

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LONDON AND
MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY, 1855-1930

BY

C. W. F. GOSS, F.S.A.

MEMBERS of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society may at times have felt the need of having at their service a succinct account of the main incidents attending the birth of the Society. Indeed, the preservation in a permanent shape of a sketch of its doings in the field of antiquarian research has been for many years a recognised necessity. Obviously, the possession of a record of its proceedings from the beginning, showing the sequence of events and to what extent it has accomplished the objects and intentions of its promoters, should the better enable the members and others to appreciate the splendid service, and the importance of the work accomplished by a group of remarkable men who laid the foundation of the Society threequarters of a century ago, and whose enterprise in the field of archæology and research has earned the recognition of archæologists in the Counties of London and of Middlesex.

Founded in Bishopsgate in the year 1855, the Society has maintained its existence with an unbroken record, and at the present juncture of its history it has seemed fitting to mark the completion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its inauguration with a narrative of its past activities for the information of the present members and others who may follow. The idea and need of an archæological association for Middlesex, in which was situated the greatest city in the world, had no doubt frequently occurred to many antiquaries and others; but it was left to Mr. George Bish Webb, F.R.I.B.A.,

Hon. Secretary of the then newly formed Surrey Archæological Society, quietly and successfully to set the machinery in motion.

At the second annual meeting of the Surrey Archæological Society, held at Guildford, on 28th June, 1855, it was proposed that the Society's activities should be extended to the county of Middlesex. The proposal being rejected, Mr. Webb, an enthusiastic antiquary, animated with strong views of the needs of archæologists in London, and anxious to retrieve the errors of the past, immediately set to work to form a concentrated association for the county, for the purpose of conducting antiquarian and historical research, and for preserving objects of antique handicraft as illustrations of the life and times long passed away.

Although there were already firmly established three very important antiquarian societies having their headquarters in London, in their objects they differed very widely from the more modest aims the founder of our Society had in view, for whilst those three societies were quite general in their attention to archæological and antiquarian matters, it was intended that our Society's operations should be devoted exclusively to the antiquities of Middlesex and to the care and preservation of the fast decaying remains of the former greatness of London.

It is not a little surprising that whilst many of the English counties possessed an archæological society, Middlesex was not so represented, and it is remarkable that it should have remained to a few zealots as late as July, 1855, to move for the establishment of a society which should regard the elucidation, collection and preservation of ancient remains in this, the capital of England, as its own peculiar field—a field so vast and extremely rich in objects of historical interest; but as is frequently the case, the leading spirit had not declared himself. He, however, turned up in the person of the Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A., F.S.A., for some years vicar

of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, a gentleman of high reputation as a painstaking and accurate antiquary, of wide tastes and varied interests, of considerable influence and of great talents, to whom, early in the month of May, Mr. Webb had confided his ambition.

Recognising the importance of the idea, and fired by Mr. Webb's enthusiasm, Mr. Hugo with characteristic promptitude, consulted a few distinguished archæologists—each having a regard for the antiquity of London and its long and interesting history—who had been in the habit of meeting at 57, Bishopsgate Street Within, for the purpose of discussing matters of history, architecture and archæology.

The first distinct evidence of the movement was when that group of eight enthusiasts, consisting of the Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A., the Rev. Charles Boutell, M.A., Rev. Henry Christmas, F.R.S., F.S.A., and Messrs. J. W. Butterworth, F.S.A., Edward Richardson, George Roots, F.S.A., W. Tayler, F.S.S., and G. B. Webb, F.R.I.B.A., met to decide upon immediate action, and by the middle of July, promises of support having been received from several keen antiquaries, they formed themselves into a Provisional Committee, with the Rev. Thomas Hugo as chairman, for the purpose of devising the best measures to promote the formation of the Society.

At once the Committee was fortunate in securing the sympathetic support of the Marquis of Salisbury (Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex) and of Lord Londesborough, both of whom expressed themselves most willing to register themselves as life members if and when the Society should be established.

