as Mr. Lee facetiously put it, "spent at least his week-ends here," is erroneous. The Cromwell portraits and relics, now in the "Cromwell room," having been brought hither in the 18th century.

The later history of the owners of Chequers will be found in Lipscomb and is well summarised in the issue of "Country Life," which has been quoted. The same number contains admirable views of the house, inside and out, for which this weekly is so famous. Beautifully executed they are lavish in number. They give: South Front, North Front, North-East Angle (showing the new porch, which accords admirably with its surroundings), the Great Hall (with its new screen and gallery), Entrance Hall, South-west Corner of Great Parlour, a beautiful inlaid Door in the same (this wainscoting having come from Ipswich), Dining-room, Ante-room to Great Parlour, Recess in Great Parlour, Long Gallery, Prison Room, Cromwell Room, Old Staircase, Doorway in north front, Bay Window in west Corridor.

LITTLE KIMBLE.†

After tea in the grounds of Chequers a few of us walked in the direction of Kimble station through this the most beautiful park in the county, up and down steep chalk downs, partly clothed with box trees which surpass those of Box Hill, in Surrey, by the hill fort which dominates a wide expanse of the vale, and immediately overlooks the famous "Velvet Lawn," and so on to the Church of All Saints, Little Kimble, which though very small is full of interest. Its indications are chiefly of the 14th century, consisting of chancel, nave, without aisles, but with north and south porches, and a modern bell gable at west end. The chancel has a good deal of modern work in it. The view in Lipscomb (II, 354), taken presumably not long before 1847, shows the chancel with stone quoins at its east end without buttresses, and a circular-headed east window, probably, from its large size, a late insertion, a non-descript rectangular opening in the south wall; three square-headed two-light Tudor windows in the south wall of the nave, as now. Of the bell-cote shown in this view Lipscomb says: "a small turret, with a little spire covered

†As to the association of the Kimbles with Cunobelinus (Cymbeline) see RECORDS VIII, 339.

with lead, near the west end, recently erected to contain a clock presented by Sir S. B. Morland, lord of the manor and patron, who purchased it circ. 1810. The nave has two doors, north and south, under small porches which have stone sediles within. . . . The western window on the north side is very small and narrow." He also wrote: "In the eastern window of the nave on the north side," a 14th century window, "are many fragments of coloured glass, with various ornaments. . . . In the dexter light a coat of arms, which appears to have been: Az. semée of fleurs de lis, or. On six pellets as many fleurs de lis, or." He mentions many fragments of coloured glass in these north windows, and "in the east window the upper part of a very rich canopy of tabernacle work." He also noted: "the communion-table is enclosed with rails as in presbyterian time of Cromwell." A single-light low side window sill is in the north side of the chancel, about four feet from the present ground level, with some indications of a shutter. Restored and re-seated 1875-6.

The remains of wall paintings, of which the best preserved is a representation of Saint George (and so labelled) on the north wall of the nave, the remarkably fine encaustic flooring tiles, which may be placed on a par with those of the Chapter House at Westminster, and the numerous fragments of the 14th century painted glass are in themselves quite enough to give this little church distinction.

"Humphrey de Kinebelle gave to God and St. Albans the church of his town of Kinebelle."*

"A chantry in this church was granted by Q. Eliz., 1589, to Wm. Tipper and Robt. Dawe, Gen., on the petition of Ed. Dyer, Esq., to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever by fealty, at the annual rent of 10d."†

W. N.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE NECESSITY FOR INCREASED SUPPORT.

The annual meeting of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society was held at the Museum on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 16th, when the Archdeacon of Buckingham (Ven. E. D. Shaw) presided. There were also present Lady Smyth, Major G. F. Green, Mr. Coningsby Disraeli, Mr. A. Lasenby Liberty, Mr. J. M. James, Dr. J. C. Baker, the Rev. C. O. Phipps, Mr. E. Wilkins, Miss Kingham, Mrs. Clarke, Mr. J. C. E. Bridge, Mr. J. Berry, Miss Thomas, Mr. A. H. Cocks, Mr. W. A. Forsyth, the Rev. Blamire Brown, Mr. C. G. Watkins, Mr. C. H. Riley, Mr. J. T. Harrison (Buckingham), Mr. W. Bradbrook (hon. general secretary), and Mr. E. Hollis (the resident Curator).

