

2. Hungerford, Littlecote, &c.
3. St. Albans.

It is hoped that a paper on "Excavations at Little Marlow Nunnery," will be read during the Session by A. Vaughan Williams, Esq., F.R.G.S., who indeed had consented to do so at this General Meeting, but as an act of courtesy postponed it in order that it might first be read before the Bucks Arch. Society.

Other papers also are promised.

#### GENERAL NOTICES.

Members desiring to read papers before this Society are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

The thanks of the Society are offered to Mrs. Falcon-Steward, Mrs. Williams, the Secretary and Mrs. Ditchfield, and Mrs. Morris Williams, for kindly entertaining the Members and their friends at tea on Afternoon Meetings of the Society.

#### OBITUARY NOTICES.

A vacancy has been caused amongst the Vice-Patrons, owing to the lamented death of Lord Wantage, the late Lord Lieutenant of the County ; and J. Herbert Benyon, Esq., the present Lord Lieutenant, has kindly consented to fill it.

The Society also has to record with regret the death, during the past year, of Charles Stephens, Esq.

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## Silchester Excavations.

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The results of last year's work was exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, last month, and caused much interest to the numerous visitors.

The excavations in 1901 were begun on 10th May, and continued without break until 13th November. The work was confined to the northern half of the town, on a strip of ground lying to the east of *insula* XXI and XXII, which were excavated in 1899, and extending northwards from the modern road traversing the site to the town wall. The area examined was nearly 6 acres. The ground in question was found to contain, in its southern

half, a square *insula* (XXVII) of large size, while the triangular piece to the north proved to be an extension eastwards of *insula* XXII, of which the larger portion was excavated in 1899. The extension contained only two more buildings; one towards the north; the other towards the south, perhaps a small house with an eastern apse.

The western half of *insula* XXVII contained the foundations of three houses. Two of these are especially interesting on account of the additions that have been made to their plans. The northernmost house, which by these additions was more than doubled in area, was originally a complete example of the courtyard type, with mosaic floors in most of the rooms, and a number of interesting features. Two of the mosaic pavements were sufficiently well preserved to justify their removal. The house was evidently a half-timbered building, and in the added portion some remarkable evidence was found of the method of construction and the ornamental character of the half-timbered work.

The second house was also of the courtyard type, but apparently of less importance than its neighbour, and perhaps of later date. The additions to it included a number of winter rooms warmed by an elaborate series of hypocausts, and a building of doubtful use, exhibiting some unusual features of construction. The third house was of the corridor type, but its more interesting portion had been to a large extent destroyed.

The number of pits and wells met with in 1901 was small in comparison with the many found in previous years, but they yielded a fair quantity of pottery and other antiquities, including a fine pair of iron wheel tyres, and a remarkable lead or pewter bucket, also the side of a flue tile with the inscription *Fecit tubum Clementinus*.

The finds in bronze, bone and glass, and the coins, were as numerous as usual.

The Committee propose, during the current year, to excavate the area near the east gate, adjoining the churchyard of the parish church of Silchester, to the west of the two square temples uncovered in 1890, and they appeal for the necessary funds to enable the work to be carried out as efficiently as in the past twelve seasons. The Honorary Treasurer of the Excavation Fund, F. G. Hilton Price, Esq. (17, Collingham Gardens, South Kensington), or the Honorary Secretary, W. H. St. John Hope, Esq. (Burlington House, W.), will be glad to receive further subscriptions and donations.