

ADDRESSES AND EXCURSIONS, 1934.

Lecture on the Tower of London, 12th January.

The first general meeting of the year 1934 was held at the Assembly Rooms, on the 12th of January, when the Rev. Jocelyn Perkins, M.A., F.S.A., etc., gave his popular illustrated lecture on "London Castle, or round about the Tower," to a crowded company.

Brigadier-General Godfrey Meynell, C.M.G., J.P., presiding, expressed his and the Society's grateful appreciation of the lecturer's kindness in coming down from Westminster Abbey (of which he is Sacristan) to address the members on whose interest it was obvious he could count.

The lecture then proceeded, of a popular type with the archaeology subordinate to the personal and tragic character of the Tower's associations, a fine series of optical slides adding greatly to the interest of the narrative.

Emphasis was laid on the fact of this great fortress being London's Castle, a strategic river and land defence below the great city, impregnable in its day, as we know. The heart of this grim protector was the Tour Blanc, the White Tower, raised by the Conqueror himself to dominate as well as defend the Capital of his new kingdom. But long before William, the Romans has appreciated the military value of the site, raising thereon their *Arx Capitolina*, at the south-east corner of their *Augusta Londinium*, approximately the same area as the present City of London. The actual creation of the Norman "Tower" is attributed to Gundulf, bishop of Rochester, begun about 1077 A.D., completed only under William II (Rufus) who drew an outer wall about it in 1097. It is on plan 118 ft. by 107 ft. and 90 ft. high in four stages, rubble walling with worked buttresses, plinth, windows

and doorways of ashlar. Probably the new material gave it the name of White Tower, subsequently maintained by whitewashing, a common preservative practice. The entrance was on the first floor, the ground floor consisting of store rooms and dungeons, the speaker insisting on these latter. The first floor, now an admirable historic armoury, was the great hall, the second floor consisting of the famous chapel of St. John and further hall space. Sir Christopher Wren at the end of the 17th century restored and materially altered the appearance of this mighty structure for which he received severe censure. This central Norman structure formed the type of the great castle which dominated many of our important towns, tho' few were actually raised in the Conqueror's lifetime. Derby, said Mr. Perkins, was one of four important towns only, never menaced or defended by such a fortress. While the Tower was from the first primarily a military erection, it was also a palace but the crude early form only an alternative to the Palace of Westminster, founded by William II. The moat, at first a narrow fosse was widened by Richard I, while the great inner and outer circumvallations were mainly of Henry III's time; the wall towers of the three Edwards' reigns; the greater amenities of the place as palace being developed by Edward III. The associations of these later towers: Entrance or Byward Tower, the Wakefield Tower, where are the Crown Jewels, the Bell Tower, where the martyrs, Fisher and Sir Thomas More, spent their last hours; the Bowyer Tower for the bowmen, Martin Tower, Traitors' Gate, etc. were all dealt with and their history brought down to the present time.

The Rev. R. F. Borough moved a cordial vote of thanks and expressed the hope that a further visit from the lecturer might be made in the near future, with an address on Westminster Abbey for its object to which a graceful assent was given, and the company then distributed

themselves about the tea-table to discuss the latest items of interest in archaeology.

Lecture on Roman Catholicism in England during the reign of Elizabeth, February 2nd.

The second address of the season was given on the 2nd February, also at the Assembly Rooms, Brigadier-General Godfrey Meynell as before, in the chair. In introducing the lecturer Mr. Cuthbert Fitzherbert, whose subject was the Roman Catholics during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, with special reference to the County of Derby and its vicinity. General Meynell said a member of the family occupying his home for over two centuries (in virtue of marriage with a Meynell heiress)—the Bassetts—was much involved in the religious turmoil to be discussed. He reminded the members they had had the privilege of hearing Mr. Fitzherbert describe his old family home, with the adjacent church on their visit to Norbury.

