

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Proceedings at Annual General Meeting, Bristol, 1919**

1918-19, Vol. 41, 109-127

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# Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

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## PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

AT BRISTOL,

*On Tuesday, July 22nd, 1919.*

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THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held on July 22nd, 1919, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, at the Council House, Bristol, the President, Mr. JOHN E. PRITCHARD, occupying the Chair.

The Lord Mayor, in welcoming the members, said he could only express the hope that their visit to Bristol would be of a very highly satisfactory character, and as fruitful as their past visits had been. He noted that the Society was founded in Bristol in 1876. Its work, in a few words, was the study of the past history of Bristol and Gloucestershire, so that its lessons might not be lost to the present and the future; and, of course, the preservation of all documents and all relics of value. In that city, thanks very largely to the vigilance and efforts of the present President, many interesting facts relating to its long history had been brought to light, and such picturesque and important domestic buildings as the Dutch House, the old Board Room of St. Peter's Hospital, the Registrar's House adjoining the Cathedral in College Square, and, latest of all, the Red Lodge, had been saved from threatened demolition. Not one of

their list of notable men as President had been more accomplished or more zealous than Mr. John E. Pritchard.

The President thanked the Lord Mayor for his cordial welcome, and took the chair for the business of the meeting.

The General Secretary read the following report of the Council for the year 1918-19:—

1. With feelings of great thankfulness the Council are permitted this year to present their Annual Report freed from the shadow of war, and to look forward with hope to the full renewal of the work of the Society, of which so much has been in abeyance since the summer of 1914. They join with the Empire in heartfelt recognition of the Victory which has been achieved by the Naval, Military and Air Forces of this Country—in which many of the Members of the Society have served—and of its Allies. They devoutly hope that the Peace which has been secured may be of long duration.

2. *Membership.*—The Society is to be congratulated on the increase in its membership which the Council are able to report. It is evident that new interest in Archæology is being awakened, and that efforts to make the Society's work known in the County are meeting with response. All Members are urged to consider that they can, in this way, render material help to the Society.

At the summer meeting in July, 1914, the Council's report stated that the number of members was then 566. Last year it was 465. At the present time, including those nominated for election to-day, the number is 540, an increase of 75. While the number is still below that of 1914, the Society has emerged from the difficulties of the past five years with its position unimpaired; and the Council are confident that as it is once more able to resume its full activity this will be still further strengthened. And for this there is need, for with the present high cost of printing the *Transactions* must be affected unless the Society's funds increase.

Since the last Annual Meeting the Society has lost eighteen members, eleven of whom are dead, and seven have resigned. By the deaths of Sir Thomas Bazley and Mr. Francis Fry the rapidly dwindling number of its original members is still further

reduced. Mr. C. J. Lowe, the Rev. W. Symonds, and Mr. H. d'Este East, who have passed away, were life members, the two former having joined in 1890. Among the most prominent of those who have been taken from us was Bishop Mitchinson, who was President in 1905 and 1906. A distinguished man in many walks of life, he took a keen interest in archæological pursuits, and was always ready to help the work of the Society. Archdeacon Sinclair had been a Member of Council for some years. Mr. C. V. Gough, of Bristol, became a member in 1908, and in his own quiet way did much to assist us. The Rev. J. W. Crake, Sir Barclay Baron, and Mr. H. P. Thurston were only recently elected, and the loss of all of these is regretted.

Including the names of those elected by the Council to-day, there have been 90 new members added since last year, and three who had resigned have re-joined.

The Council desire to express their warm congratulations to Sir Francis Hyett for the honour which His Majesty has conferred upon him in recognition of his long and untiring services to the County. They feel certain that the Society will wish this to be recorded in the *Transactions*, and to join with them in the hope that Sir Francis may be spared for many years to enjoy continued pleasure in his administrative and literary work.

The Council also wish to congratulate their President upon his election to the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of London. This acknowledgment of Mr. J. E. Pritchard's services to Archæology will be much appreciated by our Society, with which he has been so closely connected and for which he has done, and is doing, so much.

3. *Honorary Members.*—The Council recommend to the Society that Professor Haverfield, F.S.A., shall be elected an Honorary Member in recognition of his eminent services to Archæology, and especially in recording the history of the Roman occupation of Britain.