APOLOGIES.

Letters of apology for their absence were received from Dr. L. H. West, Mr. F. Skull, the Rev. F. W. Bennitt, Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, Miss Lee, Miss Christie, Mr. W. Niven, the Rev. J. J. Atkins, and Mr. W. H. Marsh. The latter, in his letter, requested the Secretary to ask the members who were present for any pictorial records they might have of the Coronation Festivities in Bucks. With the exception of some he took in Aylesbury and Slough, the Museum had no such records, and they would be very thankful for any additions.

*MSS. Cotton, in *Monast. Anglic.*, tom. ii, p. 220, quoted by Lipscomb.

†Rot. Pat., 31 Eliz.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. W. BRADBROOK read the following report of the Council:—

The annual excursion was held on Thursday, 20th July, when Wendover and Chequers Court were visited. The attendance at the lunch was over 80, and the total attendance at Chequers Court was more than 150. The party entertained by Mr. Arthur Lee, was therefore, not only larger than any similar gathering of this Society during recent years, but certainly among the largest on record. Your Council has held five meetings during the past year, and has had to deal with several matters of public and county interest. In April the Charity Commission drafted a scheme for the administration of the Kederminster Library in Langley Marish, and placed it under the care of four trustees, one of whom is to be nominated triennially by your Council. Mr. Lionel Reynolds was accordingly nominated. In October the Charity Commission drafted a scheme for administering the Milton Cottage Trust of Chalfont St. Giles. Nine trustees are to be appointed, your Council nominating one. Mr. Geo. Weller has accordingly been nominated. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments has been at work in this county since early in the year, and has made considerable use of your Museum and Executive Officers, who in their turn have availed themselves of the services and local knowledge of several of the members in the southern part of the county. Members in North Bucks may expect to be asked to afford assistance in this work before very long. The First Commissioner of H.M.'s Works, in a circular letter of August last, drew attention to the Ancient Monuments Protection Acts, and asked the co-operation of this Society and its individual members in working the Acts and making known their scope. Your Museum has received recognition during the past year from the Authorities of the South Kensington Museum, who have placed here a small loan exhibition, which will be changed from time to time. The general public in Aylesbury and neighbourhood will, by the agency of this Society, thus profit by the National Collections by having art and other exhibits brought almost to their doors. Some appreciation has already been shown by students, drawings having been made of some of the objects. The credit of obtaining the loan exhibit is due solely to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Watkins; he it was who made the original suggestion and application to the Government Authorities, and then carried out all the subsequent negotiations and arrangements. Since the 1st March a record has been kept of the visitors to your Museum. Since that date more than 3,000 people have been admitted, some of whom came for definite work and research (notably, one searcher for biographical details; another, on a genealogical search; and also a student and writer on sepulchral brasses, etc.), all of whom gathered details and information not to be found elsewhere. Attention is drawn to the show cases given by Miss Alice de Rothschild, containing an unique exhibition of spurs on loan. One exhibit of Wedgwood ware has just been arranged (Mr. Julian James). The instruction to Council of the general meeting of 10th November, 1910, to form an Advisory Committee on Church Restoration has been carried out. The Committee consists of nine members, three of whom are experts not belonging to your Society. The late Bishop of Oxford wrote (22nd July) cordially consenting to be associated with this Committee. His lamented death, ten days later, necessarily has caused some delay in issuing a final notice in printed form. Your Collections and Library have steadily increased; the natural history portion especially has been enriched by many specimens, most of which have been skilfully mounted by your Curator. Attention is drawn to the Pictorial Survey Section under the care

of Mr. Marsh; this has not grown to the extent it might have done when it is considered that the collection and giving of photographs and pictures is in the power of every member. The amount of official and Governmental recognition received lately, together with the growing importance of the Museum, is an effective argument for recruiting new members.

