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Scratch dials, Slimbridge

by E. Fawcett
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Lilley also mentions Henrietta, but does not say whom she married.

The will of Charles Yate's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, dated 21 September 1753 is at Gloucester, where it was proved 7 May 1757. Therein she mentions ' the three daughters of my sister Henrietta Warren '.

C. ROY HUDLESTON.

SCRATCH DIALS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In vol. XLVI, pp. 169-86 of the *Transactions* there is a paper by the Rev. Ponsonby Sullivan on the scratch dials on Gloucestershire churches. Amongst those noticed and recorded is one at Slimbridge, 4 miles from Dursley. The dial is described as follows :—

Fifth stone up, on s. porch, E. of doorway. 3 ft. 6 in.

The rays are very faint ; traces of only a few. There is a deep style-hole.

Measured with a tape-measure the centre of this style-hole is 3 ft. 8 in. from the ground. As Mr Sullivan says the rays are faint, but he does not say that each ends at a hole, thus making the dial what he calls or suggests might be called a ' hole-dial '. The rays in this case from centre of style-hole to stop-hole are 3 inches in length, and the rays seem to indicate the time fairly accurately when a pencil is held horizontally in the style-hole.

A much more obvious dial is not mentioned by Mr Sullivan, although its rays are on the same stone as the one he cites descending from what appears to be the joint between the fifth stone to the fourth. Each of these rays is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length but they are so wide apart at the joint that one cannot think the focus from which they sprang originally was in the joint. So far as I can see the fifth stone would appear to have been reset and reduced in height during some rebuilding.

On the western side of the same archway there are two

other dials, the lower of which is 5 ft. 2 in. ; the upper one is 5 ft. 7 in. from the ground.

In each case the style-hole is filled up with cement or plaster, so that an accurate centre cannot be found. The rays of the lower dial are about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length and so far as can be seen three are visible and they end in stop-holes.

Of the upper dial four rays are visible, but faintly, and they all descend with an eastward direction. There is no 'noon'-ray visible. Not having a protractor with me I cannot say what the angle of deviation of the rays is from the perpendicular.

I may say that the entrance doorway of this south porch is a pointed archway of two orders, and it looks as if it has at some time been rebuilt. The dials are on the wall face of the outer order.

EDWARD FAWCETT