

Oxford Ladies' Archaeological and Brass Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1911-12.

President :

MISS SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

President.....MISS SWANN.
Hon. TreasurerMISS LUCY SWANN.
Hon. LibrarianMRS. WHITMARSH.
Hon. SecretariesMISS STONE.
 MISS K. WARD.
Members of Committee...MRS. ODGERS.
 MISS GREEN.
 MISS POYNTER.
 MISS SPENCER THOMSON.
50 Members. 2 Honorary Members.

The Society has now completed its 18th year, and there has never been an occasion when it has not had its full number of members, or when there have not been candidates awaiting admission as vacancies have occurred.

The meetings which had been arranged for the early part of 1912 were postponed, owing to the serious illness, and subsequent death, of the Rev. Dr. Whitmarsh. He had, from the foundation of the Society, been a firm friend to it, and the members will sincerely deplore his loss.

One of our honorary members, Lady Verney, has much to the regret of the Society resigned, as she has left Claydon House.

The first meeting of the year took place on November 16th, as the Society's year begins on November 9th. As there were no fresh names proposed for the officers and committee, all those for the previous year were re-elected.

Dr. Henry Bradley gave a learned and instructive Paper on "Some Oxfordshire and Berkshire Place Names," in which he

warned his hearers of the danger of attributing the derivation of names to fanciful origins, instead of studying the exact etymology.

On May 2nd, Alderman Sir Robert Buckell gave a Paper on "Ancient Civic Life and Customs in Oxford." This lecture was felt to be a most appropriate one, in view of the approaching celebration of the Oxford City's Millenary on July 11th. Sir Robert gave a most vivid account of the Oxford Citizens' life, customs, and rights in olden times, and referred to the antagonism which used to subsist to so large an extent between the City and the University, and he spoke with pleasure of the different feeling now existing between the two bodies. This we may say has been largely brought about by Sir Robert's own good offices.

On May 11th, Miss Poynter gave a Paper on "Emblematic Memorials," which she illustrated by many of her own beautiful drawings. The subject was of so wide an interest that a wish was expressed that Miss Poynter would give a continuation of her Paper at some future period.

On June 12th, a large meeting took place at Hannington Hall, when Mr. Larden gave a lecture on a very unusual subject, that of the "Old Inscriptions on Swiss Chalets." Mr. Larden showed a very large collection of photographs which he had himself taken of these. Many of them must have been obtained with considerable difficulty, from their almost inaccessible positions. The Paper was of great interest from both an archæological and philological view.

On June 17th, the Annual Excursion of the Society took place. It was by the steamer "Alaska," to Sutton Courtenay, and although the weather was very wet and unpropitious a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. The party numbering 52, left Oxford at 2 p.m., they had tea on board at Abingdon, and on landing at Sutton walked through the picturesque village to the Parish Church. It had been hoped that the Vicar would have been able to receive the party and give them some history of the Church, but in his unavoidable absence the President pointed out the most noteworthy objects in the building. The architecture of the Church is very mixed. There is some Norman work in the tower. The font is most probably transitional Norman. There is much decorated and perpendicular work and two good altar tombs of the later period. The chancel has several fine oak stalls with misereres. After leaving the Church the party visited one of the old Manor Houses, where by the kind permission of Captain and Mrs. Lindsay they were shown the fine oak timbered hall, the magnificent old oak staircase, the banqueting hall with its

open timber roof and minstrels' gallery, three bedrooms panelled with oak, and the picturesque courtyard. The house is full of archæological and art treasures which have been collected by the present owners. After visiting the house Mrs. Lindsay gave a most courteous invitation to the party to see her very lovely gardens, of which they gladly availed themselves. The next visit was to the Abbey, where, by the kind permission of Colonel Good, the fine old hall, the remains of the chapel, and the solar were visited. The hall was filled with a very large collection of objects of anthropological and ethnological interest from South Africa. The return journey was made by the "Alaska," and Oxford was reached at 8 p.m.

Since writing this Report the Society has heard with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. James Parker, on October 10th. He may be considered as the founder of the O.L.A.B.R.S, for it was formed at his suggestion, the first meeting took place by his invitation at his house in The Turl, Oxford, on November 14th, 1894, and he always continued to be a firm friend to the Society. He attended many of the meetings, read Papers, and constantly joined in the discussions at the meetings and was always most kind in giving advice and valuable information to any of the members who desired to avail themselves of his great archæological knowledge.

Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY OF BERKSHIRE.—We are glad to be able to state that the third volume will shortly be published, which should be widely read by all those who take an interest in the history of the Royal County. To produce this work a vast amount of research has been made at the Public Record Office and elsewhere, in fact, no stone has been left unturned to obtain information, which will throw light on the manorial history of the county. This