

1557, 12th July : I came to Bisham with my wief, there to remain.
 1560 : This yere was the turret built at Bisham." Mr. Powell considers this means the whole tower (of which there is no mention in the survey), though turret is hardly applicable to the whole of the tower. "1561 : The new lodgings at Bisham finished. 1562 : The garden and orchard planted and the gallery made with nobleman's arms."

The house has not been much altered since Sir Thomas Hoby's time, though restorations and modern improvements in the way of gas, heating and bath rooms have been made. The changes in the hall are worth notice. I have already referred to the east window. There were also found (1859) on the north side adjoining the dining room 3 hoods said to have contained 5 lancet windows a-piece (now walled up), and the same arrangement existed on the south side till the erection of the chimney (before which time the smoke of the fire went out at a louvre in the roof). Dormer windows took their place. The hall at one time had a ceiling which hid the whole pitch, turning its real stateliness into comparative meanness. The oak panelling was painted with a pink colour. The restoration of the hall originated in the fact that a dormer window required repair. In course of repairs the oak roof was discovered in a wonderful state of preservation. [Each timber 11 ins. by 9 ins. thick, and 35 ft. long. Some in the centre discoloured by smoke]. The dormer windows were accordingly removed, and to provide the necessary light two windows (designed by the Rev. T. E. Powell) were placed over the gallery, a window being also placed over the old east window. There are many other points of interest, such as the secret room, the Bisham ghost, the tapestry, the stained glass in the Council room, the gold coins, the secret passage, and the outbuildings, which I would fain touch on, but time obliges me to bring this paper to a close with an expression of the great pleasure Lady Vansittart Neale and I feel in welcoming you to this house.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A beautifully designed illuminated Address has been sent to King George V. by the Berkshire Archæological Society, requesting his Majesty to graciously consent to be a Patron of the Society, as the late King Edward and Queen Victoria were in the past. The Address, which is executed in Mr. W. H. Pountney's charming style bears the signatures of Mr. Charles E. Keyser, the President; the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield,

the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Ernest Ravenscroft, the Hon. Treasurer. The Right Hon. Sir William Carrington has written to the Hon. Secretary to inform him that H.M. King George V. has graciously consented to accept the office of Patron of the Society, which has previously been held by His Majesty's predecessors, King Edward VII. and Queen Victoria.

The third Lecture of the Winter Session was given by the Hon. Secretary on January 19th, on the Preservation of Historic Monuments, a report of which lecture is given in the present number of this Journal.

On February 17th, Mr. Gordon Hills gave an excellent lecture on Chichester Cathedral, of which he is the Surveyor.

On March 16th, Mr. Mervyn Macartney, F.R.S., one of the chief authorities on Domestic Architecture in England, delivered a very interesting lecture on "Notes on some Berkshire Houses." This was illustrated by an admirable series of lantern slides. He described Ockwells, Upton, Milton, Coleshill and others.

On April 6th the President gave one of his valuable lectures on Berkshire Churches, describing the churches of Aldermaston, Englefield, Tidmarsh and Padworth. His lecture was illustrated by about 80 lantern slides from photographs specially taken for the lecturer, which was much appreciated.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 4th, and at the conclusion of the business Mr. Gordon Hills will lecture on "A Cathedral of the old Foundation," with special reference to Chichester.

The Registers of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.—Churchwardens' Accounts.

By the Rev. F. T. Wethered.

EVERYTHING which has to do with the Parish of Westminster is of interest to those who study the history of Hurley Priory, which was a cell to Westminster Abbey.

St. Margaret's Church stands close alongside of the Abbey, on the N.E. side.

Widmore, the well-known Westminster Librarian, who wrote his history of the Abbey in the middle of the eighteenth century, refers to the tradition that King Edward the Confessor was the builder of St. Margaret's, but, on his own showing, this may be traced to mere monastic gossip, and cannot be treated in any way as serious history. However, a charter in the Harleian Library makes it clear that there was a Parish Church at Westminster before the end of 1140, inasmuch as it relates the grant of sixty shillings of the profits of the Church of S. Margaret, standing in the Abbey Churchyard, for the service of the high altar of the Abbey; and, inasmuch as Abbot Herbert, by whom this grant was made, died on Sept. 3rd, 1140, we can limit the date of the building of the Church to some period not later at any rate than the fifth year of King Stephen's reign.