

ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1921.

VISIT TO ETON COLLEGE.

The annual excursion of the Bucks Archæological Society took place on 7th July, 1921, when, by kind permission of Dr. M. R. James, the Provost, the Church and College of the Blessed Mary of Eton beside Windsor was visited. The proceedings had been arranged by Mr. H. E. Luxmoore, M.A., so long and honourably associated with the College as a Master, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Bradbrook.

The Society visited Eton in 1856 ("Records" I. 225); in 1872, when an admirable paper by the Provost, then Dr. Goodford, was read ("Records" IV. 111); and again in 1906, when a paper was prepared by Mr. John Parker; his illness prevented him from reading it at that time, and he died very soon afterwards, the paper being printed ("Records" IX. 227).

Eton College owes its origin to Henry VI., by whose Charter of Foundation, dated Oct. 11th, 1440, it was established "to endure for all time to the praise, glory, and honour of our Crucified Lord, to the exaltation of the most Blessed Virgin Mary His Mother, and the support of the Holy Church His Bride, to be called the King's College of our Lady of Eton beside Windsor."

The present Church is only the choir of the building as intended by the founder, but its length and breadth are nearly the same as he designed. William of Wayneflete, under whom a great deal of the building had been carried out, found that he could not follow the Founder's scheme as far as the nave was concerned, and the westernmost portion of the present church, known as the Ante-Chapel, was substituted for it.

Wayneflete was practically the first master of the school, which was opened in 1442.

This was the period of the Wars of the Roses, and in 1460 the King was made prisoner and removed to London, and was succeeded on the throne by the first of the Yorkist sovereigns, Edward IV., who proved by no means a friend to Henry's foundation, for he purposed to suppress the College and transfer its endowments to the College of Windsor, and actually obtained a Bull from the Pope with that object in view. An appeal was lodged against the contemplated disendowment, and on the case being remitted to Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, he had the pluck to decide in favour of the College against the King's designs. The protest by Provost Westbury and the sentence of the Archbishop are both preserved. The latter is a beautifully illuminated document, and still bears its seal in a perfect condition. The income of the College suffered considerably under the rapacious hands of Edward IV. and Henry VIII. Concerning the latter, there is an old saying to the effect that "Henricus Octavus took

away more than he gave us," which probably has reference to an "exchange" of lands, by which the King obtained 185½ acres of very valuable property, including the site of St. James's Palace, and the College nothing.

The chapel is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. Nicholas, the patron saint of school boys. It has undergone alterations and repair at various times since its erection and completion by Wayneflete in 1476. While the interior of the building was being restored in 1847-9 some very interesting frescoes were discovered. They were executed between 1479 and 1487, and the late Mr. G. E. Street, R.A., pronounced them to be the finest frescoes ever discovered in England, most artistic and full of religious feeling. They are hidden by the canopies of the stalls.

According to the programme arranged for the day, the party met at noon outside the gateway of the School-yard. Here they were met by Mr. Luxmoore, who offered them a very cordial welcome. In the churchyard was pointed out the tomb of John Hales, d. 1656. The porch is of later date than the Ante-Chapel, and, added Mr. Luxmoore, it was proposed to erect a new vestry on that side of the Chapel. In the quadrangle, where stands Godolphin's statue of Henry VI., the work of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries was pointed out, also the place where it was intended to affix the names of the Etonians who fell in the Great War. The chapel was next visited, and Mr. Luxmoore gave an interesting account of the building and its prominent features; the lectern, he said, was the original one of the 15th century. In the Ante-Chapel was pointed out a flag, which, after being captured by the Germans, was rescued by John Fletcher, much to the delight of his companions in arms.

The members then separated to seek refreshment in the town, and re-assembled in the Cloister Garth, where they were met by the Provost, who extended to the visitors a most hearty welcome, and gave them a general outline of the history of the school; and then Mr. Luxmoore resumed his office of guide, and conducted the party through the hall and school-rooms. Much curiosity was evinced in the examination of names carved on the shutters, forms, desks, and panels. Shelley's was pointed out, and the marks made upon it by some American visitors. The earliest name was carved in 1597 on the shutter in the old school.

Mr. Broadbent, the librarian, gave a short account of the treasures which the Library contains, some of the manuscripts and early printed books being unique. When the visitors left the Library Mr. Luxmoore conducted them over several other rooms containing a large number of portraits of former provosts, masters, and scholars. At the conclusion of the tour of these rooms, Mr. Disraeli, on behalf of the party, proposed thanks to Mr. Luxmoore for his kindness in showing them through the various apartments, and for the information which he had so freely given them, which being carried by acclamation and suitably acknowledged, the visitors left the College and dispersed, having spent a most enjoyable afternoon.