On July 30th, the Provisional Committee held its first meeting in a room at 6, Southampton Street, Covent Garden, the headquarters of the Surrey Archæological Society, when Mr. George Bish Webb was elected Hon. Secretary, *pro. tem.* The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to consider the propriety of

instituting a society for the purpose of investigating the history and antiquities of the County of Middlesex, and what measures should be taken to carry the proposal into effect. He expressed the view that the formation of such a society was highly desirable and would conduce to the extension of archæological science. After mature deliberation the formation was definitely resolved upon, and each member of the Committee pledged himself to do his utmost to further the success and well being of the Society. A draft circular, which had been prepared, setting out the reasons for the proposed formation of the Society, was then submitted to the meeting and approved. The names of 23 gentlemen were reported as having announced their intention to support the movement, and by the date of the second meeting on 15th August, the number of supporters had reached 44, in addition to the eight original promoters. To strengthen the Committee it was resolved to elect the Rev. O. F. Owen, F.S.A., Messrs. James Crosby, F.S.A., M. J. Routh, M.A., and George Gilbert Scott, A.R.A., F.S.A., all of whom had long been known for their zeal in archæological pursuits and studies.

A circular bearing the heading "Middlesex Archæological Society" was thereupon issued, inviting those interested in the proposal to signify their approval and support to any of the members of the Provisional Committee. At the date of the next meeting on the 27th August, the number of prospective members had reached 64, and in response to a second circular which appeared in September, 15 names were added to the list.

At the end of October, the Committee was enabled to issue a third prospectus, still headed "Middlesex Archæological Society," bearing the name of the Marquis of Salisbury as Patron and that of Lord Londesborough as President, with the names of 87 gentlemen and two ladies as registered members, including 23 Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries. Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., who had exercised an active influence in

archæological and antiquarian matters, and was destined to prove of considerable service to the Society, was elected to serve on the Provisional Committee.

Here indeed was evidence of support sufficient to warrant the Committee in moving for the establishment of the Society. Subsequent meetings were held, and on the 13th November, greatly encouraged by the success of the appeal, the Committee decided its policy and future action and set to work to prepare a draft of the aims and objects of the Society, and to frame rules and regulations for its conduct. It was now decided to change the name "Middlesex Archæological Society" to that of "London and Middlesex Archæological Society," and undeterred by the discouraging attitude of some few critics, it was resolved to call a general public meeting during the following month at which the proposed society should be formally established.

A week later, on the 20th November, the following notice was circulated:—

"The First General meeting of the members and friends of this Society will be held at Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate Street, on Tuesday, the 11th of December, upon which occasion, in addition to other business, the Rules of the Society will be decided upon and the office bearers and council appointed. The Chair will be taken at Two o'clock, by the Right Hon. the Lord Londesborough, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.S.A."

The date of the meeting was subsequently changed to meet the wish of Lord Londesborough, who found himself engaged on the date announced.

The Committee again met on the 10th December, to discuss and arrange the order of proceedings for the approaching general meeting, and to elect to the Committee Messrs. R. Hesketh, F.R.I.B.A., Deputy Lott, F.S.A., and Henry Mogford, F.S.A., who had already proved themselves warm supporters of the movement.

On the 14th December, the Inaugural Meeting was held very appropriately in the Throne Room, at Crosby

Hall, Bishopsgate, the Rev. Thomas Hugo, the most conspicuous figure among the original members, occupying the chair in the absence of the President, who had been taken ill suddenly. In opening the proceedings Mr. Hugo said: "Those of us who have the honour of Lord Londesborough's acquaintance are well aware of the deep anxiety which he feels for the success of the present attempt, and will appreciate the bitter regret which, he assures me, his involuntary absence causes him to undergo. I cannot but be conscious that I shall represent his Lordship very unworthily." It was common knowledge that for several years previously Lord Londesborough had been in very indifferent health, and that the English winters severely tried his already weakened constitution, necessitating wintering at Cannes, yet, as will shortly be seen, he sacrificed personal comfort to preside at the January meeting.

In response to the call of the Chairman, Mr. James Crosby, F.S.A., moved, "That a society to be denominated the London and Middlesex Archæological Society be now established." The motion was seconded by Mr. Henry Mogford, F.S.A., and carried unanimously.

