

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF
The Society of Antiquaries
OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE FOR 1915.

Although individually the vocations and avocations of most of us have been disturbed by the continuance throughout the past year of the Great War, as a society our operations have been but slightly affected by it. The chief interference was in connexion with the country meetings, of which none took place, satisfactory arrangements for them having been rendered difficult by the increased cost and uncertainty of railway travelling and the restricted facilities for road conveyance. A very successful outdoor meeting was, however, held in Newcastle on 5th October, in conjunction with the Durham and Northumberland Architectural and Archaeological Society, when there was a large attendance of members of both societies, including Dr. William Greenwell, one of our vice-presidents and president of the younger society, who despite the weight of nearly ninety-six years assisted in carrying out the day's programme. It is interesting to note that he was first elected a member of our Society more than seventy years ago (3rd June, 1845). Ten indoor meetings have been held as usual during the year and were well attended, and the papers communicated to them suffered neither diminution in number nor abatement in interest.

Our transactions have been published with customary regularity. These included vol. XII of the third series of *Archaeologia*

Aeliana (comprising pp. xxxv and 375, eight plates and many other illustrations), and the first half of vol. vii of the current series of *Proceedings* (comprising 160 pages in sheets, 15 plates, and numerous illustrations in the text).

When we compare the total number of members with those attending the meetings it is evident that to the majority the publications of the society constitute the chief inducement for membership. No doubt the absentee members follow with sustained interest our doings as reported in the transactions. It is therefore obviously of the utmost importance to the welfare of the society that the regular issue of our publications should be maintained, and it is satisfactory to know that the editor has in his possession excellent materials for more than one future volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and that he is able month after month to fill the *Proceedings* with interesting and valuable contributions towards the elucidation of local history and the study of northern antiquities. Unfortunately the cost of production is rising, and the scarcity of labour in the printing trade is affecting the progress of the volumes in the press. This is causing considerable anxiety, but it is expected these difficulties will prove to be only temporary, and if in the meantime the bulk of the volumes has to be reduced, it is hoped members will make due allowance for the abnormal state of affairs prevailing.

A feature of the past year's activity in the way of publications was the re-issue of the first and only volume of the first series of the *Proceedings*. This was mentioned in last year's report as then in preparation. The cost was defrayed by special subscriptions. An edition of about 100 copies was printed and nearly the whole of it has been disposed of. The reprint runs to 347 pages and has a new index compiled by the editor. Contrasting the *Proceedings* of to-day with this volume of sixty years ago, we cannot fail to be struck by the absence of illustrations in the latter, and to appreciate how modern methods of reproducing

drawings and photographs have added to the means of conveying accurate information.

An accidental fire took place in the castle in April last, destroying a portion of the reserve stock of our publications, including the guide-book to the Keep. As the latter is in constant demand for sale to visitors, its author, Mr. W. Parker Brewis, F.S.A., has kindly re-written it, and the new edition will shortly be issued with much additional matter and several fresh illustrations.

Our late warden of the castle, Mr. John Gibson, whose services of forty-two years' duration, were sympathetically referred to in last year's report, passed away on 12th March last, at the advanced age of 82 years, having performed his duties at the castle until within a fortnight of his decease.

Our losses of members by death since the last annual meeting include:—George Edward Hunter (elected 1911); he was a captain in the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers (T.), and was killed in action near Ypres on the 26th April last; George May, (elected 1899); John Philipson Ridley, (elected 1889); Rev. F. G. J. Robinson, (elected 1900); R. Stanley Rowell, (elected 1908); George Weddell, (elected 1898); and Thomas Williamson, (elected 1891).

It is feared that Captain James Harold Cuthbert, D.S.O., (elected 1912) reported as missing in the war, may be lost to us. As the owner of the site of *Corstopitum*, he rendered possible by his generous aid and co-operation the excavations there.

Only nine new members have been elected during the year. This is below the recent annual average, but considering the circumstances of the times it need not be regarded as a matter for discouragement.

During the year there have been issued two volumes of the Surtees Society's publications, edited respectively by two of our vice-presidents, namely:—(1) *Visitations of the North*, by Mr. F.

W. Dendy, D.C.L., and (ii) *North Country Diaries*, by Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, M.A., F.S.A. There has also just been published by the Cambridge University Press *The Pilgrimage of Grace and the Exeter Conspiracy*, written by our member, Miss M. Hope Dodds, in collaboration with her sister.

The periodic 'pilgrimage' of the Roman Wall (which took place in 1886, 1896, and 1906) falls due in the summer of 1916. It will be a matter of consideration whether it should be arranged for if the blessings of peace be restored to us by that time.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science is to meet in Newcastle in 1916, when our society will gladly participate in welcoming it as on previous occasions in 1838, 1863, and 1889.

