



The Society of Antiquaries

OF

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1919.

A survey of the Society's operations during the year 1919 reveals no prominent feature inviting special comment. The customary ten meetings took place, at which the average attendance was maintained. It would, however, be encouraging if the contributors to the *agenda* of these meetings were more numerous, and the Council again appeals to the general body of members for more effective co-operation in this respect. Reference to the latest two volumes of *Archaeologia Aeliana* shows that the authors of the eighteen contributions they contain numbered nine, or only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total membership.

During the year the archaeological world has been made poorer by the decease of three men of international renown. 1.—The Commendatore G. T. Rivoira, who died at Rome on the 3rd March, aged 68. His book on *Lombardic Architecture*, of which an English translation was published in 1910, dealt at considerable length with examples of Anglo-Saxon and Norman work in the north of England. 2.—Sir William St. John Hope, who died on the 18th August, aged 65. His researches and writings, especially in connexion with monastic and ecclesiastical buildings, added immensely to our knowledge and appreciation of these

works of the Middle Ages. He contributed, as far back as 1887, to *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 2 ser. XIII, a valuable illustrated paper on Alnwick abbey. 3.—Professor F. J. Haverfield, the leading specialist on subjects connected with the Roman occupation of Britain, who died on the 1st October, aged 58, was intimately associated with us as a member since 1889, and a vice-president since 1906. To our transactions he was a frequent contributor. A short notice of his career has already been printed in our *Proceedings* and a longer one, from the pen of our member, Professor Bosanquet, is intended to appear in vol. xvii of *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

Besides Professor Haverfield, we have to mourn the loss of another vice-president, the genial and venerated Richard Welford, who was elected a member in 1879 and a vice-president in 1897. After a cheerful endurance of bodily infirmities that deprived us for many years of his presence at our meetings he died on the 20th June at the ripe age of 83. His last signature on our attendance book occurs under date of the 29th July, 1908, and as he has put on record that he was present at a function in the Castle on the 5th October, 1854 (the eve of the great fire and explosion in Gateshead and Newcastle), his connexion with our Society, direct and indirect, may be said to have extended over the long period of nearly sixty-five years. A memoir of him by our member, Mr. John Oxberry, is printed in vol. xvi of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. In addition to these two vice-presidents the necrology for the year 1919 includes the following ten members (to whose names the year of election of each is added), viz. :—Frank Marshall (1884), John Wilson (1885), C. W. S. Goodger (1886), Joseph Henry Straker (1887), H. T. Rutherford (1892), William Boyd (1894), Dr. Frederick Page (1901), H. S. Bird (1904), W. F. Horsley (1908), and J. Elliott (1909).

Against these heavy losses the gain has accrued of eighteen

new members elected during the year. Our membership (in addition to four honorary members) now numbers 351. The maximum of 380 was reached in 1914—the year of the outbreak of war. A loss of less than eight per cent. during the trying period passed through may be regarded as satisfactory. It is hoped however, that even this small loss will soon be recovered. If members having friends of similar predilections would inform them of the advantages and aims of the Society an increase in the number of members would ensue.

Volume xv of the current (or third) series of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, which should have appeared in 1918, was belated until May, 1919, for reasons assigned in our last report. The appearance of the next volume (xvi), for similar reasons, was delayed until very late in the year under review. It is hoped that affairs in the printing trade may soon settle down and give more reliability, but it is not likely that pre-war prices will ever return. As so much of the Society's welfare depends upon its publications, the future is necessarily one of some anxiety in respect of them. For pecuniary reasons it proved necessary to reduce the bulk of the two latest volumes of *Archaeologia Aeliana* by about one third, compared with those preceding them. Were it found feasible to increase the amount of the annual subscription to the Society the former standard of quantity in our publications might be resumed; but, failing that, we fear the diminution will have to be regarded as permanent.

The *Proceedings* have been kept up to date and furnish month by month the means whereby members who do not attend the meetings can make themselves familiar with the current affairs of the Society. They include many contributions, generally shorter but not on that account less valuable than those in *Archaeologia Aeliana*. They also contain much miscellaneous information full of interest to students of northern history and

antiquities. For instance, in the volume now in course of publication, there has been printed the inedited diary (for 1648) of Major John Sanderson of Hedleyhope, an officer in the Parliamentary army. This evoked commentaries by Mr. J. W. Fawcett and Mr. John Oxberry which were printed in the *Proceedings* and *Archaeologia Aeliana* respectively. In the pages of the present volume there is in progress a calendar of a large number of deeds in the Newcastle Public Library (known as the 'Coleman Collection') full of information about local places and persons in the sixteenth and the following three centuries.