The Council also recommend to the Society that Sir Francis Hyett, the Chairman of Council, shall be elected to Honorary Membership, not only for his services to the Society, but also in recognition of his contributions to the literature of the County, and particularly in connection with its bibliography. Sir Francis

Hycett's *Manual of Gloucestershire Literature*, which he compiled in part with Canon Bazeley, and in part with your General Secretary, has long held very high rank among similar works and is a remarkable example of thorough and patient application.

4. *Finance*.—The Accounts for 1918 have been duly audited by Mr. J. J. Simpson, who spares neither time nor pains in this service to the Society. With a balance of £208 18s. 6d., and receipts from annual and life subscriptions of £217 7s., from entrance fees £11 os. 6d., from dividends £32 10s., from sale of publications £25 14s. 2d., and smaller amounts, the total income for the year was £506 13s. 9d. The principal items of expenditure were £162 3s. 6d. for printing and distributing Volume XL. of the *Transactions*, £107 on account of the General Index, £38 3s. 4d. on the Society's libraries, of which nearly £20 was for books, and £22 13s. 6d. on general expenses of administration, the total being £330 os. 4d., leaving a balance of £176 13s. 5d. The balance sheet shows a surplus of £444 5s. 11d., without allowing for the value of the libraries, or for publications in hand. Since the year closed the whole of the considerable cost of printing the General Index has been met, and the Council are glad to report that the present state of the Society's finances is entirely satisfactory.

5. *General Index*.—The promise that the General Index to Volumes XXI.—XL. would be completed shortly after the publication of the last of the series was duly fulfilled, and the volume placed in members' hands in January last, only six months after the issue of Volume XL. The Council have expressed their thanks to the Hon. General Secretary for the way in which the Index was compiled, for while he received a fee, they recognise that this was by no means adequate for the work, and the Society is under an obligation to him for preparing the Index without regard to the time and trouble involved, which few can estimate. The expenses of printing the Index have been very considerable, and were largely increased owing to the rise in cost of labour; but the Council feel sure that the Society will not regret the expenditure, as the Index must prove of the utmost use to all engaged in antiquarian research.

6. *Transactions*.—While it was intended that the General Index should be issued as the volume for 1918, the Council have found it possible to publish an additional half-volume of *Transactions*. The second part will be issued in 1920, and then it is proposed to resume a complete volume each year. The Council wish again to record their thanks to Dr. Fryer for continuing to provide at his own cost the blocks illustrating his series of papers on the Fonts of Gloucestershire.

7. *Library*.—Owing to the necessity for economy the Library Committee have refrained from any considerable expenditure during the past year, the only important additions being Volumes XIX.—XXVIII. of *The Genealogist*, and Volumes XIX.—XXX. of the Selden Society's publications. Members have borrowed 98 volumes during the year; and many others have been consulted in the room in the Gloucester Public Library, where the Society's Library is housed. The Committee are still satisfied that the present arrangement for the care and circulation of the books works exceedingly well.

8. *Winter Meetings*.—No meetings were held in Bristol or in Gloucester, but it is hoped to arrange for lectures and papers during the winter of 1919-20.

9. *Council Meetings*.—Four meetings of the Council have been held during the year, and the kindness of the Lord Mayor of Bristol and of the Mayor of Gloucester in granting the use of rooms in their Guildhalls for this purpose is much appreciated.

10. *Rules*.—The amendments to the Rules which were referred to in the last Report were duly approved by the Annual Meeting held in 1918, and are now embodied in the Rules printed in the *Transactions*, Volume XLI.

11. *Hon. Secretary for Bristol*.—The Council have received with regret the resignation of Mr. L. J. U. WAY, the Society's Hon. Secretary for Bristol, who was elected to succeed Mr. J. E. Pritchard in February, 1910. Mr. Way's health has suffered from causes due to military service in France and Flanders, and he finds himself unable to carry out the secretarial duties as he would wish. The Council desire to record their thanks to Mr. Way

for the work he has done, and to express their hope that his health will be restored.

12. *Council and Officers.*—The Council desire to recommend the following officials for election and re-election to their respective offices for the year 1919-20: President, John E. Pritchard, F.S.A.; Chairman of Council, Sir Francis A. Hyett; Vice-Chairman of Council, John E. Pritchard, F.S.A.; Vice-Presidents, The Mayor of Gloucester (Sir James Bruton, M.P.), The Dean of Gloucester (H. Gee, F.S.A.), W. St. Claif Baddeley, Canon Bartleet, F.S.A., Canon Bazeley, Christopher Bowly, H. W. Bruton, G. M. Currie, A. E. Hudd, F.S.A., Sir Francis A. Hyett, Lieut.-Col. R. J. Kerr, Professor Oman, M.P., F.S.A., Rev. C. S. Taylor, F.S.A., E. S. Hartland, LL.D., F.S.A.