Mr. Fitzherbert in opening claimed to be giving only the facts without interpretative comment and at the conclusion was congratulated on his impartiality. He pointed out that though Henry VIII broke with the Papacy and dissolved the monasteries—this on the whole an unpopular move—he did not appreciably alter the church service. This was achieved by Edward VI, influenced by the active reformers. In the north and the west the new service was fiercely resisted with grim results for the insurgents. Edward did not long survive, and his sister Mary Tudor succeeded and restored the Mass and the old forms, popular at first, but losing that popularity later. Elizabeth succeeded in 1558, her position delicate and dangerous, and surviving only by circumspect conduct. The speaker thought the population at this time was about equally divided between devotion to the old and the new forms, with no very fierce antipathies. Elizabeth retained the Mass in her private

chapel repressed the aggressive Puritans and to the end of her days disapproved of a married clergy. At first she was accepted by the Catholics many conforming so far as to attend the reformed services, non-attendance involving a fine of 12d. cheerfully paid ! In 1561 we find Sir Thomas Hart and John Sacheverel (of Morley) and other Catholic gentry entertaining their own priests. Next year the Pope forbade attendance at the reformed service and the bonds were drawn tighter, Parliament requiring office-holders to take the oath of supremacy. In 1568 Dr. Allen founded the Seminary of Douai, the Pope a year later absolved the Queen's subjects from their allegiance, naturally provoking a period of active persecution and Mary Stewart, a Catholic and the next heir to the English throne and now a prisoner-guest of the realm aroused, the speaker thought, much interest and more trouble for those faithful to the old forms. In the next few years the jails were full of recusants which suggested to an ingenious member of the Council it would be cheaper to inflict heavy fines, which would thus become a source of revenue. In 1577 the scheme came into effect when an unlawful fine of £20 monthly was imposed for recusancy, one poor Derbyshire gentleman complaining his fines of £260 yearly exceeded his whole rental and was ruining him. In 1575 Elizabeth had made a progress in Staffordshire and concerning this letters of the families of Wolseley, Gatacre, etc. were read.

In 1580 the Jesuits appear in England under the direction of Parsons, an able administrator and Campion writer and preacher. They found shelter among other places, at Morley (Derby) and Holme Pierrepont (Notts.) Mass being now forbidden, even in private dwellings, Campion suffered execution and quartering the November after his arrival (1581).

In 1584 Sir Ralph Sadler at Tutbury says ' these priests are mostly popular about here.' Mary Stuart, an at-

tractive and disturbing influence was then in the district and in 1586 the Babington Plot to murder Elizabeth with Mary's consent, was discovered. Babington and Catesby with others suffered as traitors and the unfortunate Mary herself was executed in 1587. These executions set Spain free to act and the destruction of the Armada (1588) with the help and goodwill of the Catholic English brought much of their more violent persecution to a close, less perhaps by reciprocal goodwill than by sheer exhaustion. Shrewsbury writing to the Queen says seeing their captains are caught and their cause deserted the County gentry are now quiet. The pitiful incidents of the Padley martyrs, Garlick and Ludlam, were noted in passing and many familiar names brought into a story told with great restraint; Eyres, Fitzherberts, Powtrells, Sacheverels, Fentons, Foljambes, Babingtons, Longfords, etc., with Poles, Bassetts, Manners, Harpurs, etc. in the other side—all compact with information, scholarly and well documented.

Prebendary Clark-Maxwell put the vote of thanks with a warm tribute to the lecturer's endeavour to attain impartiality and to the obvious honesty with which the original documents had been put before the audience. He felt these persecutions in which he believed there was nothing to choose from either side was a most pitiful business, but if a man really believed that the other party was going to eternal destruction and that under duress he could be made to change his belief, then however much we might deplore the action we could understand it. At least these parties on either side were in deadly earnest about the deepest of all problems, the eternal verities.

Excursion to Newark, &c.

The first excursion of the season was made on an ideal summer day of silvery cloud and shining blue, June 27th, the district chosen being that portion of Notts., within a

radius of ten miles or so round Newark. Brigadier-General Godfrey Meynell, C.M.G., was leader and genial chairman and Miss Longdon, organising secretary, and the arrangements went with clock-like smoothness.

On arrival at Newark about 11-0 a.m., an immediate departure was made for the delightful manor house and church of Staunton where the reverend squire and rector received the party and first conducted them over the ancient home, an architectural compound of the 16th, 17th 18th centuries, a mixture of brick and grey lias delightful in its soft golden effect. A rare collection of ancient MSS. was laid out for inspection, perhaps the most interesting being three referring to the Crusade under Richard 'Lion-heart' and a warrant from Charles I authorising the squire of that day to raise (at his own costs) a regiment for the Royalist Cause. This manor is held under tenure of "Castle Guard" at Belvoir, of which a tower is named the "Staunton Tower" and when this ancient seat is visited by Royalty the Royal key (of gold) must be present in charge of the Squire of Staunton.

