

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the purpose of passing accounts and for the re-election of the Council and officers was held in the Museum on 2nd April, 1938; Lord Cottesloe, as President, took the chair.

At the conclusion of the formal business an interesting paper was read by Miss A. Baker upon the parochial reactions to the changing religious opinions in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. The Churchwardens' Accounts for Wing, which begin in 1527, formed the basis of her theme; their great importance has long been recognized, and extracts from them were printed as long ago as 1856 by Mr. F. Ouvry. It is evident that there was more alacrity to revert to Roman practice under Mary than to restore Protestant practices under Elizabeth.

Another paper was read by Mrs. Webster, of Grantham, upon "The Development of the Georgian House," illustrated by lantern. Unfortunately her examples were not chosen from Bucks.

AUTUMNAL MEETING

On 31 Oct., 1937, at a meeting at the Museum, Mr. Oakley spoke upon the Hedgerley Kiln site, and exhibited specimens of the pottery found. An exhaustive paper on the subject having been published in the last number of the *Records*, it is unnecessary to print Mr. Oakley's observations, which gained much from his easy mastery of the subject.

An important paper was read by Mr. Clive Rouse upon the Kederminster Library at Langley Marish Church.

The library was founded by the will of Sir John Kederminster (1631) in the following words: "and concerning a library which I have prepared and adjoined to Langley Church aforesaid, for the benefit as well of ministers of the said town and such other in

the County of Bucks as resort thereunto, I do appoint that these books, which I have already prepared be there duly placed together, with so many more as shall amount to the sum of £20, and all settled by my said wife Mary. . . .”

The arrangement for housing the library consisted of blocking the 13th century south door and enlarging the mediæval porch of Langley Church adjoining the Kederminster (latterly Seymour and Harvey) family chapel pew. The entrance to the library was through the pew, which being private property, only one person might have the solitary key, which was the property of the Lords of the Manor to the present day.

The work was probably done about 1638. The little room was lined with presses, shelves with cupboard doors painted inside and out with representations of books, apostles and prophets, the latter distinctly unusual for such a date. There was a painted frieze with views of Eton, Windsor Castle, scenes in Langley Park and other landscapes. On the inside of two panelled cupboard doors were portraits of Sir John Kederminster and his wife, Mary. The former was a very competent piece of work, and merited careful study, but the lady's portrait had, for some reason, been covered with brown paint at some time. The original painting, however, was intact beneath, and it was hoped, if funds were available, to recover it. Over the fireplace, on an elaborate overmantel, was an heraldic pedigree of the Kederminster family, which had been dealt with fully by Lipscomb.

Most of the works in the library were of a theological and patristic character.

Many years ago the rarer books and manuscripts were removed to Langley Park for safe keeping, and were later placed in the strong room of Barclays Bank. The trustees have agreed to place them on an indefinite loan to the County Museum, where they were not only in safe keeping, but available to students. Undoubtedly the most important item in the library was an 11th century MS of the Gospels illuminated,

which, in 1932, was placed on indefinite loan at the British Museum, where it was much in demand by students.

The other volumes, which are on exhibition at the County Museum, are Peter de Riga's *Aurora*, a Latin M.S. of the 13th century on vellum, illuminated, a beautiful piece of writing in excellent condition; an early printed missal in black letter after the style of the Roman Curia; the *De Confessio Amantis* of John Gower, a very valuable early printed English book; another early printed book, the first tome of Erasmus's *Paraphrasis*, by Whitchurche of London in 1584. Bound in the cover were two leaves of an early printed missal or psalter, perhaps late 15th or early 16th century, and a fragment of Latin MS. That was typical of the treasures that careful search of the library might reveal.

There was also Tremellio and Dujon's *Testamenti Veteris Biblia Sacra*, printed by Middleton of London in 1585, and bound in the cover of that book was a fragment of a Computus Roll. There also was the famous Thomas Lodge's Translation of Josephus, printed by Humphrey Lownes, London, 1609. The eighth book was an important production of the renowned Plantin Press in Antwerp—Hieronymus Natalis' *Adnotationes Et Meditationes* of 1607.

Finally, we come to the pick of the collection, namely, the *Pharmacopolium* of John and Mary Kederminster, an English MS dated 1630, on paper with two illuminated vellum pages.

It is of the greatest interest to herbalists, and many of the remedies are not unlike those for which Harley Street to-day charges us so many guineas. Others, fortunately, are no longer popular. The scheme of the book is to arrange ailments alphabetically with suggested remedies beneath. One could quote from almost every page, but here are a few typical examples: 'A medicine to comfort the heart: Take a quantity of good ale and a handful of bay leaves and a spoonful of

grains [grains of Paradise, or cardamom seeds, a very hot tincture], and seethe all together: strayne, and put a little sugar thereunto and drink in the evening and morning, and it will comfort and strengthen the heart very much.'

Mr. Rouse referred to the extract from Ecclesiasticus, which prefaced the book—"The Lord hath created medicines on the earth. He that is wise will not abhor them."

Among the prescriptions for ailments of the stomach was one "for one that hath no stomache" (or appetite), and others for freckles, "to whiten the teeth," dropsy, "the falling sickness," "to whiten the hands," "to take away the heate and shining of the nose," "for those that are fatt," and chilblains.

In conclusion, Mr. Rouse observed that libraries in churches were few in Bucks. Winslow had some volumes in a cupboard, Broughton had the chained works of Bishop Jewell, and Willen had a considerable number of volumes, though none of a very early date.

The little library of Langley, complete with its painted presses, the books and furniture almost untouched since 1638, is a rare treasure.