

SURVEY OF SHEFFIELD CASTLE REMAINS.

SUGGESTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE RELICS.

As the readers of the "Yorkshire Telegraph and Star" are aware, some portions of the foundations of the old castle of the Talbot family in Sheffield have been laid bare during excavations in preparation for the new building of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society in Exchange Street.

At the suggestion of the Editor, a preliminary survey of what has come to light was made on Tuesday afternoon, and the accompanying sketch is the result of that visit.

A great trench about five feet wide and ten feet deep has been dug at the back of the site, and running parallel with the frontage of Exchange Street. When this trench reached a point about 70 feet from the hotel boundary wall the remains shown in our sketch plan were discovered, the right angle between the 18-inch and 30-inch walls being about 65 feet from the above mentioned building.

The top of this wall at the point marked with a cross is about seven feet below the present ground level. Two feet from the top of this wall is a doubly chambered base course or plinth, shown in section C.D. This is quite exposed on the outside of the thinner wall, but only partly so on the thicker. As the two walls are at right

It is almost childish to suggest what the old walls represent; the only reasonable thing to note is that as the two walls at right angles seem to be later than the great plinth courses. They did not form part of the defences of the castle, as the massive stones to the left appear to have done.

Preserving the Remains.

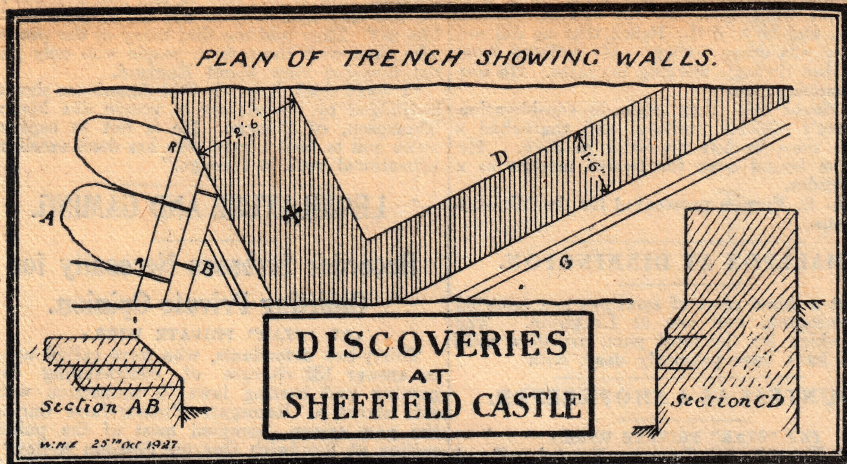
At any rate, the castle has been definitely located, which is a matter for congratulation. As to the preservation of the remains, it seemed to the writer that that would be a comparatively easy matter to an engineer. Two or three piers, with steel joists resting upon them, probably would carry the wall over the relics quite safely, if the arrangements of the new building permit of such.

The foregoing remarks are necessarily of a rather technical nature for a popular journal, but in the present case, an understanding of the conditions is essential to an intelligent appreciation of this last addition to the history of mediæval Sheffield.

W. H. E.

Lighted Basement.

Mr. W. A. Johnson, chief architect, of the C.W.S., Manchester, interviewed by a Press



angles they probably formed part of the same building.

Part of a Bastion?

To the left, or west, of this angle are several large stones still *in situ*, their front faces sloping at about 45 degrees, forming a bold plinth, which seems to pass under the building already mentioned. This is the portion that has been said to form part of a bastion, that is a circular tower projecting from a wall for the purpose of flanking assailants. It may be so? but a rule placed along the edge marked R.R. fitted exactly, no curvature being apparent.

Between 25 and 30 feet to the west of these stones some slight remains of similar work were found, but have been removed. It appears that upon this evidence the suggestion of a bastion has arisen.

However, the trench is to be widened here, we understand, so that it is to be hoped the question will be settled. The other side of the trench must, we fear, retain the secrets it holds, for here the surface is nearly 15 feet above the remains discovered.

representative yesterday, said that the society intended to spare no expense in keeping the remains intact. The plans, he said, had been augmented to include a sub-basement, which was not at first included in them, and in the walls of the sub-basement, the castle's thirteenth and sixteenth century walls would be incorporated. The sub-basement would be lighted by electricity, so that anyone would be able to look over a railing in the basement, and see what is uncovered of the old walls. Those who desired to go down and see the walls at closer quarters would be permitted to do so.

A representative of the "Star" who inquired at the offices of the Brightside C.W.S. to-day was, however, informed that no definite steps had been taken by the society in connection with the matter. Mr. Johnson's amended plans and report would be considered by the Board of the B. and C. Society to-morrow evening, when a decision would be arrived at. What they would do our informant could not, of course, say, but an important question, he said, would be: Who was to "foot the bill"?