The grounds are near the borders of the three counties of Notts., Leicester and Lincoln, and the picture of the day was a vignette of Belvoir framed by mighty over-arching trees.

The beautiful church was almost rebuilt carefully and in good taste in 1854, with the exception of the fine dignified, transeptally placed early perp. tower. There is a good screen and many memorials including one to the widow and son of Simon Degge of Derby.

Here and throughout the day at the various places visited, General Meynell gracefully expressed the thanks and appreciation of the members, and the company then proceeded by lovely hay-scented rural byways to one of the most famous parish churches we have—Hawton, with its unique and exquisite "Easter-sepulchre" and almost equally beautiful sedilia, c. 1330 A.D. This famous object

is a decorated three arched, three tiered recess on the north wall of the chancel, adjacent to the contemporary "founder's tomb," in which on the night of Good Friday the Host was deposited, representing the Dead Christ to be resurrected with great ceremony on Easter morning. Probably the finest example of its type in Europe, its detail cannot be given here. Cox's *County Churches, Notts.* gives a good illustration and description. Though a generation later than the famous foliage carving at the Chapter House of Southwell Cathedral and less refined it is not unlikely the work of the guild of craftsmen responsible for that decoration. Graceful and finely proportioned figures as well as leafage distinguish the whole delightful composition. The rector who kindly acted as guide and exponent thought the Nottingham school of "Imagers" in alabaster arose from this guild. The church apart from these special features is exceptional, ranging from E.E. to Perpendicular and the original panelled west door of oak survives. The rector (the Rev. F. S. Burnside) was thanked heartily by the Chairman and after lunch in Newark the party moved on to the College for Priests at Kelham to inspect its impressive new chapel raised to the designs of Messrs. Currey & Thompson, under the general control of the late Mr. C. C. Thompson, long a member of this Society. The Prior very kindly explained this noble building, a true monument to its late architect. A domed structure, the reverend father explained, primarily intended to be functional, it has a great central space for choral service, a Greek cross of equal arms in plan. The dome, the head, i.e. sanctuary, and triforium galleries are completed, but the arms are yet to be added. The material is of plain red brick, the immense dome and ceiling in grey "acoustic" plaster, and the bare intensely solemn apse a purplish slate tone. A huge brick arch with a carved and stepped coping carries the crucifix, with large green copper-bronze figures of the Crucified,

Our Lady and St. John, The Chapels, columned passages and cloisters add greatly to the solemn pictorial effect of this outstanding neo-Byzantine structure.

From Kelham by delightful byways northward the company passed to the entirely unmodernized old church of Holme, as a mere picture, delightful. Until recently terribly neglected, and scarce more than a ruin, it has by this very neglect escaped the peril of destructive restoration, and now is being lovingly repaired, its old furniture and fittings, damaged and nearly rotten, but wonderfully complete being dug out of paint and plaster, frankly patched and strengthened for preservation, but no tinkering with design or function being permitted, while some excellent fifteenth century glass has during this last years been gathered together effectively, in the East window. Stalls, seating with poppy-head and angel finials and screens have survived from early Tudor days almost complete, the old roof of the east end is once more revealed, while the nave and aisle roof timbers are emerging from the concealing plaster, and further work for which a minimum sum of £600 or £700 is essential is to proceed as resources are found. Mr. Nevil Trueman, under whom this conservative repairing is going on, kindly explained in person, the undertaking, and was, of course, duly thanked by General Meynell.

The company from there returned to Newark where the considerable castle ruins, ranging in date from Norman to Tudor times, built by a bishop of Lincoln (Alexander, 1123-47), only to pass into Royal possession—though ultimately back to Lincoln—has many of the features of old romance including a particularly gruesome 'oubliette' and grim undercrofts, etc., all duly inspected under the guidance of the borough librarian, Mr. Arthur Smith, F.L.A., and with this inspection ended an exceedingly successful excursion.

Excursion to Wingfield Manor, etc.

The second excursion followed on Saturday, July 28th, taking in Winfield (or Wingfield) Manor House and Dethick, with a finish at Lea Green where Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Marsden-Smedley kindly entertained the company, upwards of eighty in number, to tea.

Saturday was chosen as an experiment, an attempt to popularise the work of the Society by so arranging the function as to enable business and professional members to take part without sacrifice of their work-a-day arrangements. The organising and secretarial work was carried through by Mr. W. H. Walton and Canon Farmer presided.