From time to time in past years proposals have been made to form a society with the special object of printing ancient records of local import. Now, under our auspices, steps are being taken to establish a record branch or section independent of and yet affiliated with us. A circular signed by four of our members (Messrs. F. W. Dendy, A. M. Oliver, K. H. Vickers, and C. H. Hunter Blair) setting forth details of the scheme is being issued.

There has been a great demand by visitors to the Castle for a guide book to it since the latest edition of 1916 was exhausted, and in spite of the largely increased cost of production we have placed on order fresh editions of guide-books both to the Castle and Blackgate. As stated in our last report the author, Mr. Parker Brewis, has most kindly revised and partially re-written these hand-books, which will be offered for sale at enhanced prices, in order to meet, to some extent, their larger cost. The previous edition of the Black-gate guide was published in 1914. Whilst it is pleasing to observe that the Castle and Blackgate attract a host of visitors, it is most regrettable to have to comment on the improper conduct of some of them. Adequate supervision, under available conditions, is practically impossible in buildings of such complicated construction, and it is distressing to find

that thefts and wilful damage are of frequent occurrence. Unless a remedy can be found the admission of the public to the Castle and Blackgate may have to undergo restriction.

A revised catalogue of the Roman inscribed and sculptured stones preserved at the Blackgate, the finest series of such antiquities in this country, is urgently needed, and Mr Robert Blair has kindly undertaken its preparation. Like the former catalogue of thirty-two years ago it will be printed in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and also in a separate form adapted for visitors to the museum. This unique collection of Roman stones deserves a better lighted and more capacious home than the Blackgate affords. During the year a large deferred bequest was made by the late Mr. J. G. Joicey to the city of Newcastle for the creation of a municipal museum, to which the Blackgate collection might appropriately be transferred if it could be displayed under adequate conditions of space and light. In our Report for 1915 we expressed the hope that such a museum might, after the war, become an accomplished fact, and it is gratifying to know that the prospect of its establishment is now much less remote than it seemed then to be.

Mr. Thomas Reed of Gateshead, whose generous benefactions to the funds of the Society in 1917 and 1918 were recorded in our Reports of those years, has this year given to our library a complete set of *Records of Remarkable Events connected with the Borough of Gateshead*, edited by the late James Clephan; the set, of sixteen volumes, being the editor's own copy. Mr. Reed has also presented us with a fine water-colour drawing of the north front of Durham cathedral, formerly belonging to the late Dr. William Greenwell. This now adorns the library in the Blackgate.

The literary activities of some of our members outside the bounds of the Society deserve mention. Mr. R. C. Clephan, v.p.,

has produced an important work entitled *The Tournament, its Periods and Phases* (published by Methuen & Co.). It has a preface by the curator of the armouries in the Tower of London, Mr. C. J. Foulkes, and is well illustrated. Brigadier-General Surtees has printed privately *The History of the Church of St. Brandon at Brancepeth*, in a brochure of 41 pages, a copy of which he has presented to us. The author hopes to follow this by histories of Brancepeth parish and castle, and of Stanhope and Wolsingham. In collaboration with Mr. C. C. Hodges, our member Mr. John Gibson, has brought out *Hexham and its Abbey*, a new book, finely illustrated (published by Gibson & Son and by Batsford). Mr. J. Crawford Hodgson, v.p., has edited for the Surtees Society its 131st volume entitled *Northumbrian Documents of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*.

During the coming summer and autumn many members would doubtless welcome a revival of the out-door meetings which were so much appreciated in pre-war days. The periodic pilgrimage of the Roman Wall, which on account of the war could not take place at the regular time in 1916, might very properly be regarded as postponed and not abandoned. A shortened pilgrimage would be better than none.

Reconstruction is the order of the day, and while endeavouring to set our own house in order we have not forgotten our duty towards others and have had pleasure in assisting to re-equip the library of Louvain, the destruction of which was one of the earliest of the countless barbarities perpetrated by Germany during the war. Through the John Rylands Library, Manchester, we have sent to Louvain forty-seven volumes of our transactions, besides several books which our library possessed in duplicate. A further link with Belgium may be mentioned, namely that two of our members, Mr. R. C. Clephan, v.p., and Mr. Robert Blair, secretary, have recently been elected foreign corresponding

members of the Académie Royale d'Archéologie de Belgique, having its head-quarters in Antwerp.

In the lapse of 107 years since our Society was founded generations of members have come and gone, all actuated by the reverence for antiquity which is congenial to cultured minds. This mental attitude the Society stimulates us to preserve in the arduous days of renaissance through which the world is now passing.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1919.

