

which gives the grim suggestion that the rest may have to wait derelict for anything up to even 30 years. The first area to be tackled is that to the east of St. Paul's, bounded by the Churchyard, Cheapside, Bread Street and Cannon Street; and a compulsory purchase order is to be made.

The cost of this area of 8 acres will be a million and a half pounds; and it is suggested that the rest of the total area should be acquired over a period of years and be developed either by the Corporation or by granting building leases. There is a widespread feeling that the development is too slow. "Every month that the priceless acres of the City remain derelict there is a loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds in trade and commerce."

## REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY'S MEETINGS

### MEETINGS AT THE BISHOPSGATE INSTITUTE

1949.

21st January. English Mediæval Architects. John H. Harvey.

25th February. Annual General Meeting and Exhibition. Address by Major T. F. Reddaway, M.A., F.S.A.

The Exhibition was also open on Saturday, 26th February.

18th March. Excavation of Roman remains at Brockley Hill. Miss K. M. Richardson, F.S.A.

8th April. London merchants in quest of the eastern trade. Mrs. L. B. Ellis, M.A.

### VISITS

1949.

8th January. BRUCE CASTLE, Tottenham. Conducted by C. W. Rock, B.Sc., A.L.A.

This building is chiefly of seventeenth century date and at one time was occupied by Sir Rowland Hill, originator of Penny Post. It contains a remarkable collection of exhibits dealing with the development of the postal service and also many local antiquities. The arrangement and use of the Museum as an educational instrument is worthy of the highest praise.

12th February. THE MANSION HOUSE. Conducted by one of the Staff.

Erected by George Dance, Senior, in 1739-53, on the site of the old Stocks Market, it is the official residence of the Lord Mayor and serves also as a Court of Justice and prison.

Visitors are shown the Egyptian Hall, State Drawing Rooms, Long Parlour, the Lord Mayor's Police Court, and also the strong room, where are displayed the state swords, mace and valuable plate used on civic occasions.

26th March. CHELSEA. Carlyle's house, Crosby Hall, etc.

The custodian, Mrs. Strong, conducted members over Carlyle's house

and described its various treasures. Mr. Kent then guided the party through some of the streets of Chelsea, pointing out *en route* some of the historical and literary landmarks. On arrival at Crosby Hall Miss Buckmaster gave a brief account of the vicissitudes of this historic building. The Hall was originally erected in Bishopsgate in 1466 and within its walls was held the inaugural meeting of this Society in 1855. The fabric was transferred to its present site in 1907 and now, with various additions, is used as an international clubhouse and residence for university women.

11th April. WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY. Conducted by Mr. A. Hughes.  
A detailed report is given elsewhere.

30th April. STANMORE. Conducted by Percy Davenport.

This visit included (a) the Lake Almshouses; (b) St. Lawrence's Church, with the Chandos Mausoleum Chapel and mural paintings, described by Mr. W. P. Starmer, and the organ played by Handel, 1718-21; (c) St. John's Church, with ruins of an earlier seventeenth-century church in the same churchyard; (d) Church House, an ancient building now used as a parish hall.

At the conclusion of the visit members were kindly entertained to tea by Mr. F. Cane, Chairman of the Stanmore, Edgware and Harrow Historical Society.

21st May. HAMPTON COURT. Conducted by Edward Yates, F.S.A.

The pleasure of this visit was greatly enhanced by the most interesting description given by Mr. Yates as the party proceeded through the various rooms. Hampton Court is steeped in literary and historical associations and has great architectural merit. On this site stood first a Saxon manor house, then a priory, and then for over 200 years a royal residence. Now it is a treasure house of works of art and the home of pensioners of the Crown.

18th June. HATFIELD HOUSE.

Nearly 100 members and friends attended this meeting. During the morning some of the party explored the park and gardens and in the afternoon members were conducted over the State Apartments, Library, etc. The house was built in 1607-11 by Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury, to replace the Old Palace built by Cardinal Morton in 1490. Tea was served in the Great Hall, and finally the party visited St. Etheldreda's Church, where the Rev. A. Cornish acted as guide.

9th July. RUISLIP. Conducted by John Hooper, Esq., O.B.E.

The archaeological features of Ruislip all lie within a small area and are preserved in a most commendable fashion. They comprise (a) a Norman earth castle; (b) St. Martin's Priory Church, with thirteenth-century nave and arcade, mural paintings and ancient font; (c) a fifteenth-century priest's house and cottages; (d) Church House, sixteenth or seventeenth century; (e) Old Manor Farm House, with sixteenth-century stairway; (f) two great barns, one now used as a Public Library.

BROCKLEY HILL (Sulloniaca). Conducted by T. A. N. Henderson, F.S.A., and Percy Davenport.

There was a most gratifying attendance at this meeting, although the work is still at the exploratory stage. A large trench in Pear Wood

has produced evidence of Belgic occupation and, in a field near the main road, considerable fragments of Roman pottery have been unearthed. An interim report from the Excavation Committee is given elsewhere.

12th September. THE ARMOURIES, H.M. TOWER OF LONDON. Conducted by A. N. Kennard, Esq., Assistant to the Master of the Armouries.

The old Norman keep of the Tower of London contains not only St. John's Chapel, the oldest church in London, but also one of the finest collections of arms and armour this country possesses. These and the many interesting relics were most adequately dealt with by Mr. Kennard, who explained the historical sequence and gradual perfection of armour by reference to actual examples. Opportunity was also afforded to visit the loan exhibition of Armour of Kings and Captains from the National Collection of Austria, where Mr. Kennard again acted as guide.

## THE EXHIBITION

THE Exhibition was held in the Reference Library of the Bishopsgate Institute on 25th and 26th February, 1949, and consisted chiefly of articles of special interest kindly lent for the occasion by the Guildhall Museum and the Society of Antiquaries. The exhibits included:—

- (a) Twelve cases of Roman and mediæval relics, comprising pottery, tiles, toilet implements, jewellery, tableware, house-fittings, statuettes, leatherwork, tools, horse-furniture and agricultural implements. Also prints, plans, maps, etc., dealing with London history—all from the Guildhall Museum.
- (b) Roman and pre-Roman relics of London origin, and a model of a Roman brick and tile kiln—from the collection of the Society of Antiquaries.
- (c) Examples of Roman pottery from our own excavations at Brockley Hill (Sulloniacæ).
- (d) A selection of classical antiquities from the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, and various Greek and Roman coins in the possession of T. A. N. Henderson, F.S.A.

The Exhibition was well attended and the Council would offer their best thanks to the authorities of the Guildhall and the Society of Antiquaries for their kindly co-operation. Acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Gritten and Mr. Henderson, who were largely responsible for the arrangement and safe transport of the exhibits, and to all those who assisted in the carrying out of this new and successful venture.