*Members of Council.*—The following retire and are eligible for re-election: L. Barnard, F. J. Cullis, A. C. Fryer, H. Medland, Colonel Noel, J. Lee Osborn, Rev. C. Swynnerton, F.S.A., F. Were.

The following nominations for vacancies on the Council are submitted: Averay N. Jones for Bristol, J. W. Barnett for Gloucester, Dr. T. W. Walker for Cirencester District, Sir F. H. Crawley-Boevey, Bart., for the Forest of Dean, E. N. Witchell for Stroud, A. Baker for Tewkesbury.

*Editor*, E. Sidney Hartland, LL.D., F.S.A.; *Treasurer*, F. Hannam-Clark; *Secretary for Bristol*, Wilfrid Leighton; *General Secretary and Librarian*, Roland Austin. *Local Secretaries*: Cheltenham, Lieut.-Col. J. C. Duke; Cirencester, E. C. Sewell; Fairford, Canon R. C. S. Jones; Lydney, F. S. Hockaday; Newent, E. Conder, F.S.A.; Northern, E. A. B. Barnard, F.S.A.; Stroud, R. H. Penley; Tewkesbury, F. W. Godfrey; Berkeley, Rev. W. F. D. Curtoys; Wotton-under-Edge, Vincent R. Perkins.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that all must have been gratified that the members had increased lately, but there was still room for many to help. He thought they ought to obtain at least one hundred new names this year, in order to guarantee a better balance for the heavy cost of printing. This year they had come



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED  
31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

116

1918. RECEIPTS.				1918. PAYMENTS.			
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jan 1st.				Dec. 31st.			
BALANCE AT BANK	.. ..		208 18 6	By COST OF <i>Transactions</i> —			
Dec. 31st.				Vol. xl., 1917, Arrowsmith..	139 19 10		
To ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS—				List of Members .. ..	9 12 6		
1917 .. .. .		1 1 0		Postage .. .. .	7 4 2		
1918 .. .. .		198 9 0		Illustrations, Pitcher ..	5 2 0		
1919 .. .. .		3 3 0		Typing .. .. .	0 5 0		
		202 13 0			162 3 6		
„ LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS .. ..			14 14 0	„ GENERAL INDEX, Vols. xxi-xl.—			
„ ENTRANCE FEES .. ..			11 0 6	Arrowsmith, on account ..		100 0 0	
„ DONATIONS—				„ EXPENSES OF LIBRARIES—			
Merchant Venturers' Society		2 2 0		Bristol—			
F. Were, Esq., for Library		0 10 6		Rent .. .. .	4 0 0		
W. L. Meredith .. ..		0 10 0		Insurance .. .. .	0 5 0		
		3 2 6			4 5 0		
„ DIVIDENDS ON WAR STOCK..			32 10 0	Gloucester—			
„ SALE OF <i>Publications</i> .. ..			25 14 2	Books .. .. .	15 6 11		
„ „ Furniture (half share)			3 5 8	Pipe Roll Society ..	1 1 0		
„ INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT			4 15 5	Harleian Society ..	1 1 0		
				Cantilupe Society .. ..	0 10 6		
				British Record Society ..	1 1 0		
				<i>The Genealogist</i> .. ..	0 10 0		
				Fire Insurance .. ..	0 14 3		
				Public Library Committee,			
				Rent .. .. .	8 8 0		
				Removal of Fittings. &c.	5 5 8		
					33 18 4		

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1919.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (*continued*).

RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

£506 13 9

PAYMENTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—

Preparation of General Index

(fourth instalment) .. 7 0 0

Casing *Transactions* for

Exchange .. .. 2 12 6

General Printing, Osborne.. 6 7 8

„ „ Arrowsmith 1 16 6

Postages—Hon. Secretary.. 6 12 2

„ Editor .. .. 1 0 0

Travelling Expenses .. .. 1 19 3

Gratuities — Bristol and

Gloucester .. .. 1 0 6

Carriage of Publications .. 0 7 1

Stationery .. .. 0 17 10

————— 29 13 6

————— 330 0 4

„ BALANCE—

Deposit Account .. .. 154 15 5

Current Account .. .. 21 18 0

————— 176 13 5

£506 13 9



out very well in this matter, owing to the care with which Mr. Austin had looked after everything.

