

Oxford Ladies' Archaeological and Brass Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1909-1910.

President :

MISS SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

President.....MISS SWANN.
Hon. Treasurer.....MISS 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. 3 Honorary Members.

The O.L.A.B.R.S. has completed its sixteenth year.

It has always kept up its full number of 50 members, and has candidates waiting for admission as vacancies occur.

The Papers read at the various meetings have been of special interest.

On November 9th Mr. G. W. Norton gave a lecture full of original matter, on "Inishowa," or an enchanted island, and other Irish islands, with much information on the dwellings, habits, and customs of the inhabitants, and he exhibited many magnificent photographs of his own taking, showing the typical characteristics of the islands and people, as well as many views of the lovely scenery.

On November 23rd Miss Dryden gave a Paper on the unusual subject of "Sporting Emblems on Tombstones," which she illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. Beaumont showed and described some very fine rubbings of brasses.

On February 1st Miss Poynter read a Paper on St. Kathrine's Hospital and Chapel in Regent's Park, and showed many of her father, Mr. Ambrose Poynter's drawings and paintings of the various buildings; this Paper was of such interest, that a unanimous wish

was expressed that it might be printed, which has accordingly been done, in the May number of the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal," separate copies of the Paper may be had for 1s. 6d. each from the publishers (Messrs. Slaughter & Son, Reading).

Miss Poynter after the meeting hospitably received the members at tea.

A business meeting took place on April 28th, to which all members were invited to come, but unfortunately there was but a small attendance owing to the wet stormy afternoon.

On May 4th a meeting took place at Hannington Hall, when Mr. Beaumont gave a Paper on "Ladies' Costumes as depicted on Memorial Brasses." This was most instructive, as well as being very amusing, and it was illustrated by exceedingly beautiful rubbings made by Mr. Beaumont from brasses in the following Churches :—

Adderbury, Baldwin Brightwell, Barking (All Hallows), Beaumaris, Bickling, Broughton, Burton (Sussex), Carshalton, Chinnor, Cumnor, Dartmouth, Elstow, Ewelme, Felbrigg, Goring (Sussex), Great Chart, Hanney, Henfield, Ingrave, Northampton (S. Sepulchre's), Ore, S. Columb, S. Mary Cray, Shoreham, Thame, Wotton, and Waterperry.

The following is the syllabus of the Lecture :—

Introductory.—Ancient Memorials of Wood, Stone, Marble, Alabaster and Latten. Burial customs in Churchyard and Church.

The Normans.—The changes introduced in English Costume. The oldest brass to the memory of a lady, c. 1310, showing the Wimple, Kirtle, Cote Hardie, and Mantle.

The Six Periods in Ladies' Costume.—The Reticulated, the Horned, the Butterfly, the Pedimental, the Paris, the Jacobean.

i. *The Reticulated* (c. 1327—1413). Nebulé, zigzag and crispine headdresses, the sideless cote hardie.

ii. *The Horned* (c. 1413—1470). Short-waisted gowns, Surplice sleeves, the mitred headdress, fur-lined robes, S.S. collar, widow's costume.

iii. *The Butterfly* (c. 1466—1490). Tight-fitting gowns, heraldic mantles, the tabard.

iv. *The Pedimental Headdress* (c. 1490—1558). Its cost, long-waisted gowns, court trains, broad belts, the partlet.

v. *The Paris* (c. 1545—1603). Sleeveless mantles, the farthingale, flounced bodice, striped and puffed sleeves, neck and wrist ruffles, panelled skirt, quilted petticoat.

vi. *The Jacobean* (c. 1603—1747). The broad-brim hat—the

calash, lace collars and cuffs, heart-shape stomachers, circular cloaks.

Conclusion.

No excursion has taken place this year; one which had been arranged was postponed on account of the King's death, and since that time the unfavourable weather and then the long vacation have prevented any arrangements being made for excursions.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—EXCURSION TO BISHAM ABBEY AND COOKHAM.—On Friday, September 30th, the Berks Archæological Society visited the eastern portion of the County, where lies the picturesque village of Cookham and the historic house Bisham Abbey. No more attractive objectives could have been suggested, and the Society was favoured with brilliant weather for this their last excursion of the season. It may be here stated that few County antiquarian associations show the industry which animates our own society. Many of them are quite content to make one excursion in the year and to rest comfortably for the next twelve months until summer invites them once more to a pilgrimage. The Berks Society usually has three excursions every year, and occupies itself during the winter season with monthly lectures and meetings which afford a large amount of instruction and enjoyment to the large number of members who assemble on these occasions. They have this year visited the interesting Roman town of Cirencester, and also the charming region of the Vale of the White Horse; and this excursion to Cookham Bisham concludes their programme for the summer, the labour of the society being resumed in the winter with a course of lectures. This last excursion proved particularly attractive, and there were nearly 70 ladies and gentlemen who availed themselves of the kind hospitality of Sir Henry and Lady Vansittart Neale at Bisham Abbey, and enjoyed the welcome they received at Cookham by Sir George Young, Bart.

The archæologists were favoured with delightful weather, and never did the beautiful region of the Thames Valley look more attractive than in this late autumn season, when the sun shone on lovely river scenery, the old half-timbered cottages clad with Virginia creeper that had assumed its autumnal tint, and above all on the mellow beauty of Bisham Abbey.

The party left Reading by the 12.58 train, journeying to Maidenhead, and thence to Cookham, where three breaks were in readiness to convey them to the church. Several members and friends in motor-cars met them there, and Sir George Young led them to the church, where he read a paper on the history of the fabric, pointing out its many beauties and attractions. This paper is published in this number of the journal. Reference was made in it to a recently-published chapter in Mr. Stephen Darby's excellent work on Cookham by Mr. Gordon Hills on the history of the church, who, though agreeing with Sir George Young in many details, upon some points takes a different view. Mr. Hills was present and stated the opinions he held with regard to the architectural story of the building. This reply also appears. Mr. Keyser added some remarks upon the subject, and Mr. Ditchfield expressed the regrets of the Society that Mr. Darby was unable to be present on that occasion. Mr. Darby, he said, had produced an admirable work, "Chapters in the History of Cookham," which was a notable example of careful and painstaking research, a book that would ever be a memorial of the antiquities and history of the village and of the industry and learning of the writer. Mr. Darby had for many years been an active member of the Berks Society, and they regretted extremely that ill-health prevented him from being present among them.