PROCEEDINGS
AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING AT CHELtenham
on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8th, 9th and
10th July, 1924.

The forty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society
was held at Cheltenham, the previous occasion being in
1905.

A large number of Members assembled at noon in the
Town Hall for the business meeting, including the Very
Rev. the Dean of Gloucester (Henry Gee, D.D., F.S.A.),
Mr. John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., Rev. W. E. Blathwayt,
Mr. H. Goldingham, Mr. W. H. Knowles, F.S.A., Sir
James Bruton, Mr. J. J. Simpson, Colonel J. C. Duke,
Prof. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A. and Mr. Roland
Austin (Hon. General Secretary).

The Hon. General Secretary announced that the retiring
President, Sir Charles Oman, M.P., F.S.A., was unable to
be present and proposed that Mr. J. E. Pritchard be
requested to take the chair.

The Report of Council for the year 1923-4 was read:—


1. Membership. The number of Members at the time of
this report is 674, the highest in the history of the Society.
Since June of last year 68 Members have been elected, 23 have
resigned, and 15 have died. The actual increase in membership,
when compared with the printed list for 1922-3, is therefore 30.

The Council regret to record the death of three Members of
Council:—Colonel W. F. N. Noel (elected member of the Society
in 1902, and of Council in 1913); Dr. William Crooke, a dis-
tinguished authority on Folk-Lore (1901, and 1917); and Mr
H. T. Bruton (1900) who was for many years Local Secretary for Gloucester and latterly held office as Hon. Treasurer.

Other Members whose deaths are noted are Colonel J. F. Curtis Hayward (1904), Mr. Arthur Holborow (1904), Mr. R. I. Tidswell (1904), Rev. F. R. Grenside (1912), Mrs. Godfrey Seys (1905), Major H. Woollright (1900), Mr. Arthur Sutton (1921), and Mr. C. F. Latham, who was elected in April last.

2. Finance. The Accounts for 1923 were duly audited by Mr. J. J. Simpson, and laid before the Council in January. The balance at the beginning of the year was £273 14s. 1d. Subscriptions (597) amounted to £313 8s. 6d.; life subscriptions (2) £14 14s.; entrance fees (65) £7 3s. 6d.; dividends £32 10s.; sale of publications £9 17s.; donations £4 3s.; and interest on deposit account £4 15s.; making a total of £686 10s. 1d.

The expenditure was £461 6s. 8d., and included £342 14s. 3d. for the printing and distribution of volume xli of Transactions; £31 1s. 10d. on the Society’s Library, of which £17 5s. 4d. was spent on books and subscriptions for the publications of societies; £43 7s. 5d. for general printing, postage, travelling expenses, and the purchase of 675 copies of “Year’s Work,” the publication of the Congress of Archaeological Societies; and £44 3s. 2d. was transferred on account of the deficit on the Summer Meeting at Chipping Campden, caused by extraordinary circumstances which it is hoped may never be experienced again. In accordance with the resolution of the Council £100 was invested in Savings Certificates payable in 1928. The Cash balance on the 1st January, 1924, was £125 3s. 5d. The balance sheet shows a surplus of £866 4s. 11d., represented by investment in War Loan £650 (par value on 31st December, 1923), Savings Certificate £100, and the cash balance less £8 18s. 6d. for subscriptions paid in advance.

The Members of the Society will see that the financial position is a satisfactory one. All subscriptions due for 1923 were paid before the close of the year but the Hon. Secretary wishes to point out that such a result—which has been achieved now for seven successive years—is only that of persistent effort, and that Members might lessen this by paying subscriptions directly they are asked for them.

3. Transactions. The Transactions for 1922 (vol. xliiv) issued in June 1923 compares very favourably with previous volumes. The volume for 1923 (xlv) will have been in the hands of Members by the time this report is presented and it is hoped will be found of equal interest and value.
As it seemed desirable to obtain fresh tenders for printing the *Transactions*, the Council asked the Hon. Secretary to get quotations from three firms of repute and after careful consideration the tender of Messrs Wilson, of Kendal, who have printed the volume for the last three years, was accepted. The tender is for a period of three years, and as the charges are considerably less than hitherto there will be consequent benefit to the Society.

4. *Library.* With the assistance of the Hon. Secretary an important addition has been made to the Society's library at Gloucester by the completion of the Calendars of Patent Rolls, Fine Rolls, Close Rolls, Charter Rolls, and other series of Record Publications. Thirty-eight volumes have been purchased. A detailed note of these Calendars, which are of so much importance for the purpose of local history, is printed in the new volume of *Transactions* (xlv, 287).

A copy of the History of the Family of Clutterbuck, compiled by Mr. M. E. N. Witchell, a member of the Society, and Mr. C. R. Hudleston, has been presented by Mr. E. Northam Witchell.

5. *General Meetings.* The arrangements for the annual summer meeting to be held at Chipping Campden in July, 1923, had to be abandoned at the last moment owing to the epidemic of small-pox at Gloucester, but happily its abatement in the succeeding weeks made it possible for the programme to be carried out in September. Unfortunately the change of date interfered with the plans of many Members who would have been present at the original time and seriously affected the attendance, and consequently the finance of the meeting. Otherwise the interest was not less in any way and the pleasure of those present was considerably increased by the fact that the President, Sir Charles Oman, M.P., was able to be with them throughout. The warm thanks of the Society are due to the meeting secretary, Mr. J. J. Simpson, whose trouble and anxiety in preparing for the meeting can really only be appreciated by those who know what an amount of detail and thought is demanded by successful arrangement of such gatherings.

The Spring Meeting of 1924 was held at Bradford-on-Avon, and was attended by a large number of Members who found much to interest them.

6. *Winter Meetings, Bristol.* The following meetings were held, and papers read, at the "Red Lodge," during the winter of 1923-4. The warm thanks of the Society are due to the Bristol "Savages" for permission to use their rooms.

November 19th, 1923. Social evening and exhibition of objects of interest.
November 24th, 1923. Visit to St. Mary Redcliffe Church, under the guidance of Harold Brakspear, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.


Excavations at Sea Mills. By E. K. Tratman, L.D.S.

January 14th, 1924. "Wooden Monumental Effigies in England and Wales." By Alfred C. Fryer, Ph.D., F.S.A.

February 11th, 1924. "John Bowen, the Bristol Delft Artist." By Robert Hall Warren.

March 17th, 1924. "The Roman Army in Britain." By Sir Charles Oman, M.P., President of the Society.

7. Chedworth Roman Villa. In consequence of the decision of Lord Eldon to sell the Stowell Park Estate much anxiety was felt as to the ultimate ownership of the Roman Villa at Chedworth and the announcement made in September, 1923, that it would be acquired by the National Trust was received with satisfaction. The Villa is so important a monument of the Roman occupation of Britain that its preservation is of national concern.

In the "Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard" of the 29th September, 1923, Mr. St. Clair Baddeley announced that he had undertaken to raise at least £500 of the purchase money (£1500), and so successful has he been that the amount aimed at has been exceeded by about £100. At the October meeting of the Council, the first held since the announcement that the National Trust was prepared to take over the Villa, it was decided to issue an appeal to our Members, which was done at once. In response to two communications sent out subscriptions amounting to £201 18. 6d., have been received from 166 members and one or two of their friends. The Council had hoped that a more general response would have been given to the appeal as it is one which should be of direct interest to every member of the Society. About £350 is still required by the National Trust and contributions towards this will be gladly received by the Hon. General Secretary.

8. Chipping Campden Town Hall. In response to the wish of the Chipping Campden Town Trust, Mr. L. W. Barnard, F.R.I.B.A., and the Hon. General Secretary have considered and advised on some contemplated alterations to the Town Hall in consequence of proposals made for the use of the building.

1 Printed in Transactions, xlv, 195-201.
2 Printed in this volume.
3 This is now (June, 1925) reduced to £195.
as a cinema. While recognizing that the income derived from such use would enable the Town Trust to maintain the buildings in their care in a better state our representatives felt bound to report that the proposals would involve alterations to an example of mediaeval building, which, though already adapted to meet modern requirements, should not lose its features of archaeological interest. It was urged that if there were any possible alternative it should be adopted, rather than destroy the character of the building. The Council appreciate the wish of the Trust to consult the Society on this matter and are gratified to learn that the proposals for the conversion of the Hall have been abandoned.

9. Excavations Committee. In the early part of this year excavations of considerable interest were undertaken at Churchdown under the superintendence of Mr. L. W. Barnard, F.R.I.B.A., secretary to the Committee. In the course of levelling ground in the field known as “Chapel Haye” a number of burials of mediaeval date were found, as well as a quantity of building stone which may have some relation to the Church which it is supposed once stood on the site. Substantial portions of a kiln, the base of which was over seven feet from the surface level, were also uncovered. A detailed report prepared by Dr. R. W. Murray, with plan drawn by Mr. Barnard, is printed in the new volume of Transactions (xlv, 277-84). The Committee have granted £20 towards the cost of the labour employed, and grants of £5 have been made for work to be undertaken at Beckford and Duntisbourne Abbots respectively, where investigation may lead to interesting results. The balance to the credit of the fund is now £122 6s., and the Council wish to urge upon members the necessity for its continued support by annual subscriptions, so that when opportunities occur the important work of excavation may be undertaken without undue anxiety.