The Rev. C. O. PHIPPS proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. HARRISON seconded, and it was carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. C. G. WATKINS, the hon. treasurer, submitted a statement of accounts, which showed that the receipts for the year amounted to £202:10, including special donations from members of £68:15:10. The payments amounted to £263:7:6, and as the estimated liabilities for the remainder of the year were £80, this left an estimated deficit at the end of the year of about £140. He hoped the members would appreciate the serious position of the Society. It was impossible to maintain the Museum in a state of efficiency unless the membership greatly increased, as the expenses of the Society had more than doubled since the institution of the Museum. He ventured to think that the county were proud of the standing of the Museum, and in the circumstances it was not too much to expect that 500 residents should be found to support an institution which did its work so thoroughly.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was obvious that the Society was in a really serious position, and it needed a determined effort on their parts to put matters on a thoroughly sound basis. When they realised that the overdraft on the 1st January, 1910, was only £74, that this increased at the end of 1910 to £120, and now the estimated deficit at the end of the year was £140, they would realise that that was the reverse of the sort of account bankers said was the right one—well secured and increasing.

Mr. WATKINS said it was impossible to maintain the Museum at less cost, and they would be glad if anyone could tell them where a saving could be effected.

The CHAIRMAN thought some effort should be made to endeavour to secure more members.

Mr. LASENBY LIBERTY said at the present moment an effort was being made in that direction by the issue of a circular to members of the County Council, giving them details in connection with the work of the Society, and asking them to fill in any names of those in their respective electoral divisions who they thought would be likely to be interested in the work of the Society. However, as those circulars had been sent out less than a week previously he had only had a few replies. That was an effort which might or might not be successful, but it was in that sort of direction that they hoped to increase the membership.

The CHAIRMAN—It is a definite appeal?

Mr. LASENBY LIBERTY—Yes.

Mr. E. WILKINS said it was clear that they would have to face the financial position of the Society, and according to the report it was evident that the subscriptions paid by the members did not pay the expenses of maintaining the Society. That being so—although it was not always desirable—it seemed to him that they should consider the question of the desirability of increasing the subscription to one guinea. He knew that years ago the subscription was only 6s., and that had been increased to 10s.; but the advantages the members now had were greatly in advance of those in the early days. He considered the Society ought to pay its way by the ordinary revenue, and not depend upon the generosity of donors every year. They now had £140 to meet, and it seemed the matter should be considered from any aspect which would enable them to do that.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that such an alteration would have to be made at a special meeting.

Mr. CONINGSBY DISRAELI said it was sometimes a good idea to increase the subscriptions, but it was a much better idea to increase the number of subscribers, and, as the report showed, they wanted 200 more. He was of opinion that the general public had no idea of the value of the Society. Since the Museum had been opened a great deal of hard work had been done by a few people, but the general public had not grasped the fact that such a Museum had been opened, which was not only a credit to the county, but a credit which few other counties possessed. If the public were placed in the possession of the facts through the newspapers he was confident they ought to get those members which were required.

Mr. J. C. E. BRIDGE seconded, and said if the subscription was raised to a guinea, and subscribers fell off in consequence, he was afraid they would have greater difficulty in filling up the number at a guinea than they would if the amount remained at half-a-guinea. He believed in the advisability of continually drawing the attention of the County to the needs of the Museum. He could not conceive how it was possible to carry on the Society unless they had widespread support, and not only obtained more members, but secured more interest in the Society, which was even more important.

Mr. LASSENBY LIBERTY said he was fully in sympathy with the suggestion that they should not increase the subscription, because it was so desirable that they should not only secure an increased membership, but that they should seek to create a wider interest in the County in the work of the Society. They had succeeded in establishing an institution which was worthy of the County—and as time went on it would become more and more valuable—but still they only had about 200 subscribers from the whole of Bucks. What they needed was a number approaching 500, and that did not seem too many to hope for.

Mr. WATKINS said there were really more than 200 members, but as many of them commuted their payments they only got about 200 paying each year.

Mr. J. BERRY suggested that it would be valuable if they could get Lord Rosebery, the President, to sign the letter which Mr. Disraeli suggested should be sent to the Press.

Mr. W. BRADBROOK said he would like to point out to the members that recruiting had gone on in a chronic fashion ever since he had been secretary. He believed in the last few years that everybody of any importance or position in the County had received notices of the existence of the Society. There could be very few who had not been approached, and they would only be new residents.

