

## NOTABILIA MCMXIII.

---

At a cost of about £2,000, Lord Hambleden has built a local museum, near the site, for the reception of the large and interesting collection of antiquities from the Roman farm buildings and dwelling houses uncovered last year at Yewden.

---

A memorial to the late Mr. John Parker, F.S.A., long a valued Member of this Society and for many years a churchwarden of the parish church of Wycombe, has been placed in the church there.

---

The twelve MS. volumes by Lipscomb presented to our library by Sir Arthur Liberty consist of notes for county biographies.

---

Membership of our Society now amounts to 331. A year ago it was 321.

---

### SONNING.

The excavations on the site of the Bishop's Palace in Holme Park, Sonning, have been continued by our member Mr. Charles E. Keyser. Two acres of ground have now been explored. On a visit of the British Archæological Association in October Mr. Keyser remarked that there were eleven Bishops of Sonning in all, and three of them became Archbishops of Canterbury. Probably the large house of the 13th cent. took the place of an earlier building. A great hall was added in the 15th cent., and there was a tower of which the foundations were still to be seen. Leland described this as "a fair old house of stone belonging to the bishop of Salisbury." Mr. Harold Breakspear said he had been struck with the similarity of the building to that of the Palace at Lincoln. A bishop of that time had to have an enormous hall and kitchen for the entertainment of his visitors. The hall at Sonning was aisled, something like St. Mary's hall at Winchester.

## MAIDEN CASTLE.

Maiden Castle, the prehistoric fortress and camp lying to the south of Dorchester, has been sold by private treaty to the Duchy of Cornwall. The Castle ranks with Stonehenge in point of antiquity, dating back beyond the time of the Romans, and even of the immigrant Belgæ, who preceded them in the occupation of this country. By the older Celts, who built the earthwork, it was named the "Mai Dun," or "Hill of Strength." It measures 1,000 yards long from east to west, with an average width of 500 yards. Steep ramparts and ditches encircle this irregular oval, and the only entrances are by winding paths leading to the top of the hill. Here a great neolithic dewpond was constructed for supplying the dwellers and their cattle with water. For thousands of years the Mai Dun has stood, a splendid monument to the engineering skill of our prehistoric ancestors, and now that it is in the possession of the Duchy of Cornwall it will be saved from neglect and possible destruction.