The company assembled amid the ruins of Wingfield Manor House where Canon Farmer formally introduced Mr. W. H. Hanbury, the speaker for the occasion, who distributed typed notes on the historic elements of his theme with a brief introductory address and then conducted the company to the principal points of interest. Briefly the estate originally one of the innumerable Derbyshire holdings of the de Ferrars passed about 1440 to Ralph, Lord Cromwell, who began the present building forthwith. He died 1445, having sold the reversion of the estate to John Talbot, second Earl Shrewsbury who completed the fittings and was in residence by 1448. He, with his brother was killed in battle in 1460. The fourth earl died here, 1541. George the sixth earl was the fourth husband of the famous "Bess of Hardwick" and for sixteen years the unfortunate keeper-host of Queen Mary Stewart who was here first in 1569 *en route* for Tutbury, and again for six months from June 1st of the same year. She was next here in September, 1584 passing thence to Tutbury in the following January and so to Chartley, Fotheringay and execution two years later.

During the last stay of the queen at Wingfield the Babington plot, which brought about the barbarous

execution of its originative and the death of Queen Mary herself was initiated.

A daughter and co-heiress of the 7th earl carried Wingfield in marriage to the Earl of Pembroke who in the Civil Wars held it for Parliament, but Wm. Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle captured it for the King, Dec. 19th, 1643; Sir John Gell besieged it in May, 1644, re-taking it after three months stout resistance. In 1646 it was ordered to be "sleighted" or rendered innocuous by Parliament. Twenty years later Emmanuel Halton, a distinguished astronomer, purchased the remains, and the great hall, etc. was re-constructed as a residence of the period, a slight reprieve only for in another half century it became a quarry for building the "classical" mansion at the bottom of the hill, and pretty much the ruin we now see.

Only three or four contemporary domestic buildings in Britain can vie in beauty of workmanship with Wingfield Manor which is representative of an epoch when military ideas in construction were retreating before a desire for social amenities and comfort. Unlike Haddon, however, defence was not ignored, its picturesque dominance on a hill steep on three sides testifies that military strength still counted, and the noble keep at the S.W. of the inner court gives emphasis to that idea. The lay-out gives two large courts with a fine entrance gateway to that on the south. Except this and the fine adjacent barn little here survives until we come to the porter's lodge where the dividing range of buildings (now a farmstead) separating the two courts is pierced. To the east of the inner court all is gone; westward, the outer great wall and ruined residential buildings probably occupied by Queen Mary Stewart alone survive, with the impressive tower 72 ft. high in the S.W. angle.

To the north, however, stands the range of buildings which makes these remains famous, the Great Hall with

its exquisite oriel and its beautiful porch. The great hall, best realised in its pristine form as Mr. Walton pointed out, by recalling one of the "living" halls of our ancient universities, has an area of $71\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $36\frac{1}{2}$ ft. Most of its south wall between oriel and porch is gone but in essentials the other walls remain, the upper windows, originals though lacking their mullions the lower ones of Halton's re-construction when an inserted floor divided the vertical space. At the east end was the dais for the high-table lighted by the lovely oriel and thence descended newels to the famous undercroft, a beautifully vaulted centrally arcaded chamber with carved bosses and corbels or brackets which Mr. Hanbury indicated with a flash lamp. This no doubt was the great storeroom for an establishment of over a hundred souls. Of the chapel, probably on the east of the court no trace remains. The "solar" or private retiring room of "my lord" usually connecting with the dais, is not found here; it seems to have been replaced by the so-called state apartments westward, set at right angles to the hall with its great gable fine window and lovely little "rose" or wheel oculus, rising next to the charming porch. West of this are the buttery, kitchens, etc., but here the ruin is so effectual that the complete plan is difficult to visualise. Mr. Hanbury pointed out evidences for his strong belief that the kitchen has always been in its present position, which is contrary to certain published opinions.

Before departing Prebendary Clark-Maxwell called attention to our local good fortune in having such beautiful domestic remains of this period as Wingfield and its slightly younger contemporary the castle at Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and the knowledge that the founder of this building also raised Tattersall Castle, for the preservation of which we are indebted to a great Derbyshire nobleman, the late Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.