Mr. HARRISON also remarked that everybody in the County who was the least likely to take an interest in the Society had been bombarded on the subject. He was convinced that it was upon the shoulders of those in the County who were interested in architecture and archæology that the burden would have to fall.

Mr. E. WILKINS said he had been a member of the Society for 27 years, and, judging from his experience in the past and the efforts that had been continually made to increase the membership, he was afraid the suggestions that had emanated at that meeting would not be fruitful. He seriously thought that unless some change was made they would have to decide that the subscriptions should be increased. After all, a guinea subscription to such a Society with all its advantages was very small.

The proposition of Mr. Disraeli was then carried unanimously.

Mr. WATKINS pointed out that for ten years, until 1907, the average income of the Society was about £100. The Society had gone ahead during the past few years, but the contributions were

not sufficient to meet the large expense which must necessarily be incurred in maintaining an institution such as they now had.

The financial statement was then adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The CHAIRMAN said he had great pleasure in moving that Lord Rosebery should be re-elected President of the Society, and this was carried unanimously.

The following Vice-Presidents were re-elected:—Lord Cottesloe, Lord Boston, the Bishop of Reading, Lord Burnham, Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Colonel L. E. Goodall, Mr. Coningsby Disraeli, Mr. A. Lasenby Liberty, Mr. A. H. Cocks, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, Mr. J. Elliman, and Lady Smyth. It was decided to invite the Bishop of Oxford to become a vice-president.

The CHAIRMAN said there was one gentleman who had done a great deal for the Society for many years who certainly ought to be amongst the list of vice-presidents. He meant Mr. Berry, who was well worthy of the position. They all knew what he had done for the Society, and especially since they had had the Museum. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LASENBY LIBERTY seconded, and remarked that all of them who had worked with Mr. Berry knew the unflagging interest and the time and advice he had given to the Society.

The proposition was carried with acclamation.

The other officers were elected as follows:—Hon. Curator, Mr. A. H. Cocks; Assistant Hon. Curator, Dr. J. C. Baker; Hon. General Secretary, Mr. W. Bradbrook; Hon. Editor of the RECORDS, Mr. W. Niven; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. G. Watkins; Hon. Auditors, Colonel T. Horwood and Dr. L. H. West.

The eight retiring members of the Council—Mr. G. Weller, the Rev. C. O. Phipps, Mr. E. L. Reynolds, Mr. E. Wilkins, Mr. F. Skull, Mr. G. D. Hardinge-Tyler, Dr. L. H. West, and Mr. T. Thurlow—were all re-elected, with the addition of Colonel J. G. Day in place of Mr. Berry, whose election as a vice-president had caused a vacancy.

COMPLIMENTARY.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the members present would desire to express their thanks to the Honorary Officers, who had done their work so well. The work of the Secretary, Treasurer, the Editor of the RECORDS, and the Hon. Curator was not by any means a sinecure, and they recognised gratefully the amount they did. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LASENBY LIBERTY asked that the appreciation of the members of the work of the Resident Curator (Mr. E. Hollis) should be recorded on the minutes. They could all see what he had done for them. The unfailing courtesy he always exhibited to all those who visited the Museum and the amount of time and loving care which was to a great extent honorary work was appreciated by them all. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they would all thoroughly agree with what Mr. Liberty had said. The fact that no fewer than 3,000 people had visited the Museum during the last eight months showed that it was appreciated.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, proposed by Mr. CONINGSBY DISRAELI, concluded the meeting.

ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

[Owing to the number of these, only a selection of some of the more interesting can be noted.]

DECEMBER, 1910.

BUCKS TOKEN—O. HENRY. PITKIN. OF. 1668=A shuttle. R. MYRSLEY. SILKE. WEAVER = HIS HALFEPENNY. A variety of No. 91 Bucks, in *Williamson's Boyne's Tokens*, which reads: O. HENRY. PITMAN. OF. 1668=A shuttle. R. MORSLEY. SILK. WEAVER=HER HALFEPENNY. (The curious error in the sex, perhaps indicates the partnership in the business of his wife). Dug up in Manor Park, Aylesbury (Mr. S. C. Gurney).

