

MEMORABILIA MCMXIV.

Our resident Curator reports the number of visitors to our Museum as follows:—

In 1912	7,165
In 1913	7,488
In 1914 (first six months of)	3,667

The War has caused some falling off, but many recruits, here for training, came in during their stay at Aylesbury.

That Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., &c., has written that he is preparing slides for a lecture on Bucks Brasses for next year.

Also, that a bronze scelt has been found at Deep Mill Farm, Great Missenden, which the finder will give to the Museum.

Some of our newspapers, last October, reported the finding of mysterious tunnels in the Chilterns. The suspected Germans were in this case innocent. The tunnel at Shillington and the cave at Totternhoe date from at least as far back as 1618—probably much further, for, according to the Victoria History of Bedford, neolithic implements have been found both within and without this clunch quarry whence the tunnel starts, the existence of which seems almost to have been forgotten owing to the entrance having been blocked by fallen *débris* and only recently opened by an enquiring American, Mr. Safford, who found what he described as emblems, but have rather the character of the *rebus*, one a cask and mug, and date 1618, the other cross keys. Of these the *Observer* of Nov. 8, 1914, gave photo-prints.

WEST WYCOMBE.—RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCH LOFT.

The Bishop of Buckingham performed this ceremony June 16th. The Rev. W. Upton Wooler, vicar, welcomed the Bishop, regretted the unavoidable absence

of Mr. W. Niven, whom he had first consulted as to the best way of treating the old building, and acknowledged their indebtedness to him.

A description, with illustrations of this unique building, will be found in RECORDS X., 160-166. Reference to the plans there will show the positions of the partitions which divided the four cells, and we fear little else remains to show this curious arrangement. The building, or rather the ground floor, has no doubt been made more convenient by sweeping away these cells, but as an Archæological Society we can only regret this part of the recent alterations.

The architect employed, Mr. W. D. Caröe, as reported in the *Bucks Herald*, said: "It seemed a sad task to remove the wattle partitions, but if the building was to be brought into a fit state for modern use it was inevitable."

NEGLECTED HISTORICAL MATERIAL.

It seems well that local Archæological Societies should ponder some remarks made by Prof. Sidney Webb in his evidence before the R. Commission on Public Records last October. He emphasised the importance of preserving and bringing to light parish records other than those relating to baptisms, marriages, and burials. In the course of his researches he never found inventories of these records. "Though every one of the ten thousand old parishes of England and Wales must possess Churchwardens' accounts from the 14th century at least, Surveyors of Highways' accounts from the 17th, Vestry minutes possibly from the 16th, and certainly from the 17th and 18th centuries, Poor Relief accounts of at least a couple of centuries, besides other records, what he discovered in each case consisted usually of only odd volumes or loose sheets of manuscript or print in the worst possible condition." . . . Parish documents were, he believed, legally the property of the parish, not of the incumbent, and by law they should be in the custody of the Parish Council.

GERMAN BARBARITY.

Rheims Cathedral, in addition to being a most imposing creation of 13th century Gothic art, was the shrine and token of the aspirations of the French people, the focus of the French national spirit, the reason presumably of its being the special object of German spite. What we, or students generally, have chiefly to deplore here is much of the finest sculpture ever produced since the Greek; stained glass second only to that of Chartres. Less imposing, the older church of S. Remi is hardly less to be regretted. It contained some of the earliest glass that had come down to us.

The Cathedral is said to have contained something like 2,500 statues and statuettes. The Burlington Magazine, in its November issue, has a good account of these sculptures and those of the north transept, and the rather later work of the western porches are illustrated.

At Louvain shells and fire have probably left nothing of the treasures preserved in the Library. And presumably the superb sacrament-houses of the churches of St. Pierre and St. Jacques have been utterly destroyed.

Lierre suffered terribly. The church of St. Gummaire was not spared. Let us hope that the Colibrant Triptych was rescued in time.