Mr. Deputy Lott, F.S.A., then moved, and Mr. William Tayler, F.S.S., seconded the adoption of the Rules and Regulations for the government and administration of the Society. The objects of the Society were extremely wide, and, with few amendments, are substantially the same to-day as originally framed. Briefly summarising the prospectus, the objects were stated to be:—

"To collect, record and publish the best information on the ancient arts and monuments of the Cities of London and Westminster and of the County of Middlesex including primæval antiquities; architecture—ecclesiastical, civil, and military; sculpture; paintings on walls, wood or glass; heraldry and genealogy; costume; numismatics; records; civil and ecclesiastical history and antiquities; comprising manors, manorial rights, privileges and customs and all other matters usually comprised under the head of archæology. To procure careful observation and preservation of antiquities discovered in the

progress of works, such as excavations for railways, foundations of buildings, etc. To make, and to encourage individuals and public bodies in making researches and excavations, and to afford to them suggestions and co-operation. To oppose and prevent, as far as may be practicable, any injuries with which monuments and ancient remains of every description may, from time to time be threatened; and to collect accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions thereof."

It was contended by Mr. Dennes that the subscription of 10s. was too small, and he urged that an entrance fee be instituted; but, after careful consideration, it was held that an entrance fee would have the effect of excluding many who would otherwise join the Society. The meeting then proceeded to elect the following office bearers:—

Vice-Presidents.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.
 The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor.
 Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, Bart.
 Alderman Sir George Carroll, Kt.
 Alderman Sir Henry Muggeridge, Kt.
 A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq., M.P., F.S.A.
 Benjamin B. Cabbell, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., F.S.A.
 Thomas Somers Cocks, Esq., M.P.
 Alderman Samuel Wilson.

Hon. Treasurer.

Thomas Somers Cocks, Esq., M.P.

Trustees.

Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A., F.S.A.
 Joseph Arden, Esq., F.S.A.
 Mr. Deputy Thomas Lott, F.S.A.

The names of 20 gentlemen, including the 16 forming the Provisional Committee, were submitted to serve on the Council and were accordingly elected. It will be noted that these guiding spirits were men of culture, of wide sympathies and antiquaries in the truest sense.

Charles Baily, Esq., F.S.A.
 Rev. Chas. Boutell, M.A.
 Joshua W. Butterworth, Esq., F.S.A.
 Rev. Henry Christmas, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A.
 James Crosby, Esq., F.S.A.
 F. W. Fairholt, Esq., F.S.A.
 Edward Griffith, Esq., F.R.S.
 Robert Hesketh, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.
 Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A., F.S.A.
 Mr. Deputy Thomas Lott, F.S.A.
 Henry Mogford Esq., F.S.A.
 Rev. Octavius F. Owen, M.A., F.S.A.
 Edward Richardson, Esq.
 George Roots, Esq., B.A., F.S.A.
 Martin Joseph Routh, Esq., M.A.
 George Gilbert Scott, Esq., A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A.
 Sydney Smirke, Esq., A.R.A., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.
 Charles Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A.
 William Tayler, Esq., F.S.S.
 John Whichcord, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary.

George Bish Webb, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Photographer.

P. H. Delamotte, Esq.

Auditors.

Henry Nethersole, Esq.
 Richard B. H. Ridgway, Esq.

In supporting the vote of thanks to the Rev. Thomas Hugo for presiding at the meeting, the Rev. Charles Boutell pointed out that the effort made by the Provisional Committee for establishing the Society was mainly due to the constant attention, the zealous co-operation and great general ability evinced by Mr. Hugo.

It would appear that in certain quarters there existed

a feeling that the promoters had been aiming at establishing a society as a rival to the three already in existence, and in reply to the vote of thanks Mr. Hugo said, "we neither desire nor intend to trench upon the province of other similar associations, nor do we consider that, in establishing such a society as this, we are justly amenable to any such imputation. The Society of Antiquaries embraces the whole world within its circle of examination and learned study, while the British Archæological Association, founded in 1843, and its offshoot, the Archæological Institute, founded two years later, extend their investigation over the whole of the British Islands, but the scope and objects of this Society will be entirely and exclusively local, and, therefore, in entering upon our comparatively restricted field of operations, we are and can be actuated only by friendly feelings towards those institutions, and at the same time earnestly hope that they will entertain similar sentiments towards ourselves. We are, indeed, all of us fellow workers; they in their widely-extended sphere of action, we in our grand old city of London and in our noble Metropolitan County. With what London and Middlesex have in store for us in the matter of archæology we are, and we will be, content; we shall find ample occupation for our most earnest devotion and for our most active energies."

