

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal.

Annual Meeting, 1928.

THE seventh Meeting of the Winter Session (Annual Meeting) was held at Reading University on April 14th, when there was a large attendance. Regret was expressed at the absence of the President, Mr. Charles E. Keyser, F.S.A., through illness. A telegram was read by the Hon. Secretary from him stating that he was still confined to his bed. Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., O.B.E., was voted to the Chair.

The Report of the Hon. Secretary (the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, F.S.A.) included the following :—

“ It has been a year of more than usual activity, of some anxiety and loss. During its course our esteemed President has been prevented during two periods by illness from being present with us, and his absence was a cause of some anxiety to us, but happily he has triumphed over his somewhat serious indisposition, and is now on the highway to complete recovery. A distinguished member of the Society, Sir Aubrey Strahan, has passed away, who was a member of our Council, Fellow of the Royal Society, and a learned geologist. He lectured to us, sometimes presided at our meetings in the absence of the President, and his advice and guidance in our deliberations were always sound and of great value to us. We shall miss him very much.

“The University of Reading has continued to extend its hospitality to the Society, which for many years its predecessor, the College, had been good enough to do. The grateful thanks of the Society are due to the Vice-Chancellor and other authorities of the University, to which we wish all success and prosperity, and we congratulate the University on its new dignity. A useful body, entitled the Friends of the University, has been formed, and your Council would strongly recommend our members to become members and aid it to the utmost of their power. Those willing to do so should communicate with the Bursar at the University.

“More than the usual activities of the Society have been carried out during the past year. Seven lectures, some of them of great importance, have been delivered, and three excursions arranged. The cordial thanks of the members are due to the ladies and gentlemen who have lectured to the Society during the past Session, and to those who have entertained them to tea at their various meetings. These included Mr. and Mrs. Morley, the President and Mrs. Keyser, Mrs. and Miss Benyon, Mrs. Holden and Miss Walter, Miss Baily, the Rev. Henry and Mrs. Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. Manders, of Eversley, and Colonel and Mrs. West.

THE LIBRARY.

“The Society is to be congratulated on the revival of its Library. We were fortunate enough to secure the valuable aid of Mr. Sacret, who has been appointed Librarian, and through his instrumentality the University has assigned a room for the accommodation of our books. Mr. Sacret has taken the keenest interest in the Library, has made a report on its contents, which has been published in the *Journal*, and arranged for the members to consult the books at their pleasure and to borrow them for home study. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Dodgson for the great assistance he has rendered.

“*The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal* is still being published, and two parts were published last year, under

the Editorship of myself and Mr. John Hautenville Cope. I regret to have to announce that he and Mrs. Cope have resigned their membership of the Society, and therefore he ceases to be co-Editor. On behalf of the Society and myself I beg to thank him for the assistance he has rendered for several years past. We ought to express our thanks to Dr. Grundy, Fellow of Corpus, for his valuable series of articles on 'Berkshire Charters,' and to other contributors.

"The Society has presented the usual prizes to architectural students, and some excellent drawings were submitted and adjudicated upon by Mr. Willcocks and the Berkshire Branch of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Society of Architects.

"Our Society has been invited to form a part of the Thames Valley Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. As your representative I attended a meeting at Shire Hall recently, when Lord Astor was in the Chair, and the Branch was formed, and we shall probably learn our duties, one of which is to subscribe a guinea."

Reference was made to the County Hall at Abingdon, the old Berkshire bridges, etc.

The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Morley) then presented his Statement of Accounts, which showed that the financial position of the Society was in a sound condition, with about 300 members and a balance in hand of over £40. Mr. Morley and the Hon. Secretary were thanked for their reports. The Officers and Council were re-elected, the names of Dr. Morris and Major Rivers-Moore being added to the Council. Mr. Keyser was re-elected President, and the hope expressed that he would soon be restored to health; also the Vice-Presidents and Mr. Ditchfield, who has been Hon. Secretary for over forty years, and who has watched the Society grow from a small local Association to its present position as a County Society; Mr. Morley as Treasurer and Excursion Secretary, who manages its affairs and the excursions admirably; and Mr. Sacret, who has infused new life into the Library. Regret was expressed that Mr. Cope had resigned the position as co-Editor, and was thanked for his services.

Mr. Piggott, of Reading Museum, exhibited a collection of interesting finds discovered recently at Yateley, and ably described them. Colonel C. J. West, O.B.E., M.D., then delivered a learned lecture on "Mythology," illustrated by lantern slides, prepared by himself from his own drawings. He discussed the legend of Atlantis and its supposed position, the prehistoric inhabitants of America, and the similarity of the artistic productions of the East and West, the types and antitypes.

A cordial vote of thanks was proposed to the lecturer, and also to him and Mrs. West for entertaining the members to tea at the close of the proceedings.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Presented by MR. H. J. HEWITT—

Pascoe, Thomas :—Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas and Round the Globe, in *H.M.S. Centurion*, under Commodore George Anson. (London, 1745).

Presented by MR. E. T. HEELAS—

Back numbers of the Society's Journal, Vol. 26, Nos. 1 and 2. (Autumn, 1920, and Spring, 1921).

Purchased—

The Victoria County History of Berkshire. Vols. 1-4. (J. H. Sacret).