

Oxford Ladies' Archæological and Brass Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1914-15.

President :

Miss SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

PresidentMiss SWANN.
Hon. TreasurerMiss LUCY SWANN.
Hon. LibrarianMRS. WHITMARSH.
Hon. SecretariesMiss STONE.
 Miss K. WARD.
Members of Committee...MRS. ODGERS.
 Miss MEE.
 Miss POYNTER.
 Miss SPENCER THOMSON.

50 Members, 2 Honorary Members, 11 Candidates waiting for admission.

ON November 12th of this year (1915) the Society "comes of age," it having begun its existence at a meeting in the house of Mr. James Parker on November 12th, 1894. At that meeting eight Members were enrolled. Three of these still belong to the Society, viz., Miss Swann, who was then elected President of the Society and has continued in office ever since, Miss Irene Parker, now Mrs. A. H. Hore, who was Secretary until her marriage, and Mrs. Whitmarsh, now Librarian.

The new Society was named "The Oxford Ladies' Brass Rubbing Society." Its rules were few and simple, and the annual subscription was fixed at 2s. 6d.

During the first year the number of Members increased to twenty-six, and five meetings were held. At all of them Papers were read on subjects connected with Brass Rubbing.

Very soon the applications for membership became so numerous that it was decided to limit the number of Members to 50, but ladies wishing to join the Society should be allowed to do so as Candidates, and should fill up vacancies as they occurred.

In 1904, when the Society had existed for ten years, it was decided that Papers dealing with any other subjects of Archæological interest, besides those on Brass Rubbing, might be read at meetings, and the word "Archæological" was added to the name of the Society.

During the past 21 years the full number of members has always been kept up, and there have invariably been Candidates waiting for admission.

Thanks to the good management of the Treasurers, who were first Mrs. Drinkwater and then Miss Lucy Swann, and also to the very prompt payment of subscriptions by the Members, the finances of the Society, notwithstanding the low subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum, have always been in a most flourishing condition.

The Papers read before the Society have been of great interest, and every meeting has been fully attended. Many well-known Archæologists have most kindly come to lecture to the Society, Viscount Dillon having done so four times.

During this year (1914-1915), notwithstanding altered conditions in every Society owing to the terrible war, the O.L.A.B.R.S. have held their meetings as usual, the only omission having been the annual summer excursion.

Papers have been read by Miss Spencer Thomson on "Mid Europe before the War"; by Mrs. Braithwaite Batty on her late visit to Palestine, and she exhibited many interesting things she had collected there. Miss Poynter gave a paper on "Mid Lent Cakes," when a discussion took place as to the religious symbolical meaning of cakes and other kinds of foods which are used on special festivals.

On March 3rd there was a large attendance of the Society in the Parish Room of St. Giles' to hear a Paper by Professor William Wistar Comfort, Professor of Romance Languages at Cornell University. His subject was "Appeals to Ancestry in Literature." The lecturer dealt with the subject principally by way of quotations from well-known writers, among these being those of such varied opinions as Shakespeare, Dante, Pascal, Emerson, Spencer, Sir Thomas More, Sir Walter Scott, and Stevenson, besides many other authors both ancient and modern.

On May 19th Miss Mee most kindly entertained the Society at Holywell House, when Bodley's Librarian, Mr. Falconer Madan, F.S.A., gave a lecture on "The Bodleian Library." There was a very large attendance, and the lecture, which was full of originality

and keen feeling for the poetry and romance of the subject, was enjoyed to the fullest extent. It was illustrated by a fine collection of lantern slides, some taken from photographs which are unique.

The Society has sustained a great loss this year in the death of Mrs. Iliffe. She had been a member almost from its beginning, and as long as she was able she attended all the meetings most regularly. She had most kindly and ably written the reports of meetings for the local papers, and did all in her power to further the objects of the Society. She will be very sincerely missed and regretted.

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.

THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1914—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

Notes.

LONGWORTH BELLS.—The following inscriptions appear on these bells:—
 I.—1662. Anthony Maine. Edward Surby, C.W. II.—J. Wells Albourn fecit 1807. J. Paynton and A. Brown, Churchwardens. (Inscription close to mouth of bell). III.—John Hissy, Simon Herbert. Churchwardens. H.B. 1746. IV.—1662. V.—Richard Keene mad this ring, 1662.—SIR CLARENDON HYDE.

We should be glad to receive the inscriptions on other bells in the three counties. Mr. Cocks has recorded most, if not all, of those in Buckinghamshire, and several Berkshire bells have been described in this Journal; but there are many which have not been recorded, and much of interest can be gleaned by visits to the belfries of our churches.—P.H.D.