The large attendance at the meeting evidenced the wisdom of the promoters as well as the interest taken in the archæology of London, and a wide field of usefulness now opened before the newly formed Society, to the triumph of which, by his personal exertions and influence, Mr. Hugo mainly contributed.

By January 15th, 1856, the membership had increased to 194, and on the 28th of that month the second general meeting was held at Crosby Hall for the reading of papers and an exhibition of antiquities with Lord Londesborough presiding.

Our first President was an enthusiastic antiquary and

an authority on the arts, customs and usages of the Anglo-Saxons, as may be gathered from his contribution to *Archæologia* on the Saxon Tumuli on Breach Downs. His taste for literature, science and the fine arts brought him into connection with most of the learned societies, to which at every opportunity he gave encouragement and substantial support, for he was extremely wealthy. Than he, few men were more closely identified with the progress of the study of our national antiquities, and as Lord Albert Conyngham, he was one of the first to take the lead in the great movement in archæology by presiding at the first congress held at Canterbury. The Society, it may be added, was to be congratulated on its choice of President; but it is regrettable that his Lordship filled the office only for a short period, for he died in January, 1860.

On opening the proceedings, the President congratulated the Society on the very large number of members who had assembled that evening—a proof, as his Lordship hoped, that a lively interest was felt in its well being, and an earnest of its power and influence for good.

An address, delivered by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, took the form of a general introduction to the antiquities of London and Middlesex, and to the objects of the newly formed Society and the field of its operations.

In the course of his remarks he referred to the County of London as the home of the greatest Englishmen, where incidents have occurred which have constituted the country's history, and where almost every foot may be called holy ground, for there was hardly a portion of the city which has not its tale of wonder and enchanting interest, or that was not the scene of some act of heroism, of honour, or of love. Gundulf's stately fabric, the Tower of London, for instance, where age after age, the bravest, the noblest, the fairest of the land had found, some a palace, others a prison, and others a grave. They could not excavate in any part of the city to the depth of a few yards without making some extraordinary

discovery of relics of past ages. Indeed, it was lamentable to see the carelessness with which the memorials of bygone times were broken up and every vestige of ancient occupation utterly obliterated. Antiquaries were well aware that improvements must be made, but at the same time antiquarian remains should not be wantonly destroyed. It was with that in view the Society was established—to prevent the loss of antiquarian remains.

A communication dealing with discoveries of Roman remains that had been made in different parts of the city was contributed by Mr. Roach Smith, calling attention to the fact that much connected with the original foundation of the city must, from the lapse of time, necessarily be a matter of inference, stating that London was already a place of considerable importance in the time of the Romans, and the resort of very considerable trade.

Mr. Hugo read a paper describing the historical and architectural features of Crosby Hall, in which the members were assembled, and Mr. Deputy Lott followed with a paper on St. Helen's Church, Bishopsgate.

The third general meeting was held at the French Gallery, in Pall Mall, on Tuesday, the 26th February, 1856. Mr. A. J. B. Beresford Hope, F.S.A., who occupied the chair, remarked that the Society, now consisting of 241 members, including 35 Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries, was established with the object of promoting the collection and publication of the best information on the ancient arts and monuments of the City of London and Westminster; to institute a careful supervision of existing relics, and to encourage the preservation of antiquities which might be discovered in progress of works, excavations and foundations of buildings; to prevent any injury with which monuments and ancient remains might be ruthlessly threatened. To show the need of the Society, it was only necessary to observe that had it existed three years earlier, the crypt of Gerrard's Hall would no doubt have met with a very different fate, for it had been sent to the Crystal Palace

and eventually broken up to repair the roads at Sydenham. Had the Society existed, it would have been possible to measure, photograph and record the details of this ancient crypt, even if it had been necessary to destroy it.

The first paper of the evening was by Mr. Hugo on "The Primæval History of London and Middlesex." After a brief introduction he quoted the statements of Herodotus, Aristotle and Polybius, the only authors living previous to the invasion of Julius Cæsar who have given any account of the British Isles. The narratives of Diodorus Siculus, Strabo and Pomponius Mela were next discussed, and a succinct account was given of the campaigns of Cæsar, Ostorius Scapula, and Agricola, from the authority of Cæsar and Tacitus. Mr. Hugo then proceeded to adduce his reasons for supposing that the stronghold of Cassivellaunus, the King of Trinobantes, was at Wimbledon, where hut circles were then in evidence; and that the second brief campaign of Cæsar was principally occupied in operations from Coway Stakes to Battersea Bridge, every part of the intervening area appearing to have been contested step by step. The paper terminated with an account of the various discoveries of primæval remains, which induced the author to arrive at his several conclusions.