The exhibition, at present open in the Laing Art Gallery, of pictures and objects illustrative of old Newcastle, suggests the expression of a hope that, when happier times return, it may not be left to the efforts of a society like our own to collect and display similar memorials, but that Newcastle will at no distant date have an adequate municipal museum commensurate with the city's rank in the present age and worthy of its storied past.

The reports of the treasurer, curators, and librarian have been received by the council and are submitted herewith.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1915.

The number of members on the roll on the 31st of December was three hundred and seventy-three, seven of whom are life members. During the year ten members resigned, and we lost six by death. In the same period nine new members were elected.

The income for the year has been £534 15s. 10d., which, with the balance brought forward from 1914, gives a total of

£595 4s. 6d. The expenditure has been £563 4s. 5d., leaving a balance in hand of £32 0s. 1d. Nothing has been paid on account of the fire insurance during the year. The reason for this being that the council decided to make a change in our insurances, and also to provide against aircraft and bombardment risks. These new arrangements were not completed by the 31st December, 1915, otherwise the balance in hand would have been reduced by about £18. It also means that double insurance premiums will have to be paid out of the current year's (1916) income.

We received £114 3s. 6d. from the insurance company on account of the damage caused by the fire at the castle early in the year. The council decided to invest this money in 4½ per cent. War Stock, as well as £126 of the money we had lying in the Post Office Savings Bank. It was also decided to convert the 2½ per cent. Consols (£42 18s. 5d.) we held, into the same stock. These arrangements have all been carried out, particulars of which are shown in the Investment Account below.

INVESTMENTS, 31st December, 1915.

	£	s.	d.
In 4½ per cent. War Loan Stock, 1925-1945	240	0	0
£42 18s. 5d., 2½ per cent. Consols, converted into 4½ per cent. War Loan Stock	28	12	3
In Post Office Savings Bank, December 31st, 1914 ...	£131	8	8
Withdrawn and put into War Stock	126	0	0
		5	8
Interest on £114 3s. 6d. while on deposit at bank ...	0	10	9
Rebate on paying for £240 War Loan Stock in full ...	1	4	0
Dividend on Consols for 1915	1	1	4
Half-year's interest on War Loan Stock	5	14	1
Interest on P.O. Savings Bank account for 1915 ...	1	14	3
		10	4
	£284	5	4

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1915.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1915.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance brought from last account, 31st December, 1914—		
At bank	£47 11 0	
In hand	12 17 8	
	60 8 8	
Members' subscriptions	369 12 0	
Arrears of subscriptions	14 14 0	
	384 6 0	
Receipts at Castle	105 16 2	
Receipts at Blackgate	35 7 11	
Books sold	9 5 9	
Fire damages recovered from Insurance Company ...	114 3 6	
Castle expenses		114 3 10
Blackgate expenses		48 16 0
Books bought and library expenses		53 9 11
Printing:—		
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	145 14 7	
<i>Proceedings</i>	65 3 0	
		210 17 7
Illustrations		22 19 10
Museum expenses		7 2 6
Editor for clerical assistance		40 0 0
Sundry expenses		65 18 3
Transferred to Investment Account		114 0 0
Balance 31st December, 1915:—		
Cash at bank	19 11 6	
Cash in hand	12 8 7	
		32 0 1
	£709 8 0	£709 8 0

Examined with vouchers and found correct,

J. ARNOTT SISSON, F.C.A.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 22nd January, 1916.

TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1915.

XV

EXPENDITURE ON CASTLE—			
	£	s.	d.
The late J. Gibson's			
balance of salary ...	13	0	0
Warden's salary ...	79	5	0
Rent, Newc. Corporation	0	2	6
,, N.E.R. Company	0	15	0
Property tax ...	3	16	4
Water rate ...	0	6	0
Gas account ...	1	12	0
Electric current ...	1	17	9
Uniform for Warden ...	4	8	6
Insurance stamps ...	0	13	0
Fire extinguisher ...	2	1	0
Coals ...	1	19	0
Wire guard and glazing			
windows, etc. ...	1	15	6
Locks and keys ...	0	19	0
Charwoman (2 days) ...	0	7	0
Repairs ...	2	6	3
	<u>£114</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