10. Ancient Monuments. The Council have under consideration a list of Ancient Monuments which it is proposed to recommend to H.M. Office of Works for scheduling under the Ancient Monuments Act, 1913. The list is printed in the Transactions (xlv, 295-7).

11. Council and Committee Meetings. Meetings have been held regularly during the year and the Council wish to express their thanks to the Corporation of Gloucester and to the Trustees of the Bristol Municipal Charities for granting rooms for this purpose.

Mr. L. W. Barnard has been appointed the Society's represen-
tative on the Chipping Campden Town Trust in the place of the late Colonel Noel. Mr. W. H. Knowles, F.S.A., has been elected to a seat on the Council in the place of the late Dr. William Crooke.

12. Nominations for the offices of President, Chairman of Council, Vice-Presidents, Members of Council, and of officers of the Society for 1924-25 are submitted for recommendation to the Annual General Meeting.

The Council also nominate Dr. E. Sidney Hartland for honorary membership of the Society in recognition of his valuable services as Editor of the Transactions and in other ways.

In moving the adoption of the Report the Chairman congratulated the Society on their numbers and expressed the hope that some of the younger Members would join more actively in the work. He also spoke of the importance of excavations being undertaken as opportunity offered and appealed for continued support for the Fund which he had initiated.

Mr. E. J. Burrow seconded the motion and referred to the necessity of the excavation fund being maintained in order to carry out work which might arise at any time. He supported the Chairman's appeal and intimated his pleasure to become an annual subscriber of £5. He mentioned that quite recently a section of the vallum of Leckhampton Camp had been cut through and some Saxon coins found. Two of these, a silver penny of Alfred, and one of Burgred, King of Mercia, are now in Cheltenham Museum.

The Report was approved and adopted.

The Hon. General Secretary read a letter from Earl Bathurst (President-elect) conveying his very great regret that owing to an important debate and division in the House of Lords, which he was pledged to attend, it was impossible for him to be present at the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving that the Rt. Hon. Earl Bathurst be elected President of the Society for the year 1924-5, expressed their regret at his unavoidable absence.
The motion was seconded by Capt. J. H. Trye and carried unanimously.

The Dean of Gloucester presented the recommendation of the Council that under Rule iv Dr. E. Sidney Hartland, LL.D., F.S.A., be elected to honorary membership of the Society in recognition of his eminence in Archaeology and of the services rendered by him to the Society. In doing so he said that those in Gloucester who knew Dr. Hartland had felt the deepest regret that during the last two or three years his health had been growingly indifferent, and now they feared that he was laid aside from active service. They all knew how very much he had been to the Society in days gone by—he had been one of the most active and vigorous members, and they would be ungrateful if they forgot what he did in connexion with the Transactions of the Society. Dr. Hartland had always been ready to give his counsel in any difficult matter, and they had relied very greatly upon his advice, experience and wise counsel. He was better known outside his own county than in it, and he was perhaps the greatest anthropologist of the day. In the British Association and amongst men of science his name was a household word. The least the Society could do to testify to his eminence and the ungrudging services he had rendered for so many years would be to elect him an honorary member.

Prof. H. Hamilton Thompson, in seconding the proposal, said that Gloucestershire should be proud of Dr. Hartland.

The motion having been carried with general acclamation the Secretary was asked, in conveying the resolution to Dr. Hartland, to express the Society's sincere hope for an improvement in his health.

Mr. Roland Austin said he was certain the resolution would give Dr. Hartland the greatest pleasure. During the last few days he had received intimations of similar elections from the Cymmrodorion Society and the Folk-Lore Society.
The nominations of Vice-Presidents, Members of Council, and Officers of the Society, for the ensuing year were submitted. The Chairman expressed the pleasure they all felt that the Dean of Gloucester had consented to fill the office of Chairman of Council, and referred to his interest in the work of the Society during his Presidency.

On the motion of Mr. J. S. G. W. Stroud, seconded by Capt. J. H. Trye, the following nominations were then adopted:

**President:** Right Hon. Earl Bathurst.

**Chairman of Council:** The Very Rev. the Dean of Gloucester (Henry Gee, D.D., F.S.A.).

**Vice-Chairman of Council:** J. J. Simpson.


**Members of Council (for vacancies):** **Bristol:** Rev. R. T. Cole. **Gloucester:** Walter B. Wood. **District not assigned:** Rees Price, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.

**Hon. General Secretary and Editor:** Roland Austin.

**Hon. Secretary for Bristol:** Wilfrid Leighton.

**Hon. Meeting Secretary:** J. J. Simpson.

**Hon. Local Secretaries:**

- **Berkeley:** Rev. W. F. D. Curtoys.
- **Cheltenham:** Lt.-Col. J. C. Duke.
- **Cirencester:** E. C. Sewell.
- **Dursley:** R. H. Penley.
- **Fairford:** Canon R. C. S. Jones.
- **Lydney:** F. S. Hockaday, F.R.Hist.Soc.
Newent: Edward Conder, F.S.A.
Northern: E. A. B. Barnard, F.S.A.
Stroud: Rev. R. J. Burton.
Tewkesbury: F. W. Godfrey.
Wotton-under-Edge: H. Goldingham.

In accordance with notice given as prescribed by the rules the Council recommended the adoption of an alteration in Rule xvi, which had been duly approved at a meeting of Council held on 16th June, 1924, as follows:—

For

There shall not be more than thirty elected Members of Council, a third of whom shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election if they have attended the Meetings of the Council during their tenure of office.

Substitute

There shall be not more than thirty elected Members of Council. A third of such elected Members shall retire annually, of whom one-half, in order of seniority of membership, shall not be eligible for re-election during the ensuing year, unless for any exceptional reason it is desirable in the interest of the Society to re-nominate any one of such Members.

Note.—In accordance with Rule XXIX (c) any change in a Rule which may be carried at a General Meeting will not become operative until it has been confirmed at the next General Meeting.

In formally moving the recommendation the Hon. Gen. Secretary said that for some time it had seemed desirable to alter Rule xvi. It was the general practice of many Societies for a proportion of members of council to retire in rotation and an opportunity was thus given for enlisting the help of new members. A definite retiring rule would prevent any feeling, while it would be noticed that provision was made for retaining the services of any member who there might be special reason to except from the rule.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. J. Simpson, and carried.

The Chairman proposed that the warm thanks of the
Society be conveyed to Sir Charles Oman, M.P., for his services as their President during the past year. He said that they were honoured by Sir Charles' presence throughout the meeting at Chipping Campden and the interest which he showed in their proceedings was a great encouragement.

The Hon. General Secretary moved that the thanks of the Society be expressed to the retiring Chairman of Council, Mr. John E. Pritchard. In doing so he said that Mr. Pritchard had been a member of the Society since 1886, had served on the Council for 26 years, was Secretary for Bristol for 10 years, had held the office of President, and now completed four years work as Chairman of Council. During his long connexion with the Society, Mr. Pritchard had been assiduous in maintaining the high position which had been attained. He had been constant in attendance at meetings, and possessed a thorough grasp of all the details connected with the Society's work.

The motion was seconded by Mr. F. B. de Sausmarez and most warmly received and carried by those present.

Mr. Pritchard thanked Members for their kindness and said that any help he could give the Society was always at their service.

Following the meeting luncheon was served in the supper room at the Town Hall, the Mayor of Cheltenham (Councillor J. M. Dicks), and the Chairman of the Art Gallery Committee (Alderman Clara Winterbotham) being present as guests. The Mayor spoke a few words of welcome to the Society and expressed his pleasure that so much local interest had been taken in the movement for securing the Roman Villa at Chedworth for the Nation. He mentioned that the Cheltenham Town Council had gladly voted a donation of ten guineas towards the purchase fund.

The Hon. General Secretary expressed the thanks of the Society to the Town Council for the practical interest they had shown in the acquisition of the Roman Villa and also to the Library and Art Gallery Committee for bringing the matter before the Council.
### RECEIPTS.

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£686 10 1

Audited and found correct.
10th January, 1924. J. J. SIMPSON.
### BALANCE-SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

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| Total LIABILITIES                                | £875 | 3 | 5 |

#### ASSETS.

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| Total ASSETS                                     | £875 | 3 | 5 |

Examined 10th January, 1924.

J. J. SIMPSON.
REPORT OF ITINERARY.

Tuesday, 8th July, 1924.
(Plates VII–X).

CHELTENHAM.

After lunch the Society visited the Parish Church of St. Mary, Cheltenham, where Mr. T. Overbury, F.R.I.B.A., past churchwarden, read a paper on its architectural features which is printed elsewhere in this volume. Full notes on the history of the Church were written by the late J. Henry Middleton for the Society’s meeting at Cheltenham in 1879, and these, in the form of a paper, are printed in Transactions, iv, 53-72, with a plan and details of mouldings. Mr. Overbury, of necessity, has covered much of the same ground as Mr. Middleton, but as the particular volume mentioned is now very scarce there is good reason for printing once more a survey of the principal points of interest. A detailed history of the Church, by the late John Sawyer, was published in 1903.

In his paper Mr. Overbury dealt very fully with the construction of the nave, and its date, presenting conclusions supporting his opinion that instead of the rebuilding in the fourteenth century which is suggested by earlier writers the north wall is the original Norman wall which had not been rebuilt but was propped up and the arches inserted. Mr. Overbury explained that he had formed an independent opinion and it was only since he had come into the church that day that he had heard of the careful examination which had been made in 1922 by Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, who had formed similar conclusions to those he (Mr. Overbury) now laid before the Members.