Mr. Henry Mogford, F.S.A., next read a paper entitled "Recollections of Westminster." Reference was more immediately made to the neglect of Westminster Hall and the Abbey, two of the most important monuments of their style extant in Europe. He pointed out that the niches in front of the Hall formerly contained four statues which had disappeared, as well as a bust of Charles I, which, according to Pennant, had been sculptured by Bernini. He referred to the missing 15th century pillars, with the arms of Boteler and Stafford, and to the destruction, in 1800, of the mural paintings in St. Stephen's Chapel.

The Rev. C. Boutell followed with remarks on the

dilapidated condition of several of the most interesting ancient monuments of Westminster Abbey, and offered suggestions for their future preservation.

Mr. Gilbert Scott addressed the meeting on the deplorably dilapidated state of the "incomparable" Chapter House of Westminster, erected in the year 1250, the receptacle of the most valuable and ancient records connected with the history of the country. In illustration of his paper Mr. Scott exhibited a series of drawings showing the building as it must have appeared in its pristine glories. The concluding paper was one by Mr. Sydney Smirke, A.R.A., F.S.A., descriptive of several antiquarian relics of old London, and he exhibited a large collection of antiquities, including Roman and Mediæval pottery, bronze and flint celts, weapons, coins, carvings, architectural fragments, rubbings from monumental brasses, maps and views of London and water-colour drawings.

The fourth general (First Annual) meeting was held on the 27th July, 1856, at the Architectural Museum, Westminster, under the presidency of Lord Robert Grosvenor. The Council presented its first report upon the progress of the Society, in which the membership was shown to have reached 250, although only six months had elapsed since the inaugural meetings.

Lord Robert Grosvenor, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the meeting on the successful progress of the Society, and on the judicious economy that had characterised its management. He said, "although the Society had only attained to the cutting of its first teeth on that occasion, it gave evidence of having been well nursed and nourished, and there was no doubt that the Institution would become worthy of the consideration and support of the lovers of archæology in this great metropolis." His Lordship advocated the claims of the Society on its own intrinsic merits, and urged the importance of the publication of the *Transactions* without delay.

After a vote of thanks to the noble Chairman the members proceeded to the Abbey, where Mr. George Gilbert Scott addressed the gathering on its origin and antiquities. He pointed out that the early history of the Abbey was involved in obscurity, that a rough guess made the structure originally a pagan temple, and that the first builder was probably Sebert, a Saxon sovereign. Every part of the Abbey, from the crypt to the triforium, was afterwards visited, Mr. Scott in a lucid and interesting manner describing the various architectural beauties of the structure.

A general meeting was held on the 18th February, 1857, at the Suffolk Street Gallery, the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster presiding. Mr. Edward Griffith, F.R.S., contributed a paper on "Middlesex at the time of the Domesday Survey," in which he pointed out the modes of tenure, and enumerated the principal holders of land which figure in that eleventh century record. The Rev. Thomas Hugo followed with a "Walk in the Ward of Bishopsgate," in which he alluded to the demolitions and alterations then in progress in the city which made it peculiarly desirable that a record should exist of the objects of archæological or artistic interest which were thus daily disappearing. The Rev. C. Boutell concluded with a paper on the "Monumental Brasses of London and Middlesex."

It is obvious that space will not permit of more than the foregoing summary of the contributions made at the meetings during the first phase of the Society's history. The record of the later proceedings, so far as they relate to the character of papers submitted to the meetings, the volumes of the *Transactions* will adequately supply, and in them will be found an abundance of material for comparison.

"TRANSACTIONS."