The number of members on the roll on the 31st December, 1919, was 351, five of whom are life members. During the year six members resigned, twelve were lost by death and three were removed from the roll by order of the council under statute III. In the same period eighteen new members were elected.

The income for the year has been 663*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, which with the balance of 122*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* brought forward from 1918, gives a total of 786*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The ordinary expenditure has been 569*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and besides this the council authorised the investing of 200*l.* in the 4 per cent. Funding Loan, 1960-90, thus leaving a balance in hand of 17*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* on the years accounts. The amount received for members subscriptions is about the same as in 1918. The receipts at the Castle show an increase of 20*l.* 13*s.* on the previous year, while the expenditure has been 8*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* less. As anticipated in my report last year the amount paid for printing the *Archaeologia Aeliana* this year shows a considerable increase.

Our investments have been increased by 200*l.* during the year, and now amount to 992*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* at cost price. A slight change has to be noted in our holding, as 200*l.* of the 5 per cent. National War Bonds, 1928, we had, had been converted into the 4 per cent. Funding Loan, 1960-90. This was done with a view

TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1919.

xix

to consolidation. A schedule of our investments is appended to the balance sheet. The dividends received from our investments have been paid into our account with the Post Office Saving Bank as has been done heretofore.

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

	Receipts.		Payments.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance brought from last account dated 31st December, 1918:—				
At Bank	105	17 6		
In hand	16	18 10		
			122	16 4
Members' Subscriptions	359	2 0		
Arrears of Subscriptions	12	12 0		
			371	14 0
Receipts at Castle			235	10 2
Receipts at Blackgate			52	9 3
Books sold			4	6 6
Castle expenses				88 19 11
Blackgate expenses				59 8 9
Books bought and library expenses				16 19 0
Printing:—				
<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>	178	4 8		
<i>Proceedings</i>	84	8 6		
				262 13 2
Illustrations				21 1 7
Editor for clerical assistance				40 0 0
Sundry expenses for stationery, etc.				80 9 1
Transferred to investment account				200 0 0
Balance 31st December, 1919:—				
Cash in hand	14	19 10		
Cash in Bank	2	4 11		
				17 4 9
			£786	16 3
			£786	16 3

XX. TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET FOR 1919.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT COST 31ST DECEMBER, 1919

	£	s.	d.
412 ^l . 14s. 11d. War Stock 1929-47	392	2	3
130 ^l . War Savings Certificates	100	15	0
100 ^l . 5 per cent. National War Bonds, 1928	100	0	0
500 ^l . 4 per cent. Funding Loan, 1960-1990	400	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£992	17	3

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

Balance as at 1st January, 1919	43	3	6
Add:—			
Dividends received from Investments during			
1919	36	4	2
Interest received from Post Office	1	6	2
			<hr/>
		80	13 10
			<hr/>
		£80	13 10

Examined with vouchers and found correct,

JAS. ARNOTT SISSON, F.C.A., *Hon. Auditor.*

Newcastle, 23rd January, 1920.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1919.

xxi

LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SOCIETIES—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Parish Register Society	1	1	0				
National Trust Society	1	1	0				
Congress of Archaeological Societies	1	0	0				
Harleian Society	1	1	0				
Surtees Society	1	1	0				
Museum Association	1	1	0				
Durham and North. Parish Register Society		0	10	6				
		<hr/>				6	15	6
BOOKS BOUGHT AND BINDING—								
E. S. Rickard, Harleian Society publ., XIII								
and XIV	1	18	0				
J. Maclehose & Son, <i>Scottish Historical Review</i>								
56-64	1	8	0				
Methuen, Clephan's <i>Tournament</i>	2	2	9				
T. & G. Allen, <i>Latin Epigraphy</i>	0	12	6				
do. <i>Notes and Queries</i>	0	6	0				
Year Book of Scientific Societies	0	7	6				
A. Reid & Co., Ltd, repairing	1	5	6				
Hill, <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>	1	7	6				
		<hr/>				9	7	9
Fire Insurance premium of 'Brooks Collection'		0	10	0				
Ink, and other sundries	0	5	9				
		<hr/>				0	15	9
		<hr/>				£16	19	0

EXPENDITURE ON CASTLE—

	£	s.	d.
Warden's wages	69	10	0
„ war bonus	10	15	0
Rent, Newc. corp'n	0	2	6
Insurance stamps	0	13	0
Water rate	0	6	0
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Carried forward	81	6	6

EXPENDITURE ON BLACKGATE—

	£	s.	d.
Attendant's wages	28	5	0
Insurance stamps	0	13	0
Rent, Newc. corp'n	1	0	0
„ N.E. railway co.	3	0	0
Inhabited house duty	1	8	6
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Carried forward	34	6	6