Dr. Hamilton Thompson remarked that a considerable amount of the remaining masonry above the arcade seemed to be of the twelfth century in position. He did
not say all of it, but enough to show that it was built in the ordinary way in the north wall of a Norman church. He was of opinion that the round windows were not Norman clerestory windows. There was an example of such windows in a great Norman church, but he did not think there could be any reason in the church in which they were met for such an unusual feature as a Norman clerestory. There was Norman masonry up to a certain height on each side of the windows, it was true, but he considered that all the upper part—the splay, the sill and the segmental arches—were later work, that there was a clerestory inserted in later times, and that there was no such insertion originally.

The views of Mr. St. Clair Baddeley with regard to the nave were published in the Cheltenham Chronicle, of the 7th October, 1922. As they may not have come to the notice of Members generally, and deserve more permanence than their first publication can give, they are now printed here, after revision by Mr. Baddeley.

**Cheltenham Parish Church—The North Clerestory.**

After referring to the late Mr. John Sawyer’s opinion that the North Clerestory windows are of fourteenth century date and that other writers have taken the same view the report says that Mr. Baddeley has made a very careful examination of the evidences bearing on the subject. His impression is that although the clerestory of “plain circular openings deeply splayed” ¹ is carried by an arcade and overwall, obviously of a date towards 1400, such plain round openings with wide splays, under segmental arches, should be dated towards 200 years earlier than the arcade itself over which they here appear. In other words, his view is that the north clerestory is of transitional date c. 1200, and not of the late Decorated period to which it has been hitherto assigned.

¹ Sawyer, Cheltenham Parish Church, p. 74.
Examination of the interior face of the north clerestory wall, which is without colour or plaster, led Mr. Baddeley to the conclusion that there is definite evidence that the pillars with the arcade now supporting it were built in under it at a later date than the entire uppermost section of the wall containing the round windows. For this economic purpose the process of underpinning must, of course, have been resorted to. (Cf. the N. wall of choir at Cirencester). The rebuilding, he thinks, was carried right to the bases of the window-splays, which are flat and wide, and well calculated to give the maximum amount of light from those small windows—an important matter in a period when glass was more or less of a rarity, even in important churches. All the remaining masonry between the keystones of the arches and the clerestory has the character of having been carefully laid and dressed in the fourteenth century. It is both smaller and far more regular; whereas the masonry between the splays is far less regular and contains a good many large stones as was frequently the manner of the earlier builders. Again, that the windows are round, undecorated and so very widely splayed is important evidence as to their early date. The segmental arches over the splays retain a small chamfer of a type quite in keeping with the view that these round windows, in spite of their now modern appearance (due to the restorer) are really ancient, of c. 1200 A.D., and were probably quatre-foliate, but they have been altered to plain rounds. [It appears that Sir Stephen Glynne saw the last quatrefoils actually in them c. 1845].

One fact, obvious to even the most casual observer, is that the upper masonry on this north side of the nave is of an entirely different character to that of the south side, although the latter is carried by pillars and arches of precisely the same Decorated period. On the south side, however, alterations have gone much further. The clerestory there is plainly much later (instead of earlier)
than the arcade supporting it; and if there were no other reason the question would quite naturally arise, why the extreme difference in two clerestories supported by arcades of the same style and period?

Although fairly satisfied with the evidences afforded by the interior view of the church, Mr. Baddeley desired to examine the exterior masonry and bonding on the outer north clerestory, which, by the way, is not anywhere visible from the ground level owing to the very steep ridge of the north aisle roof. After examination of the exterior, no doubt was left in his mind as to the soundness of the opinion he had formed. The uppermost section of the north nave wall belongs to the earlier date, and the round windows and splays belonging to it have merely been treated drastically to a modern restoration or two; no doubt in order to obtain more light for the nave.

Mr. Baddeley has no doubt the windows of the clerestory are, in their present altered state, the remains of the original round transitional windows, the stone frames of which have been used over again, at least in some of the examples here, when the nineteenth century restorations were carried out. Round clerestory windows were more frequent in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, than usually supposed. There exists interesting evidence of such a clerestory (but of still earlier date) embedded on the north side of the nave of Bibury Church. But such clerestories, of course, become richly decorated when they were made in the fourteenth century, though their occurrence then, however, is rarer. For some reasons the mason employed in the fourteenth century (the date of the north arcade at Cheltenham)—underpinned and preserved the whole of this series of round windows, and inserted the

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1 Good datable (c) 1200 examples are those of the choir of Monk Sherborne (Hants,) which was visited last July (1924) by the R.A. Institute and their occurrence was duly noticed by the Members.
new nave arcade below them, probably in place of a ruder and smaller one.¹

The present round windows then are merely the spoiled late twelfth century ones, said Mr. Baddeley. "They may represent Norman predecessors in the still earlier church here, but they have been severely re-treated in situ by the Victorian restorer. That is part of the result, at least to me, of my inspection. I was well able also to satisfy myself up there on the outside. I do not, mind, commit myself yet to say that the stone of each of the four round windows is entirely the original stone frame. Probably it is not. Such a transitional Early English clerestory is always an interesting thing. Here it is contemporary with other work eastward in the church. It is a survival that has been unsuspected."

**ROMAN VILLA, CHERDWORTH.**

In view of the purchase of the Roman Villa at Chedworth by the National Trust, the Hon. General Secretary of the Society (Mr. Roland Austin) had suggested to the Secretary of the Trust that if arrangements could be made for the formal transfer of the Villa at the time of the Summer meeting it would add much to the interest of the occasion. To this, Lord Eldon (the owner of the Villa), and the Council of the Trust, at once agreed. A large number of Members and visitors were present and by special permission of the Hon. Sam Vestey, they were allowed to use the private road leading to the Villa.

In the absence of the President, the Dean of Gloucester directed the proceedings, which he opened by remarking that they all understood the historic character of the occasion, and that owing to the great effort which had been made the very interesting site where they had assembled was now to be handed over to the National Trust, the

¹ Cheltenham Church belonged to the Abbey of St. Mary at Cirencester, whose masons effected an operation like this a little later to the N. Choir wall of the Parish Church of St. John, there.
gentleman to undertake that proceeding being Lord Eldon's representative, Mr. C. G. May.

Mr. May said his duty was the simple one of handing over to the representative of the National Trust the contract for the sale and purchase of that site. He hoped that in the hands of the Trust the buildings and its surroundings would be preserved, as he believed they would be, with the same consideration that had been given them by Lord Eldon. His Lordship had asked him to come down and represent him, and in a sense he had some little claim so to do, because his firm had been connected with Lord Eldon and his predecessors for the last hundred years, and they had been linked with the place and its history for that period. It was with a pang of great regret that Lord Eldon found himself bound to sell, but he felt that in conveying the Villa to the National Trust it was in safe hands. Turning to Mr. S. H. Hamer (secretary of the National Trust), Mr. May handed him the agreement by which the property was transferred, and reminded those present that in so doing on the land to be conveyed he was only following an old custom which prevailed generally until about sixty or seventy years ago of the "delivery over," when the parties attended on the site, and possession was given in the presence of witnesses.

The conveyance to the Trust included the whole of the Roman remains, the large half-timbered house standing in their midst, the museum with its contents, and about seven acres at the rear stretching back to the Railway line.

Mr. S. H. Hamer said it gave him great pleasure, as the secretary and representative of the National Trust, to receive possession of the Villa and its surroundings. In the first place he had to hand to Mr. May the counterpart of the agreement, and he thought they might thereby regard the Roman Villa as safe for all time. On behalf of the Trust, he would like to take the opportunity of expressing their gratitude to Lord Eldon, not only for giving them the
opportunity of acquiring that most delightful spot, but also to him and his representatives for the generosity and kindness with which they had met them on every possible occasion, and made it easy for them so to acquire it. He also thanked the public on behalf of the Trust for the way in which they had contributed to the cost of the purchase of the Roman Villa, first mentioning the efforts of Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, who had done yeoman service in collecting money, and had raised £600 towards the £1,500 required. Then he thanked the members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, who had contributed, in no small degree, to the amount necessary. He hoped they would continue in their efforts, for, as they would hear later on, they had not yet completed the amount required. The general public outside Gloucestershire had also done their part, and he thought it was very encouraging to find the interest that had been manifested in a place of such great historical interest as shown by the large sum of money raised with such comparative ease. Still, he would remind them that of the £1,500 needed there was £360 yet wanted. However, they had not to complete the purchase until October next, so that they had three months in which to raise that sum, and he sincerely hoped the Society would help them to the best of their ability. Some of them might be wondering what was going to be the fate of the Roman Villa in the future. He could only say that the National Trust, having come into possession, as it had that day, would do their utmost to see that it was maintained in the same state of excellent preservation as it had been in the hands of Lord Eldon. He had no doubt the property came within the scope of the working of the National Trust. It was not only a place of great historic interest, but also a place of natural beauty; and it was the duty of the Trust to look after such places committed to their charge, and to keep them as far as possible unspoilt. He felt they had a considerable task in front of them in
following such an owner as Lord Eldon, but they would do their best with the co-operation of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society to keep it in such a state that it should be unspoilt and appreciated by the public for ever.

Mr. J. J. Simpson (Hon. Meeting Secretary) stated that he had that day received a telegram from a Member of the Society who had authorised him to say that he was prepared to find the last £100 wanted to complete the purchase money of the Roman Villa.