The report having been adopted,

Sir FRANCIS HYETT proposed the re-election of Mr. Pritchard as President, and said his acceptance for another year would be a great advantage to them, for he was a tower of strength to the Society. The flourishing condition of the Society in that end of the county was due more to him than to anyone else. His Bristol Archæological Notes supplied for many years to their *Transactions* very much enhanced their permanent value. The present flourishing condition of the Society was to a large extent due to the good fortune of having very excellent officers, who stood on a higher level than many who had occupied the same position. He specially mentioned Mr. Pritchard, Dr. Hartland, Mr. J. J. Simpson, and Mr. Roland Austin. As to the latter's work, he knew of no Index which was better than that just submitted to them by Mr. Austin.

Dr. E. SIDNEY HARTLAND seconded, and congratulated Mr. Pritchard on his recent election to the Council of the Society of Antiquaries. It was a testimony to the value of his work as an archæologist, which had been largely rendered in connection with that Society. Mr. Pritchard deserved that recognition and any other archæological honour that could be conferred upon him.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The remaining officers and members of Council for the coming year, nominated by the Council, were unanimously elected.

The PRESIDENT proposed the election of Professor F. J. HAVERFIELD to honorary membership of the Society, and in doing so spoke of his eminent services in the cause of Archæology and of his position as the foremost student of Roman antiquities in Great Britain. Professor Haverfield's consent to his nomination had

done honour to the Society. The proposal was carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT then moved the election of Sir FRANCIS HYETT, Chairman of Council, to honorary membership of the Society, which he said had been too long deferred. As one of their oldest members, as past President, and for many years as a Member of Council, Sir Francis had done great service to the Society; and his work as a bibliographer was recognised far beyond the borders of the County. His *Manual of Gloucestershire Literature*, compiled in conjunction with Canon Bazeley, and the Biographical Supplement to it, were one of the very best works of its kind, and all students of local literature owed Sir Francis a deep debt of gratitude for the years of patient labour which he had given to its compilation. The motion was received with warm approval, and carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his address, which will be found on p. 129.

Sir FRANCIS HYETT moved a vote of thanks to the President. He congratulated the President on his happy choice of a subject, and said his address was of practical value, as leading to the preservation of anything of interest. Sir Francis emphasised the importance of recording finds, together with the place where they were found. Archæology had a great deal to do, notably in the interpretation of old manuscripts. He hoped that it would be recognised before long that Archæology was the sister of History, and that they must work side by side, and thus greatly add to the knowledge of bygone times.

In seconding the vote of thanks Mr. ROLAND AUSTIN said that it gave him the opportunity of referring to the President's services to the Society, for as General Secretary he had had a very close association with Mr. Pritchard during his year of office. The President's interest in the Society had always been second to none, and his constant loyalty to those

concerned with its affairs had helped in very large measure to maintain its continued prosperity and the high standing which it had reached. Its reputation was safe in his hands, and he (Mr. Austin) trusted that for many years the Council would enjoy the benefit of Mr. Pritchard's advice and assistance. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

On leaving the Council House the members strolled up the hill by way of Christmas Steps, reaching the Red Lodge about half-past five o'clock, where they were received by Alderman Fuller Eberle, who had invited the members to afternoon tea, this being served in the "Oak Room."

Before separating the President said that the good fortune which brought them there that afternoon was due to the fact that the Reformatory work, which was started in that historic house in 1854, through the munificence of Lady Byron, under the sole management of that great Englishwoman, Mary Carpenter, terminated its career a few months ago. Immediately that was known to their host, Alderman Fuller Eberle (Chairman of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee), he obtained the refusal to purchase of the property, through the generous consideration of the owner, a member of the Carpenter family, and eventually secured it for the city. It had been decided that it should form the home of the Bristol Savages, and at the same time it would be safeguarded for the city, as a great historic asset.

The President referred to a description of the Red Lodge from a scarce little book compiled by Miss Mary Carpenter, which that lady had published in 1875, and reminded members that the house was built by Sir John Young, the owner of the "Great House," situated just below the hill, who possessed estates in the Counties of Dorset and Wilts, and having decided to take up his residence in Bristol, purchased the domestic buildings of the Carmelite Friary in 1568. This he re-modelled or rebuilt upon a great scale, as in 1574 the "Great House" was selected for the reception of Queen Elizabeth and her suite during her visit to the city, for which he was knighted. It was recorded that Sir John Young in 1578 purchased from the Corporation the rest of the estate, the site upon which we are assembled, and set about the erection of this smaller house, which we sometimes call

the "Garden House"; but this was hardly completed when he died in 1589.