Canon Farmer thanked Mr. Hanbury for his entertaining

address and in departing Mr. Walton called special attention to the refined quality of the masonry, the delicacy of the ornaments and the bold richness of mouldings and buttresses.

By charming highway and byway with impressive distances the party then passed via Wessington to Dethick, pausing on Dethick Common to inspect the stone base of the gibbet, a grim reminder of ancient crime and punishment.

Mr. J. B. Marsden-Smedley, J.P., the present lord of the manor awaited the company at the ancient Babington home of Dethick, conducting them over the house (now a farm) and premises and thence to the church. Mutilation and re-conditioning have largely transformed the old dwelling but portions of Tudor times still survive, particularly the kitchen and the splendid barn, while evidence of lost structures may be noted.

In the church Mr. Marsden-Smedley gave a sketch of its history from the founding by a Dethick in 1223, its reconstruction in 1530 by Anthony Babington, great-grandfather of the unfortunate conspirator of the same name, and its subsequent history thro' Puritan times, when some holders permitted nonconformists to celebrate the service and others disallowed it. Documents in his own possession to this effect were quoted . . . Thro' all this period the church was a "peculiar" the private chapel of the lord of the manor and so remained until his time, being by his own efforts in association with other local interests, raised as a joint cure to parochial dignity in 1899 . . . Mr. Lugard quoted from the Ashover parish registers, in which parish Dethick was a chapelry, how some local residents wishing to be married in the church had applied to Leacroft (the notorious Clerk) for permission, and who made an entry that he made no objection if the squire did not! . . . Some notes on Dethick genealogies by Mr. Walton were held over from lack of time and appeared elsewhere.

From Dethick the party proceeded to Lea Green where Mr. and Mrs. Marsden-Smedley, with a very happy welcome, entertained them to tea and their kind hospitality having been duly acknowledged on the company's behalf by Canon Farmer and Mr. R. A. F. Longdon, a saunter round the charming home grounds concluded a very pleasant itinerary.

Excursion to Padley Chapel, etc., 22nd August.

The Third Summer Excursion was to Padley Chapel, Holmesfield Hall, Barlow church, Cartledge and Cutthorpe Halls, all east of the Derwent. Mrs. Vincent Evans was organising secretary and leader and a large company took advantage of the arrangements which worked with gratifying precision. The approach was by the beautiful river valley, a familiar and rather crowded route as far as Rowsley, thence thro' Chatsworth park to Baslow and on, with increasing scenic impressiveness to Grindleford Bridge, where lunch was taken and Nether Padley. Here the Right Rev. Monsignor Payne, V.G., by whose kindness the visit was made to the recently restored chapel, received the company and having described the historical and religious import of the place, called on the architect of the re-construction, Mr. C. M. Hadfield, F.R.I.B.A., to explain the architectural features of the chapel and the antiquarian interest of the adjacent remains, recently excavated. Beginning with the latter Mr. Hadfield quoted Mr. Sidney Addy as saying of Padley "These remains supply us with as good an example of a 14th century manor house as can now be obtained." Yet this statement was made when 95 per cent. of the old walls, now revealed, were beneath the sod, covered by two or more yards in depth of earth. The wrought masonry stacked by the old retaining wall lay buried in a heap at the N.W. corner, under the rear courtyard. They either represented fallen ruins or more probably intentional

demolition. This ashlar work suggests a building of some architectural pretensions, first class mason-craft of its day; attention may be specially drawn to the fragments of mullions, an oriel window jamb, parapets and a tabling banded with shields, etc. Their period coincides with the standing remains mid-14th century, but are of freestone probably from near Stoke (near Padley), easier worked than the hard local grit of the surviving above-ground portions.

He then went on to the planning, quoting at some length from Hudson-Turner's *Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages*, on the particularly good craftsmanship of this period, and emphasising the dominance of the "Hall" as the essential feature of all domestic buildings. It invariably went the whole height of the structure, but might have a large chamber (undercroft) beneath it. Wings were commonly of two storeys only, with curtain wall and lodges forming a complete quadrangle. Padley conformed to this type, but later building and the disturbances of the adjacent railway construction mask it, and have obliterated the lay-out of the approaches. He pictured the terraces and gardens and fishponds approaching what has long been known as the Chapel, but—he thought—probably was the gatehouse with the chapel as a portion of its upper storey. Its two doorways, originally connected by a sloping passage gave access to the courtyard; the outer designed for heavy doors with strong bar to resist forcing, the inner perhaps an open archway. The passage walls of timber divided the ground floor into two apartments; the upper floor of heavy oak beams—ends of which still may be seen—was also divided, as shown by the centre roof principal, with its cut housings for a screen. The eastern apartment we are justified—he thought—in calling the chapel on the evidence of the enriched roof principal, cusped two-light window, piscina and walled-up doorway in the N.E. angle. This upper floor was at the