Promises of subscriptions towards the balance required were quickly made by Members and others, with the result that about £120 was added to the fund. A list of subscriptions received from members of the Society since the list printed in Transactions, xlv, 307-9, will be found on another page in this volume.

Tea having been served the Dean of Gloucester said it was about 60 years since that site was excavated by Mr. Farrer and had become of such great importance to modern history and research. They were extremely fortunate in having Mr. St. Clair Baddeley with them on that occasion, and seeing that he had done so much in bringing about the happy event that had taken place that day, it would be thoroughly inappropriate if he were not asked to say something about that Roman Villa, its history, and the problems that awaited future excavators.

Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, in his opening remarks, expressed the thanks of all concerned in the endeavour to collect the purchase money for the Villa to the Press, both metropolitan and local, for their great assistance in giving publicity to the object they had in view. He also mentioned the interest shown by the Directors of the Great Western Railway, who had made a liberal donation to the fund.

The acquisition of that Villa had been a very old ambition of his. It had always seemed to him from
travelling on the Continent, and seeing what they possessed in France and Germany, that we had in England some things that our neighbours had not got, and even some things that Italy itself had not got. There were five different classes of structure, which, roughly speaking, represented the Roman Empire in her provinces. As regarded one of these, we had the best of all naval stations in our nine-acre Porchester, whose walls were still standing almost complete. Secondly in the great wall in Northumberland we had a representative Roman construction, made by Hadrian and his Legionaries, 78 miles in length, which is a unique monument. Then it always seemed to him, even as it had seemed to his friend, the late Professor Haverfield, that this country ought to possess a villa to represent the third type of Roman structure, and that as fate had been unkind to us in the case of Woodchester Chedworth was by far the best remaining example. Just over a mile from that spot there had stood at the same time that Chedworth villa was flourishing a magnificent villa of probably larger extent at Withington, mosaics from which had been in the British Museum since 1816. At Listercombe, just over a mile on the other side, evidences of another villa were found in 1761. Thus the Whiteway road carried, no doubt, the produce, not only from that estate in Chedworth, and from the villas he had mentioned, but from the Wadley and Winchcombe group, right beyond Hawling and Roel to their central market at Roman Corinium, the second largest town in Roman Britain.

What did those ancient people do here? The problem was easy to state, having so much of the building and the site in front of them. The old name of that place was Forcombe and it looked out on the valley of the Coln due east, the position being so exposed that twice within recent years crops of potatoes were cut off by frost comparatively late in July. Why then had such a site been
selected? Two or three salient points in its earlier history could be mentioned.

In the first place two hundred yards north-west from that spot there was a Bronze Age round barrow from which earthenware, typical of the (?) eighth century before Christ had been taken (now in the Museum). In the second place, when during the war a large part of Withington Wood was cut down by Lord Eldon there became revealed an unregistered long barrow dating c. 1800 years before Christ, probably of about the same age as Stonehenge. Thirdly, in a wood immediately beyond them there survived an old name dear to the Celtic mind, Holywell Wood, with its sacred spring, which time out of mind may have been associated with tribal people in the inspiring cult which still fascinated certain village folk for flowing water. In addition to all this there was in the rising ground behind them a bed of the invaluable Fuller’s Earth, which in the Oolite system indicated a sure place for finding pure water. All these elements together indicated that long before some Roman-British magnate selected that place as the site of a sporting villa, and long before a later owner or owners made deliberate additions for the purpose of something like industrial manufacture, it must have been a place with sacred associations and one solemnly connected with the burials of ancient chiefs.

The western, or main wing of the villa contains a triclinium with two distinct pavements of fine quality. It may have been divided by a simple curtain. Beside it occur three small rooms (?) bedrooms) and outside passage leading to a complete set of baths and furnace with stokehole. After a bare space of a few yards this wing terminates with a fine nymphaeum: set diagonally and having an apsidal end, it contains an octagonal basin still sound and full of water.

From this N.W. nymphaeum and its reservoir the actual north wing commences in another unexpected manner
with a fresh or second furnace system to which are immediately attached a capital pair of deep-stepped vats; thick-lined (when found in 1865) with opus signinum cement. A second pair of these divided by a stone-paved square tank likewise stepped and doubtless used for rinsing immediately occurs to their N. Both vats and furnaces, at right angles to one another, have had their access from an oblong room raised on a platform, which, in turn, was flanked towards the court or garden of the villa by a long colonnade. Next, adjoining them, occur evidences of two well-preserved apsidal and heated chambers of some size, thus completing the north side of the main court. Originally, the North wing may well have terminated here opposite the eastern alley of that court. However, the wing (as reconstructed) immediately takes up eastward with a series of twelve more rooms, all of them evidencing hypocausts and extending upwards of seventy yards further. Moreover, though the actual floors are wanting, their unusually closely packed pilae are not made, as generally they are, of square tiles, but of hard little monoliths of free-stone, as though intended to resist any degree of heavy pressure from above the floors and leading to the conjecture that the whole of this wing was devoted to purposes dependent upon the vat-and-furnace-system seen at its head (north-west). Possibly, therefore, it indicates some local industry that may have had relation to the market-town of Corinium (Cirencester) to which a neighbouring Roman way (White or Wiggold way) leads direct at eight miles. Cloth was freely exported from Britain in the fourth century.

Of the south wing there remain distinct walls of at least seven rooms; and probably a thorough exploration will some day reveal further features there.
CHEDWORTH.

(Explanation of Professor Haverfield’s Plan).

(1)  
i. Open court or garden.
ii. Corridor along west side of court i.
iii. do. along south side of i.
iv. do. along east side of i.

(2)  
v. Porter’s lodge?
vi-ix. South wing of house.

(3)  
x-xx. Central block (residential rooms).
xi. Triclinium (dining-room).
xii. Lararium? (tutelary shrine).
xiii-xv. Bedrooms? (xiii., warmed, was the best bedroom).
xvi-xx. Suite of baths.
xvi. Undressing room (tepidarum).
xvii. Hot-room (sudatorium).
xviii. do. hotbath in apse.
xix. Furnaces—next, a woodstore.
xx. Room with a cold bath in it.

(4)  
xxi. A corridor.
xxii. A large hall (23 by 59 ft.), perhaps not walled, but columned on south side.
xxiii. Large room, decorated and warmed.
xxiv. Apsidal room, with channelled hypocaust.
xxv. Hot-room, with strongly pillared hypocaust (for drying, or perhaps pressing).
xxvi. Small open court in front of fulling rooms.
xxvii. Two fulling rooms, each with a tank.
xxviii. Woodstore, for furnaces of xxvii [Iron block found here now in Museum].
xxix. Perhaps nymphaeum or a shrine, with water-tank.

xxx-xxxviii. North wing, possibly for various processes, such as bleaching, pressing, combing, smoothing cloth?

Not yet discovered are:—Stables, barns and farm-buildings, also latrines.

N.B.—Some rooms and the upper storey may have been constructed of wood and have wholly vanished.
ROMAN VILLA, CHEDWORTH.

Plan prepared by the late Professor Haverfield.
Mr. Baddeley went on to give a detailed description of the development of the villa and his reasons for believing that from its original state as a place of residence and sport it became enlarged and adapted to some industrial purposes such as fulling, dyeing and weaving. In conclusion, he stated that this was the only villa of which it may be said we possess the name of an owner. In 1865 there was found an inscribed silver spoon, which was, however, at no period, in the Museum. It was pronounced by Sir Aug. Franks to be unique when (?) 1865-6, it went to London. Unfortunately, it cannot be found, and may still be in someone’s collection there. It had a swan-neck handle, and a length of 2½ inches. He hoped it would come to light and be included in the National Trust inventory. That spoon bore in its bowl the words "Censorine gaudeas"—"May you be happy, O Censorinus"—and he ventured to think nothing so personal as that would have been found there unless it had been a present to the Owner. The name of Censorinus was well-known as occurring frequently in the third or fourth century, and this bearer of it probably had his town house at Corinium, while at his villa at Chedworth he was in close touch with that marvellous system of roads which county councils and even railway companies might regard with real respect. He mentioned the great system of posting and transport along the Roman roads, because the Society was going to visit the following day what doubtless had been once an important Roman posting-station on the Irmin-street at Birdlip. While on the subject of roads he said there were still some authorities who persisted in mending their roads from the top, instead of building them up from the bottom, as the Romans did, and he hoped those who had any influence in such matters would do their best to correct that mistake.

In the evening the Mayor of Cheltenham and Mrs. J. M. Dicks gave a reception to Members and a number of
visitors at the Art Gallery and Museum. Much interest was shown in the exhibits of local antiquities and also in the art collections, for which Cheltenham is becoming so well known.

Wednesday, 9th July.

Leckhampton, Badgeworth, Birdlip, Elkstone, North Cerney and Coberley.

Leckhampton Court.

Leaving Cheltenham at 9-30 a.m., the first visit was to Leckhampton Court, by invitation of Mrs. C. H. Elwes, where Captain J. H. Trye gave some particulars as to its history from the time when the Manor of Leckhampton came into the possession of the Norwood family, who lived there for some three hundred years. The Giffards held the Manor before the Norwoods, to whom it passed through the marriage of Eleanor Giffard to John Norwood, who died in 1509.

