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THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, April 25th, 1925, at University College. To the great regret of the members, the President of the Society, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., etc., was, through sudden illness, prevented from being present. In his absence Professor Carleton Williams, a member of the Council, took the chair.

Before the routine business of the meeting took place two very interesting lectures were given. One by Mr. Llewelyn Treacher, F.R.G.S., on some human remains recently found by him in a strata of brick earth near Marlow in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Treacher showed several lantern slides from his own photographs to explain various geological points to which he referred in the course of his lecture. A report of this lecture is given in this number of the Journal. The other lecturer was Miss Lawes, a member of our Society, whose subject was 'Ancient Egypt.' Her lecture was illustrated by numerous lantern slides, kindly lent by Dr. Flinders Petrie, the celebrated Egyptologist.

The following report was read by the Hon. Secretary:-

REPORT 1924-1925.

It has usually been our custom to dwell in this Report on the objects our Society has in view and the efforts we are making in carrying them out. It is unnecessary to repeat what I have so often stated, and I will confine myself to the actual proceedings of the Society in its endeavour to perform the functions for which it was founded more than half a century ago.

ILLNESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Both the officers and members were much concerned during the last months of 1924 at the serious illness of our President, which for some time cast a gloom over our proceedings, and are now more than thankful to the Great Architect of the Universe that He has been pleased to restore him to us again in renewed health and vigour, and trust that Mr. Keyser may long live to preside over us in the capacity of President.

READING UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

We desire to express our obligations to the Principal and Governors of the College for permitting us to make use of the College buildings for our meetings and lectures. We could not desire more congenial headquarters, and the Registrar and officers are most obliging in providing accommodation for us and assisting us in every way.

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS.

On the occasion of the last Annual Meeting, held on April 26th, 1924, a lecture was given by Mr. F. Leigh Martineau on 'The Search for Roman Roads,' illustrated by lantern slides. On October 24th a lecture had been prepared by the President on 'The Berkshire Churches of Remenham, Hurley, Bisham and Cookham,' and a special series of admirable slides had been made for the lecture; but at the last moment he was prevented from being present, and he entrusted his slides to your Hon. Secretary to deliver his lecture for him. Your Hon. Secretary, who had not seen the slides or prepared any notes, did his best. Mr. J. Wesley Walker, who presided, exhibited a curious late sixteenth century manuscript recording the names and equipment of the old ships of war of that period.

On November 25th a very interesting lecture was given by the Rev. Edward Goddard, Hon. Secretary of the Wiltshire Society, on 'Stonehenge, with an account of all recent discoveries.' On January 24th, under the chairmanship of Lord Wyfold, Mr. E. T. Leeds, F.S.A., of the Ashmolean Museum, gave a valuable and important lecture, illustrated by slides, on 'A Saxon Village near Sutton Courtenay.'

On February 21st, under the chairmanship of Sir Rickman Godley, an interesting lecture was given by Mr. J. W. Walker, O.B.E., F.S.A., on 'The Growth of Parish Church,' specially illustrating his subject by reference to Wakefield and the typical Norman Church of East Hagbourne.

On March 28th, in the absence of the President, your Hon. Secretary presided, and our Society welcomed the presence of the members of the Berkshire Local History Recording Scheme, who celebrated their first Annual Meeting. Mr. Philip Williams described some recent excavations on the site of a Romano-British settlement at Thatcham, and your Hon. Secretary gave a lecture, illustrated by slides, on 'Berkshire Antiquities and the Work of the Recording Scheme,' showing on what objects its members might concentrate their efforts.

Two Excursions have been held during last summer, organised most efficiently by our new Excursion Secretary, Mr. Morley.

- (1) To Pamber Priory, Monk Sherborne, Wootten St. Lawrence, Sherborne St. John, Basingstoke, Stratfield Turgis and Stratfield Saye, visiting the old home of the Duke of Wellington.
- (2) A long two-days' excursion to Faringdon, Lechlade, Fairford, Witney, Bampton, etc., the members staying the night at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford.

During these excursions the churches were nearly always described by the President, and sometimes by the incumbents of the various parishes. At the old Town Hall at Faringdon a lecture on the history of the town was given by the Hon. Secretary, when a large number of residents were present, and also at Stratfield Saye on the history of the House and Manor.

The thanks of the Society are due to all those who have delivered lectures and to the ladies and gentlemen who have entertained the members to tea on the occasion of the lectures. These include:—

Mr. F. N. A. Garry and Mrs. Garry.

The President and Mrs. Keyser.

Mr. Frederick Turner and Mr. Morley.

Mrs. Carleton Williams and Mrs. Christopher.

Mrs. H. G. Palmer and Mrs A. M. Foot.

Mrs. Cornish and Mrs. Cabot.

Mrs. Ditchfield and Miss Baily.

CHURCH PLATE.