same level as the existing paving of the hall [due to slope of site]. The doorway—perhaps a “priest’s doorway—above mentioned must have communicated either with an outside stone staircase or, more probably, with a building forming the eastern wing of the quad., still unexcavated. Two doorways in the N. wall must have “given” on to an external wooden gallery, their proximity suggesting separation by a screen of two apartments, chapel and outer room. Lastly, there are four fireplaces each, doubtless, serving a separate room. The discovery of the old stone altar amid the ruins supports the conjecture of an eastern wing to the hall, along which it could have been borne on the level to the spot where it lay. Mr. Hadfield showed the western end of the south elevation had been rebuilt not improbably within the past century the small two-light slits are not original, probably dating from the conversion of the structure to a cattle shed. The original roof truss of this portion is now part of the farmhouse.

The fine “hammer-beam” roof fixes the date of the building and the trusses were found in a sound condition and toned by time and perhaps the odourous stable fumes! No paint was detected . . . The excavated remains were then expounded with considerable caution. The house seems to have been built by a Padley, *circa* 1350, showing no sign of “Perpendicular” influence and with no obvious later remains, but there are suggestions west of the gatehouse of an earlier building, perhaps a gatehouse-tower.

The plan indicated main “hall” with screens and circular hearth-stone, kitchen, parlour, solar and another room, the last two over kitchen and parlour respectively, Main entrance in N.W. angle of courtyard. The kitchen and circular staircase to solar are well defined, the latter probably looking over terraces northward. Outside the parlour were walls difficult to explain and about the doorway traces of the only plaster anywhere found amid these remains.

Appreciation of Monsignor Payne's courtesy and address was expressed as also of the illuminating essay and the painstaking guidance of Mr. Hadfield, the architect, and the party then adjourned for lunch and thence moved forward thro' some of the noblest moorland expanses of the county by Foxhouse and Owler Bar to Holmesfield Hall with its museum-like wealth of ancient "domesticities" and on to the bijou Cartledge Hall also charming inside particularly for its plaster work and pleasant accessories and also as the home of a Derbyshire writer and novelist with a very dainty gift of narrative and a fine knowledge of the local dialect, the late Mr. Murray Gilchrist, by the courtesy of whose sisters, the Misses Gilchrist, the visit was made. Tea was provided in Holmesfield church schools whence Barlow church was visited to view the impressive and highly devotional re-constructions there executed by the late Mr. C. C. Thompson. The small neat church is primarily Norman, Mr. Thompson's work is essentially original and modern, but ignoring the letter, captures the spirit, with exquisite success of medievalism. And so on to the last item of a day of rich experiences, through a fine country within the orbit of Derbyshire's most rampant industrialism and hence little visited for its own sake, yet full of charm and landscape beauty and richly endowed with delightful survivals of our ancient 16th and 17th century manor-houses and substantial homes of our well furnished yeoman stock. Cutthorpe Hall is an outstanding example and the generous owners Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Butcher gave free access inside and out to their delightful property, which they claim dates from the end of the 15th century, but masonry, fittings including impressive fireplaces, and panelling all suggesting late 16th or even early 17th century work. But of course old fabric may be incorporated. Anyway ensemble and topography alike here make a perfect Peakland idyll. And here, but for the

run home, ended a particularly opulent and gratifying outing.

[Note: being in Germany at the time I was unable to attend this tour, but Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Evans generously ran me over the whole course when making the preliminary arrangements and from this with some of their oral notes, and the very considerate loan of the architect's typescript address, gratefully acknowledged, this account is compiled.—W.H.W.]

Excursion to Creswell Crags.