Having accomplished much good work, and anxious speedily to present the result to the members in as

handsome and as complete a form as it was possible, the Council considered the desirability of publishing a record of the proceedings, upon the value of which, it was thought, would depend greater public interest and future success; but the expenses attending the general meetings had been such that the subscriptions from members had been almost entirely absorbed, leaving a very small balance with which to defray the cost of printing the valuable papers which had been contributed by members, for even in those days of comparatively cheap printing, the material forming the first part proved to be a costly production for a newly formed Society. Desirous of keeping the Society free from debt, the Council determined to appeal to the members for voluntary additional aid towards defraying the cost of the proposed publication; and but for the handsome contribution of Lord Londesborough, and promises by two or three members to provide engraved plates for the illustration of the text, the projected publication would have been long delayed. In October, 1856, however, the Council placed before the members a most creditable production, consisting of 146 pages, enriched with illustrations on a lavish scale. The volume comprised contributions by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, the Rev. Charles Boutell, Sir Thomas Phillips and Messrs. Henry Mogford, Sydney Smirke, James Crosby, and Deputy Lott. The success of the volume was instantaneous, and was such as materially to help promulgate the Society's activities, and to increase the strength of its membership. It was, therefore, urged upon the Council the importance of entering immediately upon the preparation of another part; and with the continued financial assistance of Lord Londesborough, Mr. Bond Cabbell, Mr. Hugo and Mr. Beresford Hope, the second part of the *Transactions*, embellished with a fine set of plates, made its appearance in December, 1857.

The high standard of those two publications, achieved under the experienced guidance of Mr. Hugo, did much

to enhance the Society's position, and merited warm acknowledgment in the literary press.

It was two and a half years, however, before the Council was in a position to consider the issue of another part, and some dissatisfaction having been expressed at the comparative slow progress made in publishing part three, Mr. Hugo is found urging the importance of the *Transactions* being issued at regular intervals. The Council feeling it would be detrimental to the interest of the Society any longer to delay the publication, instructions were given to proceed with the preparation of another part, although the funds available for the purpose proved altogether insufficient. It became necessary, therefore, to repeat the appeal to the liberality of members to further that important part of the work of the Society by raising the sum of £50 by voluntary subscription. Lord Londesborough for the third time came to the rescue, and with the handsome contributions of Lord Ebury, Mr. Cabbell and Alderman David Salomons, a sum was subscribed sufficient to meet the printer's bill, and at long last the third part was issued in July, 1860.

Notwithstanding financial difficulties during the first 35 years of the Society's existence, the *Transactions* containing a variety of most interesting and valuable information appeared with wonderful regularity, for during those years there were issued 21 parts of the *Transactions* and eight costly quarto archæological and topographical treatises of extreme importance, together with two other volumes, one of them an elaborately produced catalogue of the antiquities and works of art exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall in 1861, thus giving an average of one publication every $13\frac{1}{2}$ months; except for three lapses, that regularity has been well maintained to the present day.

In the early days of the Society's work the Rev. Thomas Hugo, whose energetic and valuable services had been productive of great benefit to the Society, was appointed

Editor. Each part issued under his supervision contained one or more contributions from his pen, and during his lifetime he contributed 12 papers richly stored with the results of his long research and deep learning. After the issue of the sixth part, the Society was indebted to the kindly offices of that amiable and intelligent person, Mr. John Gough Nichols, one of the most accurate antiquaries of his time. Having relinquished his 28 years' editorship of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, he voluntarily undertook, and brilliantly performed, the task of collaborating with Mr. Hugo in editing all publications issued during the following nine years. At the death of Mr. Nichols, in 1873, the work of editing the *Transactions* was undertaken by a committee of the Council, and upon an examination of the contents of the nine parts published during the succeeding 16 years, it will be agreed that the Committee performed its task most creditably, creating a high standard for those who were to follow.

Up to the year 1890, the Committee may be said to have experienced no difficulty in obtaining attractive papers for the *Transactions*. Indeed, many extremely valuable and learned disquisitions had, unfortunately, to be rejected in face of the limited funds available for printing purposes, mainly due to the extravagant policy of issuing costly monographs, instead of utilising all the funds for the *Transactions*. This lavish expenditure on special publications resulted in a very considerable debt to the printers and greatly embarrassed the Council.

At this date, the Society was approaching a period of comparative dullness, which proved to be a serious drawback to its useful progress, and Mr. Charles Welch was elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor. Two years later, in 1892, he issued the first part of a new series. Although there was in the hands of the Council an accumulation of most important papers, six years elapsed before another part was issued by Mr. Welch in

1898. In 1900 a third part appeared, a fourth in 1902, a fifth in 1905, and between that date and 1910 the members received nothing for their subscriptions.

