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Antiquarian News.

THE MONKS OF MEDMENHAM.—The Monks of Medmenham were of the Cistercian Order, so called from Cisteaux, in the Bishopric of Chalons, in France. They were called Grey Monks from the dress, which consisted of a white cassock, with a narrow scapulary, over which a black gown was worn when they went abroad, and they were noted for the strictness of their rules. The Rev. C. Lowndes, in a paper contributed in 1871 to "The Records of Buckinghamshire," says:—"The chronicle of Stanley, a Cistercian Abbey in Wiltshire, in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and dated 1204, states that the attempt to colonize Medmenham was a failure, and the Monks returned to Woburn the same year, when the abbot of that place was in consequence deposed. Two very old lists of Cistercian houses, and the annals of Park Louth, another abbey of the same order, concur in dating the second, and in this case successful colonization of Medmenham, in A.D. 1212." The account of the Abbots is very imperfect, being a cell to Woburn, and sub-

ordinate to their government. Roger occurs in 1256. Peter September 11, 1295. John de Medmenham, 1308, occurs in a deed in Maddox's *Formulare*, p. 638. The Abbot of Sees being amerced to the King, in a suit against the Prior of Mendham, the Prior by this deed undertakes to acquit the Abbot of his amercia-ment. Galfrid, Oct. 7, 1318, whose name appears in a charter of Edward II. Henry, 1416. Richard, 1521. John Talbot, 1536, last Abbot; when the Abbey was annexed to Bisham. There was then only one monk, whose name was Guy Strenshill. In the time of Henry VIII., the Commissioners returned that this monastery was "of the Order of St. Bernard; the clear value £20 6s. 2d.; monks there, 2, and both desyren to go to houses of religion; servants, none; bells worth £2 6s. 8d.; the house wholly in ruin; the value of the moveable goods, £1 3s. 8d.; woods, none; debts, none." The revenue of this house was chiefly derivable from the manor and rectory of Medmenham, and certain lands in Little Marlow, Turville Fletemarston and Blackgrove.—Extract from the *Buckinghamshire Miscellany*, by Mr. R. GIBBS.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—*Feb. 27.*—Dr. J. Evans, President, in the chair.—A paper by Messrs. G. E. Fox and W. H. St. John Hope was read on the desirability of the complete and systematic excavation of the site of Silchester. After a brief description of the site, and of the results of previous excavations under the direction of the late Rev. Mr. Joyce, the writers pointed out the very small portion of the hundred acres forming the area within the walls which had been excavated, and the immense additions to our knowledge of a Romano-British city, its public and private buildings, and its inhabitants, which would be gained by a thorough and systematic excavation, by sections, of the whole of the site. A scheme for doing this by subscriptions, under the direction of the Society of Antiquaries, had been drawn up by the writers, and submitted by General Pitt-Rivers to the owner, the Duke of Wellington, who had been pleased to express his entire approval of it. The manner in which the excavations should be carried on was fully described, and it was suggested that the most desirable thing to do first was the entire excavation of one of the squares into which the city is known to be divided by lines of streets intersecting at right angles. Owing to the destructive effects of frost and rain, it was not proposed to leave anything permanently exposed after excavation, unless of a very special character, and then it would be roofed in. The owner and the tenant having already consented to the work, there is no

reason why the excavations should not be resumed this summer.—A discussion followed, in which the President, Prof. Middleton, Messrs. H. Price, Fortnum, Howorth, and others took part.—Dr. Freshfield suggested that perhaps gentlemen might be induced to defray the cost of excavating special sections or squares. The general feeling was wholly in favour of the undertaking, and it was ultimately unanimously resolved, on the proposal of Prof. Middleton, seconded by Mr. H. Price, "That a systematic and complete examination of the site of the Roman city at Silchester is desirable, and that the Council be requested to consider the steps necessary for continuing excavations upon the spot."

OBITUARY NOTICES.

The Society has lost during the winter three of its Members, whose removal from us we deeply deplore. The late President of the Society, Sir Paul Hunter, Bart., who always took so keen an interest in our proceedings, and whose genial and cordial nature endeared him to all who knew him, passed away suddenly at Mortimer in January last. A Member of our Committee, the Rev. W. Butler, M.A., whose wise suggestions and sound advice were always greatly valued by his colleagues, and whose advanced years never diminished either his energy or his capacity for work, was also removed from us after a short illness. And lastly we have to mourn the death of one of the most learned of our body, the Rev. A. D. Crake, M.A., F.R. Hist. S., Vicar of Cholsey, who has achieved considerable reputation as the author of several important devotional manuals and popular historical tales. Amongst them we may mention "*The Chronicles of Ascendune*," "*Alfgar the Dane*," "*Brian Fitz-count*," which contains most valuable historical information with regard to this County, which he loved so well, and the scenes of by-gone days which he so graphically described. It is proposed to erect a stained glass window to his memory in Cholsey Church, to which his friends are invited to subscribe.

At the January meeting of the Society the Secretary was requested to convey to Lady Hunter, Mrs. Butler, and Mrs. Crake, an earnest expression of sympathy and deep regret.