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*Sheffield Castle.*—Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., Local Secretary, sends the following note:—Excavations between October 1927 and January 1928, on the site of new premises for the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society at the corner of Waingate and Exchange Street, Sheffield, have revealed extensive remains of the historic castle built by Thomas de Furnival in 1270 and demolished by order of Parliament in 1648. It is almost unbelievable that no authentic plan has come down to us of a building of such importance as Sheffield Castle undoubtedly was during medieval times, or that no record, even locally, has been preserved of its situation. Such, however, is the case, and so thoroughly was the work of demolition carried out that the site of the building has long been a subject of controversy. On the evidence of old place-names, such as 'Castle Green', 'Castle Folds', etc., most local historians favoured a location near the junction of the rivers Sheaf and Don for the castle itself, and it is within this area that the remains have recently been discovered.

At the Conquest, the Manor of Hallam was held by Waltheof, earl of Northumberland, Huntingdon, and Northampton, who is known to have had an aula there, and, though conclusive evidence is lacking, we have reason to believe that the site of the Saxon aula was that of the medieval castle. Unquestionably the baronial hall of Waltheof's successors in the Lordship of Hallam, the Lovetots, existed on that site in 1100 and passed, by marriage, to the Furnivals between 1176 and 1181. In 1266 this building was destroyed by the barons, and, in 1270, Thomas de Furnival received permission from the king to rebuild and fortify his castle. It is part of this thirteenth-century building and its defences which have now been uncovered. In view of the fact that in the days of its prime, when George, earl of Shrewsbury, held the Lordship, Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned there for over twelve years, the ruins and relics recovered have an added interest for the historian. The remains uncovered extend for a distance of 40 ft. from east to west and comprise the base of a massive circular bastion, or angle tower, having a radius of 20 ft. and walls upwards of 12 ft. in thickness, which flanked an important gateway situated at the SE. corner of the castle, probably the principal entrance. It is believed that this tower is one of two which defended the gateway. Between the two was a projecting rectangular gate-house of slightly later date and approximately half of this structure has been found. The wall of the bastion is of toolled ashlar, in 12 in. courses, and rises from a magnificent ashlar plinth 24 in. deep, in two bold chamfers. The gate-house wall is clearly of more recent construction and of inferior workmanship. It has a similar but modified plinth course. Below the plinth the walls of both are boldly splayed outwards, at an angle of  $75^{\circ}$ , into the moat, which is at this point 30 ft. wide and 21 ft. deep, measured from the surface level at the period of demolition. Walling to a total height of 20 ft. has been exposed and numerous sections of the moat obtained, from which it is evident that, in the considerable length located, the only portion which approached the castle was that opposite the gate-house: a fact which suggests that the moat probably ante-dates the castle. Immediately opposite the gate-house, and occupying a central position in the moat, a massive



pier of ashlar, contemporary in date with the bastion, was discovered when sinking a shaft for foundation purposes. The complete dimensions were not obtainable, one corner of the pier only being exposed, but the visible portions of the two faces measured 3 ft. and 2 ft. 8 in. respectively, and clearly showed the pier to be parallel with the face of the gate-house wall, and from its height and general character there can be little doubt that it is the pier which received the movable portion of the drawbridge. Its height was 7 ft. 6 in. above the bottom of the moat. Opposite the gate-house the moat bears in one direction slightly east of north, towards the Sheaf, and in the other direction travels SSW. and appears to continue across Waingate in the direction of Castle Street. It was entirely obliterated with debris, the lowest 14 ft. consisting of a black tenacious sludge which contained remains of aquatic plants and enclosed quantities of kitchen refuse, ashes, animal bones, shells, broken pottery, remnants of leather shoes and soles, coins, glass, stone ballista-balls, cannon-balls, knives, keys, etc. The upper portion of the filling consisted of debris due to the demolition, plaster, wall stones, etc., amongst which were two handsome fragments of fourteenth-century tracery. Over the whole site an average depth of 12 ft. of material had accumulated since the period of demolition and to-day the bottom of the moat lies at an average depth of 33 ft. below the level of Exchange Street.

The pottery recovered includes a wide range of wares covering the twelfth to the seventeenth centuries, also a series of sixteenth- to eighteenth-century clay pipes. Two leather shoes have been found, with thongs and fastenings intact, one of which is a typical Tudor shoe, that of a lady, the toe terminating in a point resembling a leather shoe-lace. Two objects call for special reference, viz. an ornamental door key,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, and of fourteenth-century date, composed of block-tin and probably the key of a state apartment of the castle. The second object is a wooden playing 'card',  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. by  $2\frac{3}{16}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., representing the King of Diamonds. The diamond is inlaid in brass and the letter 'K' is indicated by means of brass pins. No close parallel to this interesting object has so far been traced.

Thanks to the public spirit displayed by the Directors of the Co-operative Society, most of the remains of the castle found have been preserved *in situ* and a large portion of the bastion and gate-house will be permanently exposed to view in the basement of the new building. The most important of the relics found will be preserved in the local museum and a detailed account of the excavations published in the *Transactions* of the Hunter Archaeological Society of Sheffield.