There is no definite date as to the building of the Court, though the old banqueting hall is considered to be fourteenth century work. Over a door at the garden end of the south wing the initials J.B. and the date 1582 are carved. The north wing, comprising the library, was built about 1625 and destroyed by fire on the 5th January, 1732. The engraving in Atkyns' Glostershire (1712), p. 530, shows it as it was originally, and another in Griffiths' History of Cheltenham (1826), p. 107, illustrates the re-building after the fire, though this was again re-constructed in the nineteenth century. There is an interesting carving of an angel holding a shield let into the west wall of the north wing, which is late fourteenth century work.

John Norwood, mentioned above, was descended from the family originally settled at Munster in the Isle of
Sheppey, temp. Henry II, where there are some fine monuments, and also at Milton, near Sittingbourne (Kent), where a tabard brass (Haines, *Brasses*, ii, 105) commemorates another John Norwood, who died 1496. William Norwood (d. 1632) was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and also lord of the manor of Cheltenham. Another member of the family who occupied a prominent place in affairs in the seventeenth century was Colonel Henry Norwood, one of the early voyagers to Virginia, and of whom some particulars are in preparation.

At the end of the eighteenth century the last of the Norwoods died and the Manor of Leckhampton passed to the Trye family, who for generations had lived at Hardwicke Court near Gloucester.

Captain Trye referred to the fact that originally Leckhampton was divided into two manors¹ and that for long there had been a controversy whether the old village of Leckhampton lay down by the Moat, or along the road towards the main Leckhampton road. The truth seemed to be that there were two parts of the village, all the things belonging to one manor being down by the Moat, and those belonging to the other manor in the other direction indicated.

In connection with the age of the house Mr. Hamilton Thompson expressed the opinion that there was not the faintest doubt that the large hall, with its mullioned windows traceried in the fourteenth century style was of original construction dating from that century, and that it was in the right place for that period.

**Leckhampton Church.**

A detailed description of the Church before its restoration in 1866-8 was written by the late Mr. J. H. Middleton and printed in our *Transactions* (iv, 14-16), where it is

¹ Leckhampton and Leckington. Fosbroke's *Gloucesteshire*, ii, 377-80 gives the descent of both. Ed.
mentioned that an earlier re-construction took place about 1830. The principal interest now lies in the effigies of the Giffards (c. 1327) and of an ecclesiastic in the church, and others in the churchyard. The effigies of Sir John and Lady Giffard are illustrated (plate vi) by the late Mr. Albert Hartshorne in his article in *Transactions*, iv, 231-47, and all are described in detail in volume xxv, 258-63. Particulars of the brass (1632) to William and Elizabeth Norwood are given in Davis' *Brasses of Gloucestershire*, pp. 181-5. The Norman font, with barrel-shaped bowl and cable ornament, is illustrated by Dr. A. C. Fryer in *Transactions*, xxxiv, 204.

The moated enclosure on the north-west side of the church is of irregular shape, having five sides of different dimensions. Its greatest length is 80 yards, and its greatest breadth 50 yards. The moat averages 20 feet in width, and on the outside is a bank, in some places four feet high, which would seem to have been continued all round the enclosure. The central mound is nine feet above the water in the moat. In 1881 a considerable number of stones were found by the edge of the moat on the east side, as if forming the foundation of a bridge. There are corresponding foundations on the other side of the moat, with remains of a paved road, six feet wide, leading from the direction of the church.

Dr. G. A. Cardew offers the opinion (*Transactions*, xxi, 64-5) that it is probably pre-Saxon. A bibliography of articles and references to Leckhampton is printed in *Proceedings Cotteswold Club*, xxi, 188-9.

**Badgeworth Church.**

Mr. L. W. Barnard described the principal features of the Church, which is noted for its Decorative work, attributed to the munificence of the De Clare family in the fourteenth century, when the manor was owned by them. The ball-flower ornament, which was almost
exclusively confined to the fourteenth century, is particularly beautiful in this church, especially on the windows in the north aisle and the north porch. Mr. Hamilton Thompson pointed out that the latter resembled the work in sandstone at Leominster Church. At Badgeworth the freestone was used. There is some good fourteenth century glass in the spherical triangles of the head traceries of the north aisle windows.

On the occasion of the visit of the Society in 1888 the Rev. Ellis Viner, then rector, read some interesting notes on the history of the manor, and the church, which are printed in Transactions, xiii, 63-8. On leaving the church Members were invited by Mr. Alexander Moore to see the grounds of Badgeworth Court.

**Birdlip.**

Lunch was taken at the George Hotel, Birdlip, where the proprietor had arranged a number of Roman remains which he has found from time to time in the grounds. After luncheon Mr. St. Clair Baddeley gave an address in the hotel garden on the Roman *Cursus Publicus*, the road system of the Roman Empire.

**The Roman Transport System.**

Mr. St. Clair Baddeley remarked that he ventured to adumbrate at the meeting at Chedworth that something might be said at Birdlip on Wednesday in regard to a very little written about yet most important correlative in the Roman military organisation, known as the "Cursus Publicus," or the post and transport system of the Empire. By means of this system anyone could send a letter from Britain to Rumania, Dalmatia, Syria or any other country ruled by Rome. It was, in fact, a sensitive part of that wondrous, prosaic machinery, which made Rome socially, legally, representatively, and geographically the greatest empire in the world's ancient history. The *Cursus*
Publicus had its origin in the exceedingly interesting courier system which Julius Cæsar had used in his wars. They all knew that the thing which distinguished Cæsar above his fellows was the lightning-like rapidity with which he put into action the plan or thought that fully matured in his brain. He dropped suddenly upon the Gaulish Kings at moments when they thought they were completely safe, and he crossed the Alps and Pyrenees in a manner in which he had been merely imitated by Napoleon. What enabled him to do this was his effective courier system. His scouts on horseback were used purely for military purposes, but their effective use in this capacity led to the creation of posting-stations at different points on the Roman roads, and to the appointment of officials to check the passports and obtain the identities of those who were travelling by licence along the roads, whether for trading or for pleasure.

It thus came about that on all the great roads of the Empire stations of this description were established, about five miles apart. These mansiones or stations must not be confused with the military stations of the Empire; they were purely transport stations. They were organised and presided over by an equestrian official called Praefectus Vehiculorum, who made his reports to the Emperor.¹ A four-wheel wagon could (in good weather) quite well go 25 Roman miles in a day, thus passing five stations, while a man on horseback might take eight stations or cover forty or even fifty miles a day. The system was matured all over his favourite Gaul, by the Emperor Claudius, who invaded Britain, and under whom transport and letter-post became an elaborate organisation. At places like Birdlip, where, from the

¹The sub-officials consisted of (1). Tabularii and Commentarii: i.e. secretaries and accountants: (2). Mancipes, or inspectors, and procuratores, or overseers; stationarii, or station-masters; hippocomi, or grooms; fabræi or smiths; and carpentarii: carpenters; muliones: drivers or stallers of three beasts a-piece and a staff of servi, or slaves.

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Roman remains lately found in the grounds of the George Hotel, no doubt one of these posting stations was set up, officials of various grades, including clerks and accountants, were employed to take particulars of all the traffic, such as the number of chariots, horsemen, muleteers, etc., passing through the station, together with the descriptions and the weight of the baggage in course of transit. Even veterinary-surgeons (milomedi) were kept at the larger ones. So keen and business-like were the Romans in carrying out their Cursus Publicus that the system in time comprised a complete network of the roads of the Empire. It also included the waterways. Boats were provided and there were ports on the rivers. That went on throughout the second and third centuries, when they came to the Emperor Diocletian, who undertook enormous reforms of the Cursus Publicus throughout the Empire. By way of illustrating the value of this service it might be seen how the Roman road up Birdlip Hill differed from the modern cut made in 1731, and how vastly superior and easier was the gradient of the former than the latter—it being shown from the cuttings still visible in the fields below, how the steepest part of the ascent near the top of the hill had been originally avoided by means of a characteristic Italian zig-zag, instead of going up, as now, so much more direct.

Some thirty or forty years ago there was found in the Forest of Dean a beautiful coin of the reign of the Emperor Nerva, the founder of the (non-military) colony at Glevum. The coin had a special interest to them in connection with the transport system, then specially improved, in Italy, by reason of the inscription upon it—Vehiculatione Italiae Remissa—telling them as this did, that the Romans of that day were very grateful to Nerva for having reduced the taxation on road traffic. It was also interesting to note that it was on the Nerva coinage that the word “vehiculatione” was first used in Latin.
On the front of the coin was the face of the Emperor Nerva, while on the reverse were two mules with their saddles taken off, feeding, and with the inscription mentioned, showing that the Cursus Publicus was in full use in his day. This system went on, sometimes in good and sometimes in bad order, reflecting the good or bad reigns, until the third century, when further great reform was made in the Cursus Publicus by Maximian, colleague of the Emperor Diocletian.

**Elkstone.**

Elkstone Church has been visited on more than one occasion but its peculiar interest always repays further study. The Rev. T. S. Tonkinson, who received Members, has compiled (1919) an account of the manors and the church which presents their history in a very concise form. The church has been the subject of detailed accounts in *Transactions*, iv, 36-41, and xx, 241-4.