EXPENDITURE ON BLACKGATE—			
	£	s.	d.
Attendant's wages ...	24	15	0
Rent: Newc. Corporation	1	0	0
,, N.E.R. Company	2	5	0
Inhabited house duty ...	1	4	2
Water rate ...	1	0	0
Gas account ...	2	17	11
Electric current ...	2	1	1
Coals ...	6	9	6
Fire extinguisher ...	2	1	0
Insurance stamps ...	0	13	6
Newc. Corporation (way			
leave for electric cable)	0	2	6
Blinds, brushes, etc. ...	1	7	11
Window cleaning ...	0	5	6
Repairs ...	2	12	11
	<u>£48</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

SUNDRIES—

	£	s.	d.
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., stationery and general printing ...	12	2	11
A. Dickson, Ltd., stationery, postage, and printing ...	24	4	7
R. Hill & Son, assessing damage caused by the fire at the Castle	5	11	0
Johnstone & Eltringham, lantern-stand and lamp ...	8	1	0
Stubbs & Robson, framing pictures ...	0	5	0
Postage on <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> ...	5	10	3
Index to <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> , 3 ser. vol. XII ...	3	3	0
Cheque book ...	0	5	0
Morris & Co., for lettering ...	0	2	6
Carriage on books ...	0	19	9
Wreath for Mr. Gibson's funeral ...	0	8	3
Secretary's petty disbursements ...	2	7	6
Treasurer's do. ...	2	17	6
	<u>£65</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1915.

LIBRARY ACCOUNT—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Subscriptions to Societies—		
Parish Register Society	1 1 0	
National Trust Society	1 1 0	
Congress of Archaeological Societies	1 0 0	
Harleian Society, 1914-1915	1 1 0	
Surtees Society	1 1 0	
Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society, 1914 and 1915	1 1 0	
	<hr/>	6 5 0
W. E. Elly, Durham Almoners Book	1 1 7	
T. & G. Allen, <i>Notes and Queries</i>	0 17 8	
Geo. Sherwood, <i>Pedigree Register</i>	0 18 4	
C. Griffin & Co., <i>Year Book of Scientific and Learned Societies</i>	0 6 4	
Asher & Co., Ltd., <i>Jahrbuch</i> , etc.	0 10 6	
J. Maclehose & Son, <i>Scottish Historical Review</i>	0 11 0	
R. Hill & Son, <i>Leech's Medieval Schools of England</i>	0 7 6	
Titus Wilson, <i>Scott's Index Catalogue</i>	0 7 10	
A. E. Downman, <i>Plans of Earthworks</i>	2 13 6	
The Wilson Bindery, bookbinding	7 6 9	
M. S. Dodds, repairing ten volumes of newspapers	2 10 0	
	<hr/>	17 11 0
Attendant's wages	20 12 6	
A. Reid & Co., Ltd., stationery, book labels, index cards, etc.	4 18 9	
R. Robinson & Co., Ltd., paper and clips	0 3 8	
Dixon, Blair & Co., for 'Dustrid'	0 1 6	
Aircraft and Bombardment Insurance on 'Brooks Collection'	1 10 0	
Librarian's petty disbursements	1 5 0	
Insurance stamps	1 2 6	
	<hr/>	29 13 11
		<hr/>
		53 9 11
		<hr/> <hr/>

MUSEUM EXPENSES—

Subscription to Museums Association	1 1 0	
J. F. Simpson, 3 coin cases	6 0 0	
Repairs	0 1 6	
	<hr/>	7 2 6
		<hr/> <hr/>

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FOR 1915.

The library has been used for reference purposes, and books have been borrowed by members as in previous years. The shelf register and card catalogue of the printed books, engravings, photographs, plans, maps, drawings, etc., which have been in preparation during the past three years, have been completed, and are available for use. The large collections housed in the library can now be found or referred to with comparative ease. The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs. B. J. Willans, who has devoted much time to this greatly needed work, and has done it very efficiently. The shelf register of MSS. has also been completed, and a rough card reference catalogue made to it. It is hoped that at some early date this list of our manuscripts may be printed. Its contents form part of the most valuable of the Society's possessions. Our large collection of local charters and deeds still remains to be put in order and calendared; this necessary work must, however, await more peaceful and leisured times when your librarian hopes to be able to receive the needful expert assistance. The work of repairing, rebinding and cleaning our collection of old newspapers which has been in hand for two years is now completed, and these volumes can now be easily and comfortably consulted.

The following gifts have been made to the library during the year:—

27 Jan. From Mr. W. W. TOMLINSON (the author):—*The North Eastern Railway, its Rise and Development.*

From Mr. R. H. EDLESTON, F.S.A.:—*The Registers of Bath Abbey* (Harleian Soc. publ.).