WATER-COLOUR DRAWING—Iver Church before the school was removed from over the Vestry (Mrs. Coleman).

SIX PATTERNS OF BUCKS LACE, made by donor (Mrs. Chapman).

DESCRIPTION OF THE KEEPING OF S. CATTEN (=Catharine)'s DAY BY LACE-MAKERS AT WENDOVER (Mrs. Hamilton).

JANUARY TO OCTOBER 31, 1911.

CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF COOKHAM, BERKSHIRE, by Stephen Darby, privately printed 1909 (the Author).

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, March and December, 1910, containing illustrated articles on Marlow Place (Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A.).

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORTS, 1894—1907, wanting 1897, 1898, 21 vols. (Bucks Parish Register Society).

REPRINTS from GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION PROC., of Excursions to Whitechurch, Thame, Leighton Buzzard, Brill, Wheatley, and Ashendon, by Dr. A. Morley Davies (the Author).

SEVEN PRINTS OF WESTON UNDERWOOD, from *Couper Illustrated*, 1803 (Miss L. Kingham).

BUCKS TOKEN—John Rennals, of Buckingham, 1668; *Williamson's Boyne's Tokens*, No. 36 Bucks, where "A lace" should read: "A strip of lace."

UPPER STONE OF QUERN, 3 feet from surface, at Dropshort, Penny Stratford; on the line of Watling Street, and near the supposed site of Magiovitum. At about 30 in. from surface a layer of large stones perhaps indicated Roman road. Fragments of Roman pottery, and fragment of a long bone of sheep (?) turned in lathe (Mr. Kilsby).

ADDRESS FROM ELECTORS OF AYLESBURY TO LORD NUGENT, with his signature, 1826 (Mr. A. C. De Fraine).

ILLUSTRATIONS OF MODELS OF EXTINCT ANIMALS at Herr C. Hagenbeck's Thier Park, Stellingen, near Hamburg (Mr. J. T. Harrison).

FRAGMENTS OF BRITISH URN, from the Golf Links, Stoke Poges (Stoke Poges Golf Club).

38 COPPER COINS, Chas. II. to Edwd. VII. (Mr. W. Crouch).

TOKEN, Adam Simpsons, Chesham, 1795 (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

MAP OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, C. and G. Greenwood, 1834 (Mr. J. Berry).

PIPE-CLAY CURLING STONES (for curling the big wigs of period Chas. II.—Geo. I.; 4 MEDLEVAL JUGS, and EARTHENWARE PILGRIM'S BOTTLE (Rutland Collection, not previously catalogued).

WOODEN STRAW PRESS (Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A.).

LARGE GLASS WINE BOTTLE; WINE BOTTLE (late 17th century) stamped James Hall; DUTCH WINE BOTTLE (18th century); and OVAL BOTTLE (? 18th century spirit bottle) (Rutland Collection, not previously catalogued).

BIRDS OF BERKS AND BUCKS, by A. W. M. Clark Kennedy, 1868. Interleaved presentation copy from the Author to Mrs. Bowdler Sharpe, with notes by the late R. Bowdler Sharpe (presented by subscription).

HUNTING-KNIFE IN SHEATH, German, 16th century (Mr. Julian James).

SHILLING OF ELIZABETH, Long Crendon (Mr. W. Crouch).

TWO ANGLO-SAXON SPEAR HEADS probably from Aylesbury neighbourhood; were in donor's house when he took it (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

POCKET-KNIFE issued to soldiers for S. African War (Mr. A. Bailey).

MAP OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, by John Cary, 1801 (Mr. J. Berry).

FARTHING OF JAMES I., in a garden, Aylesbury (Mr. H. N. King).

PALÆOLITHIC IMPLEMENT, from glacial grit, in Little Missenden Abbey garden (Mr. E. Callard).

JAPAN, A PICTORIAL RECORD (Mr and Mrs. A. L. Liberty).

THE ANCESTRY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by J. H. Lea and J. R. Hutchinson (the Authors).