There is much late Norman work in the nave and chancel, the east window of the latter being richly decorated. The original Norman doorway in the south porch (early English) has a fine tympanum (illustrated *Transactions*, iv, 38, and described in Keyser’s *Norman Tympana* (1904), p. 14, fig. 11), showing Christ in Majesty. Mr. Tonkincsn has extracted some curious entries from the parish register and among them is a record in 1687 of a figure of Saturn “recently painted in our church” which so much offended the eye of the rector of the time that he defaced it. Over the chancel is a chamber which has given rise to speculation as to its purpose but it is evident that it has been used as a columbarium, the walls being pierced with pigeon holes. This is not so unusual a feature as may appear, for there are examples at Great Yarmouth, Collingham Ducie (Wilts.), and Overbury (Worcs.). The corbel table outside the nave presents some curious carvings of animals and other figures.
From negative lent by J. Henry Thomas, Esq.

EAST WINDOW OF CHANCEL, ELKSTONE CHURCH

Facing page 51
In describing the church Mr. Tonkinson suggested the date of the tower as being about 1380, from the fact that it bears the coats of arms of Sir Nicholas Poyntz (a former patron and lord of the manor) and his wife Maud de Acton, and to whom he thought its building, to replace the former central tower, was due. The original windows were replaced in the thirteenth century, only one small Norman lancet window remaining on the north side. The ancient north door was closed since 1634, for in the parish registers under that date was an appropriation of seats to the parishioners, some being "above" and some "below" the north door. The wonderful south door was originally on the north side, and the present porch was enlarged to receive it. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Tonkinson gave a list of field names and other local names in the parish, and suggested that a study of these names would throw a good deal of light on parish history. He also suggested that the Roman Villa at Com bend would well repay investigation.

[Notes on remains uncovered in 1779 at Comb End farm, in a field known as Stockwoods, were read to the Society of Antiquaries by Samuel Lysons on 8th May, 1789. A "very considerable building" was found and a pavement in a room 56 feet long by 14 feet wide is mentioned. Other remains were found near the Villa in 1787 though it appears that no one competent to make a plan, or to note details, was present. Lysons says that some two hundred cart loads of stone were used for building purposes. *Archæologia*, ix, 319-22, pl. xx. Editor].

Dr. Hamilton Thompson said the plan of the church, with its small chancel, tower space and nave was more common in Gloucestershire than in many parts of England. With regard to the present tower, he thought 1380 too early a date to ascribe to it. From the character of the work he should be inclined to date it about 1450, and although Sir Nicholas Poyntz and his wife might have
From negative lent by J. Henry Thomas, Esq.

NORMAN DOORWAY, SOUTH PORCH, ELKSTONE CHURCH

Facing page 52
started the fabric fund, he doubted whether they were alive when the tower was completed. Referring to the very rich Norman work in the church, such work was often very much antedated, and he did not think any part of it was earlier than the decade between 1160 and 1170, which was probably the date of the rebuilding of the church.

The Society's thanks are due to their member, Mr J. Henry Thomas, for lending negatives of his beautiful photographs of the tympanum and the east window at Elkstone for reproduction.

**North Cerney.**

This was the first occasion of North Cerney being included in any itinerary of the Society. The Rector, the Rev. E. W. M. O. de la Hey kindly prepared the following notes for the programme.

This church is cruciform in plan, and has a south porch, and a tower at the west end of the nave. It is partly Norman—the doorway, the western end of the chancel, and the lower part of the tower. The belfry stage of the latter was added towards the end of the twelfth century. Later on, the Norman chancel was greatly lengthened. The Perpendicular work comprises the transepts and the walls of the nave—raised and embattled. The "saddleback" or gabled top of the tower is due to the cutting down of the original four square summit, following a disastrous fire, apparently in the fifteenth century. The south doorway of the nave is Norman, and has tympanum and lintel, both profusely diapered with the star ornament. The ironwork of the door should be noticed, as it includes a charming "closing" ring. The stone pulpit, fifteenth century, is very beautiful with its bands of deeply undercut lily ornament, which has a striking resemblance to the ornament of the west doorway at Magdalen College, Oxford. The stem is graceful, and the details of the five
compartments exceedingly good. There is much good fifteenth century glass in both transepts. On the outside south transept wall is an incised manticore, which covers several large stones.

The Mantichora is described by Pliny on the authority of Ctesias, who says that this animal was found among the Ethiopians. "It has a triple row of teeth, which fit into each other like those of a comb, the face and ears of a man, and azure eyes, is of the colour of blood, has the body of a lion, and a tail ending in a sting, like that of a scorpion. Its voice resembles the union of the sound of the flute and the trumpet; it is of excessive swiftness, and is particularly fond of human flesh."

Besides the structural items referred to, there are many articles of church furniture, etc., which the church owes to the munificence of certain people, amongst those being members of the Croome family, who converted the south transept from a family pew to its original use as a chapel. These include varied antique candelabra, a fifteenth century wood image (French) of the Virgin, with contemporary pricket candlesticks and modern crucifix to match; a French processionial cross, believed to date from the early part of the fifteenth century; a pair of seventeenth century altar candlesticks; a modern cross designed from this pair of candlesticks—this cross containing a gem of seventeenth century enamel; a very fine brass eagle lectern, said to be of the fifteenth century, on a contemporary wrought iron stand. There is an unusually handsome cross in the churchyard, the head of which—in the form of a Maltese cross—is older than the fifteenth century base and shaft, and was found and placed there some years ago.

In the church the Rector added to the information already prepared, in the course of which he said the building was not the earliest on the site, for foundations
MANTICORE, NORTH CERNEY CHURCH

From a photograph by J. Goodenough Taylor, Esq.
had been found of a much smaller church. He referred to the important events in the history, viz., the fire, of which there was no record, but which took place probably in the fifteenth century, and led to the rebuilding of a part of the church; and next, the rebuilding of the chancel in 1730. They knew the history of the latter event. There was a dispute about the patronage of the living, which became vacant for five or six years, and the churchwardens, receiving the income, used it to rebuild the chancel and to re-pew and re-pave the church. Therefore the chancel did not contain much of ancient interest, though the lower part of the walls seemed to be old walls, and there remained a part of the ancient priest's door. Among the external points of interest were (1) what looked like a holy water stoup on the south wall of the south transept, but which was really part of an ancient dial; (2) the consecration crosses in the south transept and (3) the strange incised beasts, viz., the manticore in the south transept wall, referred to above, and the leopard on the south west corner of the tower. Of the date and origin of these he should be glad to receive information. They seemed to be rather late mediæval work. There were two chapels in the parish, one at Woodmancote and the other at Calmsden, and both were in ruins at the end of the thirteenth century. Turning to the interior of the church, the Rector pointed to a three-light blocked up window over the chancel arch, the window being filled up by the raising of the chancel roof in 1730. There was a curious panel space between the base of the window and the crown of the chancel arch, but he could offer no explanation of what that space implied. An unusual feature in addition to the "squin" from the north transept (or St. Catherine's Chapel) to the chancel, was a passage on the other side of the church leading from the south transept (or Lady Chapel) to the chancel. This was discovered and reopened by Mr. and Mrs. Croome during the
beautifying of the Lady Chapel referred to above, and at
the same time the door and steps to the rood loft were
reopened and replaced. Besides the high altar, there
were formerly in the church altars to St. Catherine and
Our Lady, and in the fifteenth century a sheep was left
by will to each of the three. During recent alterations,
the original altar slab, dated about 1145, was discovered.
It had the five consecrated crosses on it practically
untouched. It is now replaced. The pulpit, date about
the middle of the fifteenth century, was one of the glories
of the church.

COBERLEY, OR CUBBERLEY.

The last visit of the day was to Coberley, where the
Rev. W. B. Atherton and Mrs. Atherton welcomed
Members and most kindly invited them to take tea in the
rectory grounds. In describing the church the Rector
said that with the exception of the tower and a small
portion of the south wall, it has been entirely rebuilt from
the designs of the late Mr. J. H. Middleton, of Cheltenham,
but fortunately retains some interesting features. On
the east and south sides of the exterior are some remains
of walls, all that are left of old Coberley Hall, sketched by
Ravenhill in 1791, and, according to Bigland, pulled
down soon after, and rebuilt on a smaller scale and in a
different style nearer the road. The old house was the
home of the Berkeley, the Bridges, Chandos, and Castle-
man families, probably sheltering for a time Dick Whitt-
tington before he became famous. On the exterior of the
south chapel wall is a scratch dial, and close to it a
quatrefoil opening with ball flower ornament, the remains
of what appears to be another dial on the corner stone,
possibly another on the buttress of the porch, and a large
one on the tower. On the buttresses of the tower are the
arms of the Berkeleys of Coberley (a fess between three
martlets). Sir Thomas Berkeley rebuilt the church about
1330. In the south chapel on a modern altar tomb, are two effigies, moved from the chancel, of a Berkeley and his wife, and at their side that of a child. There is another effigy under a piscina for the lady chapel altar in the corner. The east window of this chapel is unfortunately blocked by the organ. A shield of arms, described by Davis in *Gloucestershire Brasses*, p. 211-13, is all that remains of a brass to Sir Giles Bruges (Brydges), c. 1511. On the west wall is a fine marble monument to members of the Castleman family (1677-1712). Two interesting carvings inserted in the sanctuary wall on the north and south respectively, are mentioned by Bloxam, in the eleventh edition of his *Ecclesiastical Architecture* (1882). The carving of the Crucifixion was then lying loose in the chancel, and the heart burial is mentioned as in the north wall, whereas it is now in the south.

The effigies of the Berkeleys are described in *Transactions*, iv, 43-4 with illustration, and in more detail in xxv, 252-7. There is also a plate in Lysons' *Gloucestershire Antiquities* (1803) and in Bigland's *Collections*, i, 407.

