

THE GEORGE INN, RUISLIP

THE illustration reproduces a drawing of the old George Inn as it was in 1939, shortly before its regrettable demolition to make room for the widening of the road.

It stood at the road junction at the lower end of the High Street and formed with the church and adjoining ancient cottages a group of great charm. A new and larger George now occupies a nearby site, but the disappearance of the old inn and the "improvements" have destroyed what was one of the most picturesque corners of Middlesex.

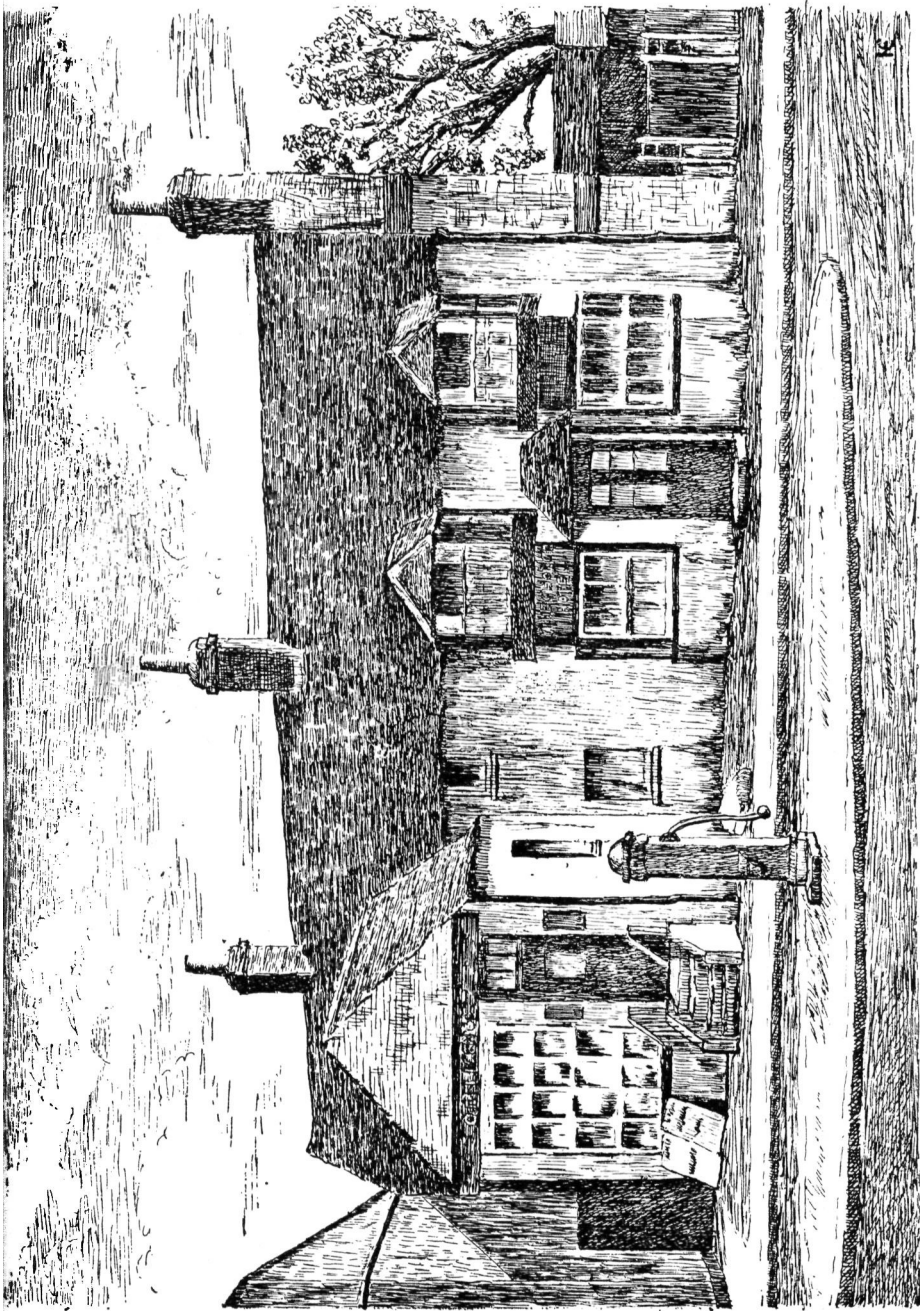
In front of the inn there lay a large boulder which served as a mounting-block, and which can be seen in the drawing behind the pump handle. This stone too has vanished, and its loss is much to be regretted, for it was a reminder of the days when visitors to the inn would often come on horseback. It is not unlikely that the stone was originally a boundary or "hoar" stone, though a good deal smaller than the fine specimen that lies beside the road over Ducks Hill, some two miles to the north-west on the way to Batchworth Heath and Rickmansworth.

H. E. CHIOSSO.

SULLONIACAE EXCAVATIONS

IN the Society's 33rd Annual Report, printed in Vol. X, Part I (New Series) of the *Transactions*, it was recorded that preliminary work had been carried out in 1948 to decide where full-scale operations should take place in 1949.

Unfortunately the Joint Excavation Committee met with an unexpected set-back, for after consultation with the Institute of Archæology and much correspondence with persons possessing the necessary qualifications, they were unable to obtain the services of an expert archæologist to direct the proposed "dig." The truth is, as Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler has explained publicly, there is a serious shortage of such experts, and to remedy this a scheme of excavations was launched this year by the Institute, to serve as a training school for field-workers.



GEORGE INN, RUISLIP, 1939

H. E. CHIOSO.

In the circumstances the Joint Committee, while they felt it would be a mistake to abandon excavations for this year, decided to reduce the scale of operations. In the result, "diggers" from the four societies concerned have put in a substantial amount of work on most of the Saturday afternoons throughout the spring, summer and autumn of the year, full advantage being taken of the excellent weather conditions.

Following the surveys carried out by the Sites Sub-Committee, excavation has been concentrated on two sites. First, in Pear Wood, by the kind permission of Sir John Fitzgerald, an extensive trench has been driven at right-angles through an ancient earthwork which traverses the whole length of the wood. There many fragments of pottery and burnt clay, some of Roman, but for the most part of pre-Roman provenance, have been unearthed, together with two pieces of ironwork, apparently nails, with heads intact—also a coin, now under expert examination.

Secondly, an attempt is being made to discover the line of the Roman Watling Street at Brockley Hill. A trench has been opened in a field adjacent to Wood Lane, by kind permission of the Middlesex County Council, the owners, and Mr. Angus Keen, the tenant grazier.

The work at both sites is still (September, 1949) proceeding, and the Committee have to record with satisfaction the valuable advice given by Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, F.S.A., and Mr. W. F. Grimes, F.S.A., both of whom have visited the sites.

Mr. Grimes now takes the place of Major Brett-James as a L.M.A.S. representative on the Committee. He is very welcome and will be a most valuable member.

On the Committee's invitation a visit to Brockley Hill by the L.M.A.S. was organised, over 40 members making the journey on 3rd September.

P. D.