An excursion for specialists! On the extreme eastern border of our county a narrow band of magnesium limestone is developed, the most characteristic section of which is a dwarf valley near Welbeck-Cresswell Crags, suggesting miniature replicas of passages in the Wye and Lathkil valleys. In the limestone face occur characteristic fissures and caves with various fanciful names: the Pinhole Cave, Mother Grundy's Parlour, the Boat House, etc., etc. In these caves and cracks have been found from time to time remains of the work of early man, some preceding the last glacial epoch when great ice sheets extended almost to the Thames Valley and here dammed back the little stream so that the whole became a deep fish haunted lake. Here some sixty years ago, a local clergyman the Rev. J. Magens Mello, assisted by an enthusiast from Sheffield and a little later by Mr. Thomas Heath, curator of the Derby Public Museum, with occasional supervision by the late Professor Boyd-Dawkins did good work for several seasons finding considerable evidence of the one-time presence of palæolithic man and his associated fauna.

Many of these finds are in the Derby Museum in acknowledgement of the Committee having liberated their curator from his normal work to serve here and the generous allowance of his expenses from the private purse

of the then Museum Chairman, Mr. Alderman Longdon. But after a time the laborious work had to be abandoned, paid labour being costly and little financial help available.

Some ten years ago Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong resumed investigations on these sites and his successes have raised him to the position of an authority, some of the finds going to the British Museum, while the British Association invited him to describe his undertaking. It may be added that Mr. F. Williamson, the Director of the Public Libraries, Museums, etc. at Derby also secured some specimens for that Institution, and that this Society during the current year made a small grant to the work. Hence a short time back Mr. Armstrong invited the members of our Society specially interested to inspect the work in progress and this invitation was in due time circulated, but as the space in these caverns and fissures is very constricted long and narrow only such special members and the Council were notified, Mr. W. H. Hanbury being the medium and organiser. The visit was made on September 15th, the company numbering fifteen and Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong met them outside the "Pinhole Cave"—so-called because the rustic populace used to crawl in and drop pins down a hole there, propitiating the fairies to gain their cherished wishes! Here, at present, excavation is going forward. Mr. Hanbury having made the formal introductions, the host, by means of a coloured plan and diagram explained the morphology of the cave and his method of work. The original surface minus the modern accumulations since Roman times, consisted of six inches of very hard stalagmitic flooring from the continuous drip of lime-impregnated water thro' many centuries, and below that about six feet of yellowish cave earth containing tools and ornaments, particularly necklaces of beads made of the phalanges or bones of the fingers and toes of small animals, of man of the Aurignacian periods and many associated animals, reindeer,

notably the young, being predominant. Below this section was a pavement-like layer of large limestone blocks, evidently fallen from the roof, presumably dislodged by frost during the intense cold of the glacial period. During this time the lake (finally evaporated by the heat of the two past summers) was dammed back by the ice and rose up in the cave for a long period above this pavement level, the evidence still plain on the cave walls. Then succeeded a mild period, the barrier thawed and the lake-level fell so that the cave became accessible once more.

Below this section came another of similar cave earth with remains of man's tools and hearth fire of the very primitive Mousterian age (of which Mr. Armstrong claimed this as the finest existing evidence anywhere!) Together with fish scales (pike and perch) presumably food from the adjacent lake. The animals represented were cave lion (a beautifully preserved jaw was shown) bear, rhinoceros in abundance, hyæna, horse and oxen. Then came another layer of fallen rock suggesting another glacial phase, and below that a further six feet of cave earth over the natural floor base of the cave. Animal remains, with reindeer persisting throughout the whole series were found almost down to bedrock at 18 ft. 6 ins., but no evidence of man's occupation in the lowest two feet.

The party, in single file from the narrowness of the cave, were then conducted over the workings, penetrating forty or fifty feet inwards, the passage a little more than halfway having a narrow descending branch to the right in an undisturbed layer of which was shown *in situ*, the jaw of a hyæna, the mighty femur of a rhinoceros and a portion of the antler of a reindeer. The various layers already described were very ingeniously marked out by rows of lighted candles, as instructive as entertaining.

Many animal bones, some split for their marrow by man, some knawed by other animals, were shown as well

as flint, chert and other worked stones and pebbles, with implements of bone including one article which several members agreed probably was a "bull-roarer" such as modern savages and some small boys still swing sharply round at the end of a cord to induce a roaring or humming sound—believed magical in primitive communities.

Mr. Armstrong having been thanked very heartily for his demonstrations, the party then sped across the extremely beautiful "merrie Sherwood" to Ollerton for tea, just missing a violent thunderstorm, and thence by Rufford and its picturesque environs homeward in a dying light.

W. H. WALTON.