SET OF MAUNDY-MONEY, 1901; GREEN-GLAZE EARTHENWARE GOD, Egypt; PORTION OF GLASS BANGLE, ditto; SCARAB, white earthenware, ditto; CHAIN OF CAMEL-HAIR, Desert of Sinai (Rev. E. B. Butler).

SEVENTY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRASS-RUBBINGS, from the collection of the Rev. R. B. Lunn (Mr. A. L. Liberty).

THREE EARTHENWARE VASES from Pompeii (found about 1870); WOMAN'S BEAD DRESS, Zululand; FRAGMENT OF LAVA from Vesuvius with coin embedded (Miss Gilbard).

IRON HELMET, probably Cromwellian (Mr. L. W. Crouch).

TWO COLOURED PRINTS from Boydell's Thames (Miss L. Kingham).

DENARIUS OF AUGUSTUS, and SMALL BRONZE OF CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS, from Court Farm, Aylesbury; DENARIUS OF NERVA, from Long Crendon (Mr. W. Crouch).

RUBBING OF PYGOTT BRASS, Waddesdon (Mr. P. C. L. Thorne).

FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN POTTERY and of UPPER STONE OF QUERN, from sandpit, Eythrop Road, Stone (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

REGISTER OF RAVENSTONE (Bucks Parish Register Society).

FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN VASE, chocolate, with white slip design (? Durobrivian, or Castor ware), White Cliff Villa, Prince's Risborough (Colonel T. Horwood).

PISTOL converted from flint to percussion (Mr. F. E. Brazell).

COINS found on site of Magiovinum (Fenny Stratford); BROKEN DENARIUS OF HELIOGABALUS; 3 undecipherable ROMAN BRONZE; NUREMBURG TOKEN (Mr. W. Bradbrook).

OXFORD AND BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY CHRONICLE (two vols.) (Lieut.-Colonel Mockler Ferryman).

FLAIL (Anon.).

NOTICE BOARD: "Steel Traps and Spring Guns set here," removed from a stable behind Walton Church, Aylesbury, 5th October, 1911 (Mr. J. Major Lucas).

BIRDS OF BERKS AND BUCKS, by A. W. M. Clark Kennedy, 1868 (duplicate copy); Speed's MAP OF BUCKS (ditto), (received in exchange).

AMERICAN HIST. ASSN. REPORT, 1908 (Bucks Parish Register Society).

AN EPISTLE FOR UNITY TO PREVENT THE WILES OF THE ENEMY; written from Alesbury Common Gaol, by John Crook, 1661 (Dr. Baker).

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF DR. G. LIPSCOMB (the County Historian), 1832 (Dr. Baker).

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STORY OF 1663, by C. R., 1875 (Mrs. Ward Colville).

Specimens of several species of the commoner mammals, birds, and invertebrates, wanted for the Museum collection, have been again given during the year; and the following specimens, which are worth individual notice:—

GREY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus cinereus*), near Aylesbury, September, 1910. This species is a native of N. America, and this individual is, with little doubt, one of, or a descendant of, those turned out at Woburn Abbey, Beds, by his Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G., President of the Zool. Soc. (unless perhaps Mr. W. Rothschild has also turned some out at Tring, which would be much nearer). In any case it is not a member of the British fauna (Dr. Baker).

GANNET (*Sula bassana*) ♂. Caught alive near Woolleys, Hambleden (Bucks, about half-way between Poynetts and the Thames), 9th Dec., 1910. I kept it alive that night in one of my roomy cages, but next morning, finding it evidently in great pain, from some injury to one of its legs, I killed it, and sent it to the Museum, as it is, according to Messrs. Hartert and Rothschild (*Vic. Hist. Bucks*, I. 143), only the third authentic specimen obtained in this county. Clark Kennedy (*Birds of Berks and Bucks*) mentions on slender evidence the supposed occurrence of others. Mr. H. Noble (*Vic. Co. Hist. Berks*, I.) mentions seven occurrences of this species in Berks since 1838. The present example was in fully adult plumage, and Mr. Hollis, who skinned it, could find no trace of shots or other injury to account for it allowing itself to be captured by hand, and its evident pain (Mr. A. H. Cocks).