**Cheltenham College Museum.**

By permission of the Headmaster and Council of Cheltenham College the Museum was open to Members in the evening. Mr. C. I. Gardiner, F.G.S., one of the College staff, very kindly received them, and after describing the specimens, exhibited a series of lantern slides representing the evolution of English Gothic architecture.

**Bishop's Cleeve.**

A full description of the Parish Church of St. Michael, which is one of the finest in Gloucestershire and has many points of great interest, was written by the late Mr. J. H. Middleton and printed in *Transactions*, iv, 248-69, while notes recapitulating this paper with additions are in
Detailed accounts of the effigies, with illustrations, will be found in volumes iv, 243, and xxix, 232-9. The Rev. E. C. Hanson published in 1922 a brochure giving a great deal of information relating to the church, and these contributions make it unnecessary to refer in detail to the plan and construction of the building.

Members were received by the Rector, Rev. N. M. Morgan-Brown, and Mr. Hanson, both of whom drew attention to special features of the church.

Of the original twelfth century church there remain the west end, with its striking Norman turrets and finely carved doorway, a part of the nave arcade, the south porch, north transept, part of the base of the tower, and the west wall of the south transept. Considerable changes were made in the fourteenth century, the aisles being rebuilt and enlarged, part of the south transept rebuilt, and also the whole of the chancel, which is seen to-day unaltered since that time. Over the south porch is a Parvise which was once used as a schoolroom, the walls bearing traces of drawings and a list of the subjects taught. The church was originally divided by a rood screen, the nave and aisle being reserved for the people, and the eastern part for the college.

The nave was altered early in the sixteenth century, alternate pillars being removed and the present flat wide arches inserted.

The Jacobean gallery is a fine example of its period.

Some years ago a careful restoration was carried out by the late Mr. Henry Prothero, to whom tribute was paid for his conservative treatment of the church.

Dr. Hamilton Thompson said Bishop's Cleeve had a church which really needed an elaborate architectural monograph with some good coloured diagrams. As to its history, they knew there was a quasi-monastic establishment or community of clerks there in early Saxon times imputed to King Offa of Mercia at the end of the eighth
century. This probably came to an end at the time of the Danish invasions, when so many of the monasteries were sacked. He felt certain that from the beginning the present church was simply an ordinary parish church. Bishop’s Cleeve throughout the Middle Ages was one of the wealthiest rectories in England, and was held by a number of rather celebrated clerks, among whom was John de Bryane, elder brother of Reginald de Briane, Bishop of St. David’s (1350) and of Worcester (1352-61), and of Sir Guy de Briane (d. 1390) who was buried at Tewkesbury.

On the subject of the interesting chamber over the south porch, Dr. Thompson remarked that such chambers were sometimes called “parvises,” but he thought the name inaccurate. “Parvise” or “paradisus” was really the churchyard, and it was only in the latter part of the Middle Ages that the term was applied to a church porch, because a good deal of business was wont to be done there instead of in the space around the church. For the use of the word for the room above the porch they had only to go back to the last century. It was, however, one of those words which had become sacrosanct because it had a sort of holy sound, although it had no real authority. The speaker laid stress on the beautiful western gallery, of richly carved time-blackened oak, because these things had been so ruthlessly destroyed. People were apt to attribute everything to the Reformation and to the Puritans, but there had been infinitely more destruction wrought during the so-called “Gothic revival.” That gallery was just a local example of a work of art retained, and he regretted that it seemed too insecure for use now, although it was a very charming memorial of the past.

Mr. F. B. de Sausmarez remarked that the gallery would have been swept away but for the late Mr. Prothero, architect, of Cheltenham, a former member of their Society.
Mr. T. Overbury said Mr. Prothero was acting for the restoration, and those in authority were very anxious to remove the gallery. He actually saw the letter in which Mr. Prothero said he would immediately resign his position as architect if they insisted on the removal of the gallery, and that he would raise such public protest that they would be obliged to desist.

John de Bryane was a famous pluralist. Particulars of his many preferments are given by Dr. H. J. Wilkins in his *Westbury College* (1917), pp. 68-9, and by Dr. Hamilton Thompson in *Transactions*, xxxviii, 133. He appears to have claimed collation to the benefice of Bishop’s Cleeve before 1366, for on 22nd January in that year a petition was presented to Pope Urban V on behalf of Richard of Drayton, who had been confirmed in his acceptance of the church, and collated, in 1361 (*Papal Petitions*, i, 320, 322).

This is as follows:—

Petition to the Pope by the prince and princess of Aquitaine and Wales. On behalf of Richard of Drayton who, by virtue of a grant from Innocent VI of a benefice in the gift of the bishop of Worcester, accepted the church of Bishop’s Cleve then void, but which John of Bryan, under pretext of collation by the ordinary, has detained, and against whom, on appeal to the pope, Richard has obtained two sentences in the papal palace; wherefore, since at the time of the pretended collation John had the church of Hattefield and four or five canonries and prebends, and as the pope detests plurality of benefices, and especially of those which are incompatible, he is prayed to remove John from the said church and to make provision of it anew to Richard, notwithstanding that he has a canonry and prebend of St. John’s, Beverley. Granted and resign all except the prebend of St. John’s and we deprive John of the said church.

Avignon, 11 kal. Feb.
On 13 June, 1374, Bryane was presented to the church of Bishop’s Cleeve, then in the king’s gift by the bishopric of Worcester being void (Cal. Patent Rolls, Edw. III, xv, 455), and on the 18th June was absolved from the “care and rule of his church and parishioners” (Worcester Register, Sede vacante, Worcs. Hist. Soc., p. 308) and instituted on 25th June (ibid.). He held the living until his death on 4 February, 1389 (Hardy’s Le Neve’s Fasti, ii, 163). The date is given by Clutterbuck (Hertfordshire, ii, 363) as 26th May, 1389, but in view of the presentation of Cleeve to Thomas Marton on 22nd February, 1389 (Cal. Patent Rolls, Richard II, iv, 17) the earlier date appears to be correct.

Dr. H. J. Wilkins has printed some very interesting extracts (Westbury College, pp. 19-32) from the register of Bishop Giffard of Worcester concerning the attempt of the Bishop to make certain churches, including that of Bishop’s Cleeve, prebendal to Westbury College. The Bishop was so anxious to annex these churches that he actually made some of them prebendal before an answer to his petition to the Pope had been given. Commissioners were appointed to consider the claim of the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the rights of institution to these churches during a vacancy in the See of Worcester, and to the losses which they would sustain if these churches were made prebendal to Westbury. The claim was upheld and Giffard’s scheme frustrated.

Postlip.

At Postlip, the Hall, by permission of Mrs. Muir, and the little Norman chapel, were visited, under the guidance of Mr. S. H. Healing. The chapel has undergone a very careful restoration, after having, for many years, been in a dilapidated and neglected condition. Some notes by J. L. Petit in 1847 (Archaeological Journal, iv, 99, with illustration of the exterior and details of chancel arch, etc.)
describe its state at that time. Drawings of the chapel made by Miss M. Pearson in 1861 are reproduced in the volume of the Anastatic Drawing Society for that year (plates 19 and 20). The following particulars of the Hall and the chapel are contributed by Mr. S. H. Healing.

The Hall.

Postlip Hall is about five miles to the North East of Cheltenham, picturesquely situated on the southern slope of Cleeve Hill and overlooking a pretty valley watered by a stream rising under the hill, to the west of the house.

Originally the house consisted of three distinct blocks of buildings, the eastern part, which appears to be older than the remainder, being a farm house with a small dwelling house on the west side, and two cottages to the north.

Not much is known of its earlier history but at the beginning of the seventeenth century the house was rebuilt by a certain Giles of Broadway.

The main elevation, which faces due south, looking out over to Corndean and Sudeley, has a frontage of about 94 feet broken by four bays and roofed with a range of six gables, the one on the east side being rather wider and of flatter pitch, evidently the end of the original farm house of earlier date.

The return elevation on the east side has a row of small simple dormers along the whole length of the long range of roof, giving a quaint, but good effect.

In the centre of the house is a picturesque open court yard, with a circular fountain.

Internally there are some fine rooms richly panelled and containing some good chimney pieces, the best room being the Drawing Room on the first floor, which has good oak panelling, and an elaborate stone chimney piece with some curious emblematical figures in the upper part, one of which represents Temperance triumphant over Intemperance.
The chimney pieces in the Hall, and Dining Room, are richly carved in wood, but appear to have been made up to a certain extent. The one in the Dining Room is dated 1614 and bears the initials of the original owner and his wife.

The staircase winds round a square wall or pier and has solid oak treads with a nosing worked thereon.

**The Chapel.**

On the slope of the hill in the garden on the north side is a small Norman chapel dedicated to St. James. Its origin is interesting for it appears that the tenants of Postlip in the early part of the twelfth century petitioned the Lord of the Manor, William de Solers, to build them a chapel near by, as owing to the unsettled state of the country they were afraid to attend their parish church. At the time of the Reformation it was, however, despoiled and allowed to fall into decay, and until about 1891, when it was restored for use as a private chapel, it was used for farm buildings.

It is an interesting Norman building with a good doorway on the south side. Perpendicular windows have been inserted in the east and west ends, but the small original Norman windows, with their widely splayed internal jambs, still remain in the thick north and south walls.

