

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The Roman and Mediaeval London Excavations Council, under the direction of our President, has been investigating two sites during this period. West of Walbrook, a series of cuttings has been made to gain an accurate record of the various levels and perhaps a section of the old bed of Walbrook. A Roman building, extending almost to the street at the east end, makes it unlikely that the modern street represents the old line of the river. As investigations on the other side of the street, during the building of St. Swithins House, 1949/50, did not reveal the site of the river either, its position may be to the west of the conventional line.

The excavations at St. Brides church have revealed a piece of Roman pavement at the lowest levels, above which an almost complete plan has been recovered of a succession of churches from Saxon times through Norman and Mediaeval periods until the famous church of Sir Christopher Wren.

An examination of a site on the north corner of Fredericks Place and Old Jewry, by Guildhall Museum, has revealed a fragment of Roman road, running E-W.

In Mitre Court, a mid-18th century cess pit yielded pipes, cups and saucers of oriental porcelain and of Salt glaze, doubtless associated with a coffee house.

A new building site on the N.E. corner of Queen Street and Queen Victoria Street has revealed two timber lined Roman wells.

Near the Baltic Exchange in St. Mary Axe, fragments of large crucibles containing evidence of bronze smelting, were dug out of a trial hole. Pottery of 15th century date was associated with it.

15 Roman coins—of Hadrian, Constantine the Great, Gordian III, Gallienus and Galerius—have been found at Putney Vale.

An exhibition of maps, beginning with the early 16th century editions of Ptolemy, was opened in June by Lord Alexander at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Great George Street.

During the past year 500 English inns have been scheduled for protection as possessing outstanding historical or architectural interest. Among those near London are the Mitre at

Hampton Court, the White Lion at Staines, and the White Swan at Twickenham.

The 18th century house in London Road, Isleworth, to which Shelley went to school in 1802, when it was known as Syon House Academy, is being demolished.

The new building of Trinity House on Tower Hill was opened by H.M. the Queen on 21st October. A long description of the site and the new building was given in *The Times* of 10th August.

The motion to give general approval to the Inspection of Churches Measure, by which churches may be inspected by architects every five years was carried by the Church Assembly at its summer session.

N. C. C.

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE Acton Public Library is attempting to build up its collection of material on local history. Any members possessing books, pamphlets, documents, photographs, paintings, prints or any other material relating to Acton in the past are invited to communicate with the Borough Librarian at the Acton Central Library, High Street, W.3.

OBITUARY

WE greatly regret to announce the death of John Francis Hales, M.A., formerly of King's College, London, at the age of 82. He was the elder son of the late Professor J. W. Hales, who became a member of the Society in 1880.

REVIEWS

IT is greatly regretted that, owing to lack of space, the reviews of books and of the publications of foreign societies have had to be omitted.