From Mrs. STRANGWAYS:—*The Armorial Bearings of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; The Pedigree of the Family of Adamson of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Nicholson's Reprints and Overprints of Antiquarian Papers, 4to; parts of The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland and Durham, Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists Club, and of The Northern Counties Magazine.*

- 27 Jan. From R. BLAIR, F.S.A.: *Numismata*.: (1) 'Lectures on the Coinage of the Greeks and Romans,' and (2) 'Traité élémentaire de Numismatique Ancienne Grecque et Romaine' (2 vols.): 24 Feb. *The Session Book of Bunkle and Preston*, 1665-1690.
- 31 March. From Mr. R. H. EDLESTON, F.S.A. (the author):—*Napoleon III. and Italy*, part iii.
- 28 April. From Mr. A. E. DICKINSON:—An Election Bill of 1774.
- 26 May. From Mr. WM. CLARK:—A Broadsheet of 1829.
From THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY:—A series of guides to places of interest in the North of England, and a series of posters, bills and advertisements relating to the war.
- 28 July. From YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, U.S.A.:—(1) *Essays on Milton*, (2) *The Earliest Lives of Dante*.
- 25 August. From Rev. E. J. TAYLOR, F.S.A.:—*Murray's Handbook to the Eastern Counties*, 1870, and *to Durham and Northumberland*, 1870.
From Mr. A. M. OLIVER:—A collection of recruiting posters and local documents connected with the war.
From Mr. PARKER BREWIS:—Another collection of similar posters and documents.
- 29 September. From THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G.:—*A Conference of Pleasure*, by Francis Bacon.
From Rev. E. J. TAYLOR, F.S.A.:—*A Thousand Years of the Church in Chester-le-Street*.
From MRS. WILLANS:—*The Truth about German Atrocities*.
- 27 Oct. From Mr. M. PHILLIPS, F.S.A. (the author):—*Theobald's Park Wall* (overprint).
From THE ARMSTRONG COLLEGE:—*Calendar*, 1915-1916.
- 24 November. From Mr. C. A. CORDER:—Recruiting Bills and Posters.
From Mr. L. JOHNSTONE:—*Transactions of The Viking Club*.
From Mr. ROBERT BLAIR, F.S.A.:—*The Antiquary* for 1915.

The various serials or publications of learned societies which are received in exchange or by subscription have come to hand regularly. For list of these societies see page xxxiii.

CURATORS' REPORT FOR 1915.

During the past year the Society has suffered a severe loss owing to the death, on the 12th March, 1915, of our late warden, Mr. John Gibson, after over 40 years' faithful service to the Society, during which he had acquired a unique knowledge of many of the objects in the Keep and Blackgate.

We are glad to report that the takings for the past year at both the Keep and Blackgate, although not yet normal, are in excess of those of the previous year.

Mr. W. W. Tomlinson kindly undertook an examination of the Delaval papers, on which he has presented an interim report. He still continues his investigations, which when concluded will enable us to arrange to accommodate the papers in such a way as to be of use to the members for reference.

Three cases for the window recesses have been provided for the exhibition of a portion of the Society's coins and tokens. The following is a list of donations during the year:—

- 31 Mar. From Sir WALTER ESSEX, M.P.:—A pre-historic currency bar of iron, found near Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos. (*Proc.*, vii, 27.)
- 28 Apl. From Mr. W. H. CULLEN:—A silver medal of queen Anne. 28 July:—(1) An Egyptian *ushabti*, exhibited on 26th August, 1914. (*Proc.* vi, 237); (2) a bronze token, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, struck on the centenary of the battle of Trafalgar, from copper from the *Victory*, presented by the Admiralty; and (3) a Nuremberg counter, or 'abbey piece,' from the Tyne. 29 September:—The following coins and medals—SILVER: An Edward VII and Alexandra Coronation medal; of queen Victoria, sixpence and threepence of 1901, and 12 annas of 1862; of president Kruger, a shilling of 1896. COPPER: Of queen Victoria, pennies of 1854 and 1901, a farthing of 1901, and a quarter anna of 1862; of Albert, king of the Belgians, a 2 cent piece of 1912. (*Ibid.*, 33, 66, 98.)
- 28 July. From Mr. W. GIBSON:—A special constable's staff, which formerly belonged to his father-in-law, Mr. Joseph Simpson, of Cockermonth, Cumberland. It is 18 inches long, and bears the date 1839. (*Ibid.*, 66.)
- 28 „ From Mr. ARTHUR STONES:—A half-penny of William III (?). (*Ibid.*, 66.)
- 5 Oct. From the Rev. A. WATTS, The Rectory, Witton Gilbert:—A fine polished stone axe, found in his parish about two years ago. (*Ibid.*, 122.)