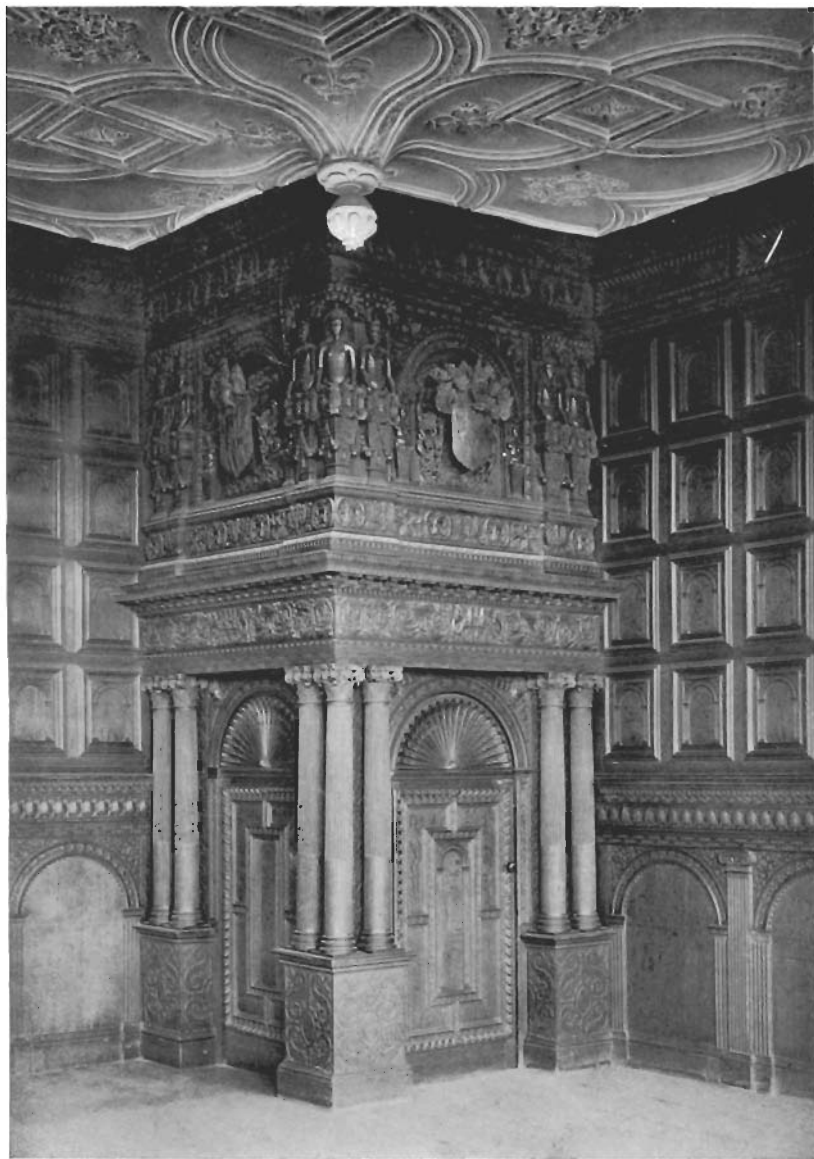
The President said the Red Lodge had been fully described so many times that he would now only draw their attention to the "Oak Room," which was approached by that wonderful staircase up which they had come, to the inner porch through which they had entered, to the panelling of unusual round-head design, to the richly-moulded ceiling, the beautiful carving of the porch entrance, with its two panelled doorways and its six Corinthian column supports on strap-work bases, to the superbly carved entablature, the beautiful Renaissance architrave, the wonderful frieze and cornice with seven carved caryatid figures and the shields of arms in the recesses over the doors. Then the room possessed the very beautiful carved stone chimney-piece—considered to be the finest in the city—with an exquisite overmantel having four caryatid supports, and a shield of arms in the centre within a strap-work border.

Members will find the heraldry of this apartment described in the *Transactions* by Sir John Maclean and Mr. Francis Were, vol. xv., p. 237 (in the same article is a historical account for the Young family), and vol. xxiv., pp. 262-66.

