

Mr. Chas. Slaughter, Mr. Targett, and Mr. R. Bradley, for meeting the case thus put before them in the latter way.

The financial position of the Society now stands as follows :—

Cash at Bank and in hand	...	...	...	£1	13	11½
Arrears of Subscriptions to 1899 not yet paid				3	2	6
Estimated amount of Subscriptions for 1900						
not yet paid	...	...	...	40	2	6
				<hr/>		
				£44		

Against this :—

Estimated current expenses for rates, gas, printing, caretaker, meetings, &c., to end of 1900	20	0	0
Bradley's Bill for annual meeting circulars (1900)	0	8	0
Shervel, for tea and annual meeting tea (1900)			
about	...	...	...
Stationery	...	...	...
	1	10	0
	5	0	0
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£26			

It should be added that the excursions of the Society during the past year have been managed so that they have just cleared their cost, and that by private subscription of most of the Members of the Committee two old doors from the Oracle, Reading, have been added to the property of the Society. The thanks of the Society are due to the Committee for this.

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ANCIENT BEDS AND HEIRLOOMS.—In an article on "Ancient Beds and Bedding," in "The Globe," the writer says :—Our ancestors set great store by their beds, and bequeathed them as a valuable item in their personal estate by will. In 1368, William Lord Ferrere of Groby left his son "the green bed with arms on it," and his daughter "the white bed." In 1376, the Black Prince left to his Confessor, Sir Robert de Walsham, "a large bed of red camora," and to Mr. Alayne Gleyne "our bed of camora bordered with blue ergles"; while his widow bequeathed to her son, Richard II. "my new bed, of red velvet embroidered with ostrich feathers of silver, and heads of leopards of gold, with boughs and leaves issuing out of their mouths." William of Wykeham similarly disposed of his bed to Winchester College. Indeed, the custom of bequeathing beds prevailed till within a century ago; and at the present day there are many old dower houses containing an ancient four-poster as an heirloom fixture, which a clause in the lease saves from disturbance on the part of the tenant.