The roof over the nave appears to be of late sixteenth century date.

Over the chancel wall is a simple stone bell turret, and another interesting feature is a small opening high up in the south wall of the nave with an external corbel, this was probably intended to hold what is known as the "Poor Soul Light," which was a lamp lighted nightly to remind those who passed by, and saw it, to pray for the souls of the departed. Owing to the thick growth of creeper on the building it is not possible to see this feature.
Lunch was taken at the George Hotel, Winchcombe, after which the first visit was to

**Temple Guiting.**

The church of Temple Guiting was given to the preceptory of Quenington, a possession of the Order of the Knights Templars, by Gilbert de Laci (fl. 1150). (Rudder's *Gloucestershire*, 465). In 1223 a mandate was issued by Pope Honorius III to the Bishop of Worcester to allow the Templars to serve the church with cure of souls situate within the limits of their house (*Cal. Papal Petitions*, i, 93). A grant of free warren in "Guyting" and other places was made to the Order in 1253 (*Charter Rolls*, i, 414). Lands held there by the Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester, by the service of 17s. 11d. by the year, and worth clear, 19s. 8d., were granted in 1304 to the Templars and their successors for ever, on it being found by inquisition held at Winchcombe that it would not be to the damage of the king if permission were given to the Abbey to assign the lands (*Index Library, I.P.M. Glos.*, v, 26-7), and the licence is entered on the Patent Roll, 33 Edw. I, 291, 301). Local evidence of the dissolution of the Order is found in 1313, for on 19th February of that year an order was made on "The Keeper of the Templars' late House of Guyting" to pay the Abbot of Fountains 60s. yearly from that house for the tithes of the Templars' manor of Bradewell and to pay the arrears from the time of his appointment. (*Close Roll, 6 Edw. II*, p. 516). A further order was issued to "The Keeper" to pay to the Bishop of Worcester wages of 4d. a day each for the maintenance of John of Whaddon and John of Baleshale, Templars delivered to him by the Archbishop of Canterbury to place in certain monasteries to do penance. (*Close Roll, 7 Edw. II*, p. 15). In 1327 the manor was in the custody of the Bishop of Hereford (*Patent Roll, 1 Edw. III*, p. 103). On 1st March, 1328 it was granted
to Master Pancius de Conrone, the king’s clerk and physician, it being in the king’s hands by reason of the rebellion of Hugh Despenser the younger (Ibid. 2 Edw. III, p. 243-4). The manor was surrendered to the king on 11th May following in consideration of a grant of £100 yearly made to Conrone (Ibid. p. 272), but re-granted 25th September, with much other land in Gloucestershire, in part satisfaction of the pension, which evidently had not been paid (Ibid. p. 321).

The lands in Gloucestershire acquired from time to time by the Templars which appear to have been attached to the manor of Temple Guiting are mentioned in an inquisition taken in 1328. (Index Library, I.P.M. Glos. v, 222-3). By this it was found that Hugh Despenser the younger had appropriated all the said lands as belonging to the manor "whereas they never at any time belonged thereto." The grant to Despenser was exemplified in 1345. (Patent Roll, 19 Edward III, p. 22).

On 23rd September, 1329, there is a further entry of the grant to Conrone as he was "anew retained to stay with the king for life." (Ibid. 3 Edward III, p. 448). It was still held by him in 1335 but conveyed soon after to Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, who is named as the tenant in 1340. (Patent Roll, 14 Edw. III, p. 39). His successors held the manor until the end of the fifteenth century when it passed to Sir John Huddleston.

In 1544 the lordship and manor of Temple Guiting "late belonging to the priory of St. Guthlac, Hereford, as a cell of St. Peter's monastery, Gloucester" was granted by the king to John ap Rice of London. (Patent Roll, 36 Henry VIII, p. 12, m. 37) and in 1546 rents from lands in the parish which belonged to the manor of Buckland and formerly to Gloucester Abbey, were granted to Richard Gresham. (Ibid. 38 Henry VIII, p. 13, m. 39). In the same year a royal grant was issued to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, assigning to them
"the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Temple Guytting, and appurtenances, which belonged to the late preceptory of Quenington, and St. John of Jerusalem." (Patent Roll, 38 Henry VIII, p. 8, m. 19).

Considerable reparations were carried out to the church by the Rev. George Talbot, to whose memory there is a characteristic eighteenth century memorial tablet, but distinctive Norman work is still in evidence, seen more particularly from the exterior.

The church consists of chancel, nave with north transept, south porch and western tower. The nave is mainly Perpendicular, but there is a built-up south doorway of Norman date, with Tudor facing. At the east end there is a lancet window (fourteenth century) with ball-flower ornament and corbel heads. The exterior of the chancel is late Norman, with carved corbels; the windows were reconstructed at a later date. The north transept is late Perpendicular; the porch modern, but fragments of Norman work have been retained. There is some good glass in the south windows.

Mr. T. Overbury described the church, which he said was very interesting, though he regretted that the modern craze for restoration had resulted in much of the interesting work of the eighteenth century being lost, "sham Gothic" taking its place. The pulpit was an extremely good example of the Georgian period contemporary with the other classical work. The tower was stated to be of eighteenth century date, but to him it appeared earlier; at any rate the pointed doorway giving access to the belfry was certainly older. Mr. Overbury's notes on the church are printed separately.

Dr. Hamilton Thompson thought the Royal Arms an extremely fine specimen of work and the panels of stained glass in the middle of the three Georgian windows most interesting. It had been suggested that they were brought from abroad, but he reminded the party that studios in
which foreign workmen were engaged existed in England in past ages. There were, however, definite foreign features about the glass, especially the lettering, which suggested Flemish or German origin. As to a "low-side window" on which his opinion was invited, he said the subject had broken so many friendships that he would say nothing about it.

There is a small carved stone in the wall behind the door of the south porch which has the appearance of being part of the stem of a Saxon cross.

**Lower Guising (Guiting Power).**

The Church of St. Michael has been so reconstructed that hardly any of the original Norman work remains. The Church, as at Temple Guiting, was owned by the Knight Templars, and later by the Hospitallers.

The Vicar, Rev. R. G. Sharpe, referred to the restoration carried out in 1903, and explained the ruinous condition in which he found the building, the chancel having to be rebuilt and much other work done to place the church in decent order. There is some Norman work in the north wall and the south doorway of the nave, which has a tympanum with incised chalice. Traces of mural painting can be seen on the north wall of the nave, the roof of which is supported on well carved corbels. In the churchyard are the base and socket of a late fourteenth century cross. Mr. T. Overbury's notes on the church are printed with those on Temple Guiting.

**Whittington.**

Whittington Church is another example of such alteration that little of the original work can be traced. It stands close to the Manor House, the west wall of the nave being only a few feet away. Evidence of Norman building remains in one of the arches of the aisle arcade, and the aisle itself. There is a well carved example of the *hennin*, or horned head dress, on a bracket in the aisle.
There are three life-size effigies in the aisle, one of a woman in wimple and gown, and the others, knights in armour. The latter are identified as Richard de Crupes, who died in 1278, and his son Richard, both of them lords of the manor of Whittington. The effigies are described in Transactions, iv, 244-5 with illustration, and xxv, 263-6. The font is thirteenth century, and of freestone. It is described by Dr. Fryer in Transactions, xxxviii, with plate (xiv).

Fragments of very early work and some old tiles from the chancel are carefully preserved in the church, and in the churchyard on the east side is the shaft of an old cross.

The church and house were in olden times surrounded by a moat, some considerable lengths of which still remain. The adjoining farm buildings are worth notice.

Dr. Hamilton Thompson expressed the opinion that the blocked doorway at the western end was formerly an entrance from the manor house, perhaps for the servants, even if the church did not actually join the house. There might also have been a gallery over for the lord of the manor.

**Whittington Court.**

By the kind invitation of Mrs. Evans-Lawrence, who not only threw the Court open to Members but entertained them to tea, the last visit of the itinerary proved a very pleasant one.

The Court House is attributed to the Cottons, lords of the manor, to whom it was granted by Henry VII. Richard Cotton, who died in 1556 or thereabouts, is said to have built the main part. The brass to him and his wife Margaret which is in the church is described in Davis' *Brasses of Gloucestershire*, pp. 163-5. Additions to the house were made in the early years of the eighteenth century.
Mr. S. H. Healing described the Court House as a very typical specimen of Cotswold architecture. Originally it appears to have been a larger house, the west wing having disappeared. The north, or entrance front, has three steeply pitched gables with good copings and large bold finials, while some of the windows still retain their original leaded glazing. There are some good original stone chimney pieces and several of the rooms are oak panelled; in two of the bedrooms there is a quaint and interesting corner lobby or tambour.

The main feature of the interior is, however, the very fine old open newel oak staircase, about six feet wide, which goes right from cellar level to the attic floor in a series of flights of seven steps each. At the top of the first flight out of the hall is a quaint and original dog-gate. The sizes of the staircase timbers are worth recording. They are as follows: newels 7½ inches square, string 14 inches by 7½ inches, handrails 6 inches by 6½ inches, and turned balusters 3½ inches square. There were originally large turned or cut tops to the newels, but these have been removed, the legend being that they interfered with carrying up sacks of corn.

Before leaving Whittington the thanks of Members were expressed to Mrs. Evans-Lawrence for her hospitality and also to Mr. J. J. Simpson, the Hon. Meeting Secretary, for the arrangements he had made for their comfort and convenience.