

Oxford Ladies' Archæological and Brass-Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1915-16.

President :

Miss SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

President	Miss SWANN.
Hon. Treasurer	Miss LUCY SWANN.
Hon. Librarian	Mrs. WHITMARSH.
Hon. Secretaries	Miss STONE.
	Miss K. WARD.
Members of Committee...	Mrs. ODGERS.
	Miss MEE.
	Miss POYNTER.
	Miss SPENCER THOMSON.

50 Members, 2 Honorary Members, 14 Candidates waiting for admission.

THIS Society which has now existed for 22 years continues to flourish, it has never once failed to have its full number of members, and its funds have always been in a most satisfactory condition, in spite of the smallness of the yearly subscription (2/6).

This year five meetings and an excursion have taken place.

On October 29th, Mr. J. Hautenville Cope gave a lecture in Hannington Hall on "Charles Kingsley, Eversley, and the neighbourhood." No one could have been better fitted to give such a Paper, for the Lecturer was born at Bramshill House ; which is so full of historical memories, one of the few really old houses existing in Hampshire, well known as a fine example of architecture of the 17th century, and situated amid lovely and picturesque scenery. Many beautiful photographic slides were shown of the exterior and interior of Bramshill, of Charles Kingsley's house, also many views of the parish of Eversley. The Lecturer showed an autograph letter of Charles Kingsley's and gave many most interesting personal reminiscences of him ; he also gave some valuable accounts of the botany of the district.

On November 17th the Society met in the Parish Room of St. Giles. This was the "Coming of Age" meeting of the Society,

it having held its first meeting on November 12th, 1894. The President invited any members who liked to make a "birthday gift" to the Society, to do so, the sum collected to go in its name to the "League of Mercy" branch of King Edward's Hospital Fund. A liberal response was made to this invitation, and £5 was sent to the charity. Mrs. Clay Finch then read a Paper on "A Mother of Men"—Countess Gytha, wife to the powerful Earl Godwin, and mother of Harold II., and mother-in-law of Edward the Confessor. The Lecturer threw a very instructive light on the influence of Gytha on the history of England in the 11th century, and told the pathetic story of Gytha and her successes and sad reverses. Mrs. Thornewill and the Misses Spencer Thomson very kindly received all present at tea after the meeting.

On March 3rd, Miss Mee again most kindly invited the Society to her house, when Mr. E. Beaumont gave another of his invaluable lectures on Brasses, his special subject this time being on "Civilian Costume in the Middle Ages." He exhibited an immense collection of rubbings to illustrate the variations in the fashion of dress in the different centuries, and the importance of the study of dress in connection with history was well shown. After the lecture Miss Mee most hospitably entertained the very large party at tea.

On May 6th, a meeting was held in St. Rognvald's Lecture Room. Miss Legge gave a Paper on "Japanese Colour Prints," of which she exhibited a great quantity of choice and valuable examples. After the conclusion of the Paper, a most kind presentation of flowers, hand-bag and cheque was made by the members of the Society to Miss Swann to commemorate her 21 years of office as President of the Society, the cheque to be spent in some personal gift to Miss Swann. The President expressed her most grateful thanks to all the members for their most kind and quite unexpected gift.

The Annual Excursion of the Society (which was omitted last year owing to the war) was made this year on July 3rd, and was by steamer to Newnham. The Hon. Lewis and Mrs. Harcourt had most kindly given permission to the Society to land near their house, and the members had the privilege of being conducted over the house and seeing the treasures of pictures, collections of archaeological and historical interest and the magnificent plate, and also of visiting the church, gardens and grounds. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. and Mrs. Harcourt for their kindness to the Society.