LEACH'S or FORK-TAILED PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). Shot while mobbed by rooks, by the donor (gamekeeper), Westcott, Waddesdon, about the beginning of November, 1910. This is another species that is seldom found inland, but the late Rev. E. K. Clay, Vicar of Great Kimble, had a stuffed specimen which I, no doubt correctly, identified as this species, obtained in the parish or immediate neighbourhood, about 1890, or rather before. Clark Kennedy records three examples in this county; Messrs. Hartert and Rothschild knew of no additional specimens. In *British Birds* for November, the first recorded specimens are announced for the counties of Carnarvonshire and Montgomeryshire, which help to show the sporadic character of its appearances. Dresser (*Manual*

of *Palaearctic Birds*) describes it as: "essentially oceanic." Mr. Noble (*op. cit.*) mentions occurrences in Berks in 1872 and 1899.

KNOT (*Tringa canutus*), ♀. Shot by the donor 28th January, 1911, while flying over the canal between Wendover and Halton. This appears to be the first record of this littoral species in this county. The species is not included in Messrs. Hartert and Rothschild's list of Bucks birds in the *Vic. Co. Hist.*, I., and Clark Kennedy also has no Bucks example, and only one for Berks (in 1865, near Cookham). Mr. Heatley Noble, in *Vic. Co. Hist.*, Berks, I., can only quote that example, and two shot near Reading in 1795! (Mr. J. A. Hubbard).

STOAT (*Mustela erminea*) ♀ in partially white coat; killed at Marsh, near Kimble, 1st February, 1911 (Mr. Franklin).

THREE CHAFFINCHES [=, ♂♂♂ Varieties]. Wingrave, 18th March, 1911 (Mr. W. Griffin).

COMMON RAT (*Mus decumanus*), immature ♂. Albino. Killed at a rick, Bishopstone, about May 14, 1911 (Mr. Smith).

NEST OF ——— WEAVER-BIRD? (*Ploceus manyar*), Burmah (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*) ♀. Picked up injured (supposed overtaken by a motor) in Wendover Road, near Aylesbury, 2nd June, 1911. I took this specimen to London (together with the Fork-tailed Petrel), where Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant was good enough to compare it with skins in the British Museum, and fully confirmed the identification as a typical *M. flava*. This species is not mentioned by Messrs. Hartert and Rothschild (*op. cit.*); Mr. Noble (*op. cit.*) says two, perhaps three, have been seen in Berks (Mr. C. Fisher).

GROUSE (*Lagopus scoticus*) ♀, nearly white variety. Dunkeld, Perthshire, 30th September, 1911. (I thought it possible this might be a hybrid between *L. scoticus* and *L. albus*, which latter has of late years been introduced into some districts in Scotland, but Dr. Hartert pronounced it of pure native origin, as above (Mr. Tonman Mosley).

NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) ♂, shot at Whitchurch by the donor, 7th October, 1911. Nutcrackers are one of the rarest possible visitors to this country, as it is outside their line of migration. At the time the B. O. U. List of British Birds was compiled in 1883, occurrences were only noted in seven English counties, one Welsh, one doubtful Scotch, and none in Ireland. Dr. Hartert was inclined to regard this specimen as a genuine natural visitant, although he identified it as of the Siberian form, which (according to Dresser's *Manual of Palaearctic Birds*, 410), "have the bill thinner, and have been separated sub-specifically under the name *Nucifraga macrorhynchus*, C. L. Brehm." One would, however, have expected that on the rare occasions that a Nutcracker did come westwards and across the North Sea, it would be one that started from Scandinavia or other mountainous part of Europe, in preference to one all the way from Siberia. First-rate ornithologists to whom I mentioned this occurrence did not for a moment credit its being a genuine wild visitant, this country being, as above said, quite out of the usual line of flight, and so many aviculturists having of late years kept imported specimens in aviaries, some of whom have from time to time liberated individuals in different parts of the country. At the moment of writing this, seven live Nutcrackers are advertised for sale by one London dealer (Mr. Humphrey Wood).

COLLECTION OF BUCKS WILD-FLOWERS, pressed, on 41 sheets (Mrs. Foord-Kelsey).