The doorway of elaborate carving on the east side leads to a small retiring room, and other parts of the house possess interesting features.

The President further said that on behalf of the members of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archæological Society he wished to congratulate Alderman Eberle on his public-spirited action in securing the "Red Lodge" for the city, and secondly they desired to express their warm thanks to him for receiving them and extending such delightful hospitality.

Alderman Fuller Eberle, in reply, said it was entirely due to the kindness, courtesy, and help of the President that the house had been saved. When he heard that the house was being given up he set to work, and through the kindness of a few Bristol citizens money was obtained to secure the building and restore it. It was proposed to hold it as the Art Club of the Bristol Savages, and the "Oak Room" would not be used but would be kept practically as a show room. The Savages, when in possession, would make their own arrangements, but he was sure no Society



*F. Bromhead, photo.*

RED LODGE, BRISTOL. VESTIBULE OF OAK ROOM.

would be more welcome there than the Archæological Society. The Savages were to have a lease of the premises, but the property would be offered to the city as a gift.

In the evening the members of the Society attended a reception by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in the Art Gallery, where the President of the Society, Mr. John E. Pritchard, joined the hosts in receiving those who attended. Enjoyable music was supplied by a string band, and refreshments were served in the Egyptian Room.

#### WEDNESDAY, 23RD JULY.

The members assembled at College Green at 9 o'clock, and proceeded in motor-cars and chars-a-banc to Syston, where they first visited the Parish Church of St. Anne. They were received there by the Rector, the Rev. J. H. Robertson, who pointed out the interesting features of the church, which is in the Norman style, dating from about the year 1220. The font, one of the most striking objects in the building, is of lead, and is believed to date from 1100, or possibly a little earlier. Such fonts are rare, and although several others are to be found in the county, very few exist in the rest of England. One of the most perfect examples remaining of Norman architecture is to be seen in the porch of the church. It has been excellently preserved, and is of very beautiful design. Those interested in old manuscripts were attracted by an inventory of the goods of the church, dating back to 1558. The document is framed, and with it is given a copy in more readable form. In one of the small windows are some chained books, dated 1730. They are obviously not the originals. The story is that the early ones were sent to the binders for repair and these were returned.

At Syston Court, a fine Tudor mansion, Mr. J. E. Rawlins received the visitors in the hall, told them a few facts about the house, and conducted them through some of the principal rooms. There are in the church notable memorials of the Trotman family, who owned Syston Court for 200 or 300 years. Great interest was shown in the hall, with its splendid mantelpiece, ceiling and paintings, many of which were brought to the house by Lady Drake, who married a former lord of the manor.

Leaving Syston, the drive continued via Shortwood, Mangotsfield, Cleve Hill, Frenchay, Hambrook and Whiteshill Common to the Mill-head under the wood, where the members alighted, and dividing into groups, quickly made the climb to the camp on Bury Hill. Assembled on the site of the highest rampart, the President, after drawing attention to the wonderful panorama before them, remarked that nothing fresh was known of the camp beyond what Atkins and Rudder had said, and the few additional notes from our old friend, Mr. G. B. Witts, in his *Archæological Handbook of Gloucestershire*, except the deplorable fact that quarrying was now going on at one side and gradually encroaching on the fortifications. The camp was irregular in form, following somewhat the shape of the hill, with two banks and a ditch, in size about 600 feet long by 300 feet wide, having an entrance on the south side. The depth of the fosse varied considerably owing to the land having been cultivated in times past. The President further said that it is generally believed that most of the Gloucestershire camps were first occupied by the British and afterwards by the Romans, yet until sections were cut through and scientifically examined no safe opinion could be expressed about any of them.

The excavation of the camps was definite work which he considered should be undertaken by the Society; and this, as well as the investigation of all tumuli yet unopened, and the excavation of Roman villas, might regularly form a part of our programme year by year. At the present time no portion of our subscriptions could possibly be allocated for this work, but there must be many members who would gladly contribute a small additional sum annually towards an "excavation fund."

The next halt was made at Iron Acton, where a visit was made to the Church of St. James-the-Less. The Rector, the Rev. Canon G. R. Browne, gave some interesting particulars regarding the building and the cross in the churchyard, on which he was standing. The history of the Poyntz family is most intimately connected with the place. Sir Nicholas Poyntz came there from Somerset in 1230, and married the only child of Sir John Poyntz, who was living at Acton Court, at the other end of the village, a building of which there are some interesting remains. The grandson, Robert Poyntz, rebuilt the church about 1390 and put

up the memorial cross—it was not a preaching cross, Canon Browne said, but a memorial cross which had been used for preaching on other occasions—in memory of his grandmother, through whom the property came to the family.