ADDITIONS TO MUSEUM AND LIBRARY, 1921.

There were 179 acquisitions during the year, of which the following are the most important items:—

Books and Manuscripts.

MS. Copy of first CHARTER OF AYLESBURY, 1554. A contemporary copy, sewn in part of a Vellum Missal. Formerly No. 8,849 Phillips MS. (Mr. E. L. Reynolds).

MS. Notes on the CHOVIL FAMILY. Formerly of Herts and Bucks (Captain A. H. Chovil).

MS. MANOR ROLLS OF HAMBLEDEN, 1652, 1653, 1678, 1687, 1701, 1708, 1725, 1728, 1746, 1762, 1775 (Lord Hambleden).

"THE CHRISTIAN MAN'S CALLING," Rev. George Swinnock, 1662 (Mr. W. H. B. Wayman).

"GAULT FORAMINIFERA, FROM FORD, BUCKS," E. Hollis and E. Neaverson, M.Sc. (Mr. E. Hollis).

"OXFORD AND BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY CHRONICLE, 1917-1918." (Purchased).

MS. MANOR ROLLS OF TAPLOW, 1619-1624," and parcel of Bucks deeds (In exchange from Mr. W. Gandy).

"THE FORAMINIFERA OF THE HARTWELL CLAY AND SUBJACENT BEDS," E. Neaverson, M.Sc. (The Author).

"OLD WORKS AND PAST DAYS IN RURAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE," G. Eland, 1921. (The Author).

REGISTER OF GREAT WOOLSTONE (Mr. W. Bradbrook).

REGISTER OF LITTLE WOOLSTONE (Mr. W. Bradbrook).

"ANCIENT AYLESBURY," Robert Gibbs, 1893 (Mrs. Phipps).

Coins and Tokens.

Large COLLECTION OF COINS AND TOKENS, not yet arranged and entered in Acquisitions (Miss Boyson).

Extant Fauna.

GREEN SANDPIPER. *Totanus ochropus*. Killed at Creslow, Bucks, 31st December, 1920 (Mr. H. Wood).

STOAT (female). Killed at Kimble, 20th February, 1921. White with exception of few hairs round eyes (Mr. F. H. Parrott).

STOAT (female). Killed at Crendon, 16th December, 1921. Almost entirely white (Mr. A. J. Bates).

PIGMY SHREW. *Sorex minutus*. Caught by cat in Aylesbury, 6th July, 1921 (Mr. Edmunds).

Fossils.

55 **Microscope Slides of FORAMINIFERA FROM HARTWELL CLAY**, illustrating Mr. Neaverson's paper mentioned above (Mr. E. Hollis).

PIECE OF AMBER FROM GLACIAL CLAY, Wing (Mr. Long).

Engravings.

RICHARD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, 1839 (Purchased Stowe Sale, 1921).

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM, 1788 (Purchased Stowe Sale, 1921).

JOHN WILKES (after original by Hogarth) (Dr. J. C. Baker).

Miscellaneous.

DRUM AND STICKS, formerly belonging to Bucks Militia (Capt. I. Stewart-Liberty, M.C.).

IRON BODY-BELT with Chains for attachment to wall, from Aylesbury Prison (Mr. W. C. Morris).

COLLECTION OF JAPANESE SWORD-GUARDS (Tsuba) and other objects from China and Japan (Lady Church).

Collection of WEDGWOOD PLAQUES AND MEDALLIONS (Lady Church).

CONSTABLE'S STAFF, w.iv.r., Bucks (Mr. A. F. G. Leveson-Gower).

Five patterns of OLD BUCKS POINT LACE (Miss H. W. Joyce).

SCRAMASAX (Anglo-Saxon Knife), found near Tring Road, Aylesbury, 1921 (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

ROMAN VASE, light grey pottery, found 1900, Broadland Road, Fenny Stratford (Mr. E. R. Ramsbotham).

FLINT KNIFE AND ARROW HEAD, Gothland, Sweden (very finely chipped), (Mr. R. Leckey).

BRONZE DAGGER BLADE, AND GOUGE, Killarney, Ireland (Mr. R. Leckey).

PEAR-WOOD BOX OF POCKET-SCALES AND COIN WEIGHTS (17th Century), Mr. W. Bradbrook).

QUERN STONE, found near Tring Road, Aylesbury, 1921 (Mr. Mills).