Attention is called to the admirable work which is being done by Mr. J. W. Walker, O.B.E., F.S.A., who is engaged upon the very arduous task of compiling a list of all the Church Plate in Berkshire. He, accompanied by his daughter, has visited a very large number of parishes in the County and taken notes of the Plate in every Church Chest. He has found several very interesting specimens, and we wish all success in the completion of a labour of great magnitude.

THE LIBRARY.

Our Library has at length found a home in the new library buildings of the College. It is housed in not the most convenient place, in the crypt of the building, but the books can be seen, and if members desire to read there perhaps some arrangements can be made for their comfort. We are fortunate in having secured the services of a very capable librarian, Major Laffan. Mrs. Morgan, the widow of a late Vicar of Crowthorne, has presented many volumes to the library which will be sent there ere long.

Publications.

The Society is to be congratulated on the publication of the index of all the volumes of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal and of the Quarterly Journal of the Society which preceded it. The work has been admirably done by Mr. Bunce, Assistant Librarian of the Reading Public Library. It has taken a long time to compile, but it will be welcome to the members. The first part of the volume for 1925 is in preparation. The Society possesses Volume III of the Victoria County History of Berks, and by the energy of Mr. William Page Volume IV is now issued, completing the History.

OBITUARY.

We have to deplore the loss of an old friend of the Society, Mr. Arthur Sutton, F.L.S., who was for some time one of our Vice-Presidents and used to lecture to us in former days while health and strength lasted. He was a representative of the family to whom Reading owes so much, and will be much missed. During the past week we have lost a more recent friend who took a keen interest in archæology, Sir Rickman Godlee, one of the greatest surgeons of our age, whose death we greatly deplore. He presided at our last meeting but one in February, and since his retirement he has interested himself in the history of Whitchurch and written much about it in the Parish Magazine of that village. We have also to deplore the death of Mr. Paul Waterhouse, the distinguished son of a distinguished father, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, a Berkshire man, and the Squire of Yattendon. Many have mourned I will ask you to pass a vote of condolence and symhis death. pathy for the relatives of our lost members.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurer, who so ably manages our finances, has been published, showing a balance in hand of nearly \pounds 200. The number of members on the list is 344, which is very satisfactory; but there is one drawback. There are 80 members who have not paid their subscriptions, and it is earnestly hoped that they will at once remit the amount owing to the Treasurer. It adds considerably to his labour to endeavour, oftentimes without any result, to collect these small amounts, and we trust that the defaulting members will at once hearken to this appeal.

There is nothing further that needs to be recorded in this Report. We should be glad to welcome any offers of help from the members in the way of personal effort in research work, in excavations and spade work, in giving lectures or contributing to the Journal, and thus promoting the actual objects of the Society for which it was founded, and for which it still exists.

P. H. DITCHFIELD. Hon. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1924.

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REC	Balance from 1923 Subscriptions	Wallingford Literary Society Windsor and Eton Archæological Society	Excursions:	Fairford, Lechlade, &c.	For Teas: Mrs. S. J. Beach	Madames A. Wedderburn and C. O.	Mr. A. L. Humphreys	Miss Walter and Mrs. Holden Mr. and Mrs. F. N. A. Garry	Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Keyser	The state of the s	From South Eastern Branch, per Col. Jeffreys				Number of Members, end of 1924: 239 @ $10/$ 105 @ $5/$ Subscriptions not paid, end of 1924: 52 @ $10/$ 28 @ $5/$

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDING SCHEME.

In this number of the Journal we publish an article on the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme, which is affiliated to the Berkshire Archæological Society, the Newbury District Field Club, the Reading and District Branch of the Historical Association, the Reading Literary and Scientific Society, the Berkshire Society of Architects and the Windsor and Eton Scientific and Archæological Society. Our readers will note that the article is from the pen of the Hon. Director of the scheme, Mr. C. B. Willcocks, to whose initiative and energy the project owes its origin and success. Not only has the Recording Scheme been well supported in our own County of Berkshire, but, as our readers will note, it has crossed the borders of our shire and taken root in neighbouring counties. We therefore trust all members of the Berkshire Archæological Society, as well as every reader of this Journal, will support the project by at once becoming a 'local correspondent.' Those who are willing to do this, and we hope they will be many, can obtain full details from the Hon. Secretary, Miss Maslen, University College, Reading.

Mr. Slocock's Great Gift to the Reading Public Library

By A. L. Humphreys, F.S.A.

Brief references have already appeared in the Press relating to the extensive and most valuable collection of local books, manuscripts and prints which has just been presented to the Reading Public Library through the munificence of Mr. A. E. O. Slocock, of Newbury. This is the most important gift ever received by the Public Library, and its significance demands that full and ample recognition should be given to it, and that tribute should be at once paid to the generosity of the donor.

All who are acquainted with Berkshire history in a general way, and with Newbury families specially, will be familiar with the name of Slocock. The family goes back in Berkshire his-