The cross has four sides, one for the entrance, the others from which the preacher, standing within, could speak to the surrounding congregation. There is a ledge inside on which he could place a book. The upper part of the cross bears shields with the arms of Robert Poyntz (who died in 1439) and his second wife. There were very few canopied crosses in England, and this was one of the few. The main part of the church was Perpendicular, but there were both Saxon and Early English remains in it. When the former Bishop of Bristol (Dr. Forrest Browne) was in the church he noticed at once a Saxon stone, and pointed out that it had been built into the wall upside down. The Rector also drew attention to a little Queen Anne font, broken long ago and beyond repair, in a corner of the churchyard; and within the church he pointed out the Saxon stone in the side of the porch and showed the fine brass candelabra, the fine old Jacobean pulpit (1624), of which the canopy is perfect, the mosaic pavement, and the Poyntz Chapel, under which members of that family were buried for 350 years.

Miss Ida Roper supplied a few notes on the effigies. There are four in the church, viz. a knight in early plate armour, probably Sir John Poyntz, who died 1376. He inherited the Manor of Iron Acton from his mother, with whom the Acton family came to an end. There are also incised slabs of Robert Poyntz, died 1439, and his wife. He is shown in plate armour. A lady of the early fifteenth century shows an interesting form of head-dress. Her identity is unknown. Outside the church on the parapet of the tower has been placed the upper half of a knight in armour, being all that remains of an effigy connected with the church. The history of this effigy is unknown.

Mr. Mark R. Keedwell had courteously given permission to visit the old Court House at Iron Acton, but time did not allow of this.

Luncheon was served at the Swan Hotel, Wotton-under-Edge. At the table Mr. Goldingham exhibited a fine silver-gilt mace of the eighteenth century, which was the gift of Lord

Berkeley to the Mayor of the old Corporation. It had of late been kept at Berkeley Castle, but when the castle was closed the mace was handed over to the Wotton Town Trustees, by whose permission it was now shown. Mr. Goldingham said that at banquets the head was taken off and the mace-cup filled with champagne. It had not been decided what should be done with the mace. The Charity Commissioners insisted upon its being buried in a bank; but he suggested that possibly it might be deposited on loan in the Bristol Museum if the Committee cared to have it.

A visit was paid to the fine old church with its beautifully-kept churchyard. The Vicar, the Rev. F. H. Greenham, showed the ancient plate, some of it Elizabethan, and the interesting old library over the porch. There are two very fine Berkeley brasses, one (that of the 10th lord, who died in 1417) having, Miss Roper pointed out, the mermaid collar, which is unique. The almshouses and some choice old carved stonework built into the Court House were inspected. On the way from Wotton to Tortworth a few minutes were spared to visit the Kingswood Abbey Gateway and the church, in the vestry of which there are a few fragments of very old glass.

Tortworth Church was the next halting-spot, the party being allowed to drive over private roads in the park. They passed close by the Earl of Ducie's house. At the church the Vicar, the Rev. E. R. Moseley, showed the features, one of which is a monument with the effigy of Sir Thomas Throkmorton, who died in 1607. He is represented with all the details of a highly-decorated suit of armour. He was a grandson of the baronet whose effigy is in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol. Miss Roper, who described the monument, said the tinctures of the shields were wrongly painted; and Lord Moreton, who was present, said he thought that was quite likely, as the painter had also given the cherubs carmine cheeks which had been restored to the original white. Lord Moreton then conducted the visitors to the famous Tortworth sweet chestnut, which marks the manor boundary. The tree is probably about 1,150 years old, judging by its measurement in 1759. It is now about 50 feet in circumference at six feet from the ground. Early in the nineteenth century the tree seemed to take a new lease of life. Evelyn states that it was known in

King Stephen's time as "the Great Chestnut of Tortworth;" and legend says that King John held a council under it whilst hunting in the forest.

Thornbury was reached in time for tea, and a visit to the stately parish church, where the Vicar, Canon Cornwall, conducted members over the building.

The run from Thornbury to Bristol on so beautiful an evening was much enjoyed, there being a clear view of the wonderful panorama afforded by the Severn Valley at Almondsbury.