During the comparatively somnolent period of 20 years in which he held the dual office, Mr. Welch succeeded in passing through the press only six parts of the *Transactions*, an average of one in three and a quarter years, and it is significant that the membership during those years dropped from 278 in 1891 to 132 in 1911, the lowest number on the register during the entire history of the Society, the high water mark having been reached in 1860 with a membership of 455.

This decaying membership was a distinct setback to the progress of the Society, and it was frankly recognised that the only hope of recovery lay in the pursuance of a more regular issue of the *Transactions*, which, it was contended, would give a new lease of life to the languishing Society. It was left to Mr. Arthur Bonner to set an example sufficiently attractive to be followed by his successors.

During the years 1911 to 1920 the *Transactions* were carefully and skilfully edited by Mr. Bonner, and he contrived to issue, without exception, one publication each year, the membership being gradually increased from 134 to 179, which fact surely affords sufficient evidence of the importance of giving the members something more than an invitation to the monthly meetings, whether for visits or for the reading of papers.

Mr. Madge, who was elected editor in 1921, was responsible for the publication of two parts during the two years he held office. Upon the resignation of Mr. Madge, our lamented and talented friend Dr. Martin was then persuaded to accept the office, and during the years 1923-9 he passed through the press four parts of great merit, containing several contributions from his own pen, worthily upholding the high standard of the earlier volumes, both for fulness and original work. On

the death of Dr. Martin, the Society was fortunate in having secured as its editor the valuable services of Major Brett-James, who, following the example set by his predecessors, has succeeded in issuing during the short period of 18 months, two very full numbers, each containing an important contribution by himself.

In the 45 published parts of the *Transactions* it will be found that the papers cover such a wide range of subjects that the task of providing any fresh matter is becoming increasingly difficult; but it is hoped that the members will ably support the Editor by providing him with original material, and that he will be able to emulate Mr. Bonner by furnishing the members with at least one publication for their annual subscriptions.

In the early days the Society had incurred heavy printers' bills by the publication of the fine quarto series of monographs on Roman antiquities and parochial histories, which latter it was the intention to continue so as to form a sequel to Lysons' *Environs of London*; but the publications proved to be more costly than it was originally anticipated, and the scheme was not completed. The series included:—

East Barnet; South Mimms; Monken Hadley, by the Rev. F. C. Cass. Roman tessellated pavement found in Bucklersbury; Roman antiquities near the Mansion house; On a bastion of London Wall in Camomile Street; On recent discoveries in Newgate Street, by John E. Price.

Apart from the excellent papers printed in the *Transactions*, numerous equally important contributions have from time to time been made by members and other eminent antiquaries, which, unfortunately, in face of the limited funds, it has not been possible to publish. A glance at the list of the 500 odd papers, which have been communicated at the general meetings, will show that so far as materials have been obtainable, the contributors have dealt at one time or another with every part of the county.

THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

Besides publishing papers in the *Transactions* and the special monographs already referred to, the Society has, from its inception, concentrated attention on the importance of noting all evidences of Roman occupation of London. Competent members have from time to time been commissioned to examine discoveries of mediæval remains whenever they have presented themselves in the course of excavations for new buildings or for public improvements, and every effort has been made to rescue relics of ancient London from wanton destruction. Moreover, through the action of individual members, with the support of the Council, several buildings and other monuments of interest have been saved from destruction or from damage by unwise reparation.

In 1862, it was recommended that the Council should take into consideration the question of the restoration of the Chapter House, Westminster, a matter well worthy of the intervention of the Society, and a Committee was appointed to consider the desirable steps to be taken for such restoration.

After visiting the parish church of Heston in the year 1864, it was discovered that it was proposed to demolish the church containing many interesting features of antiquity. The Council immediately entered a protest against the demolition with success, for the protest awakened a considerable amount of local sympathy.

In 1866, the Council successfully memorialised the City Corporation to grant a sum of money towards the restoration of St. Bartholomew the Great, for in June of that year the Corporation voted £200 for the purpose. In the same year the Council communicated with the Restoration Committee of St. Helen's Priory Church, protesting against mutilating the surface of the effigies by cutting away the lettering and details of costume and armour. Also a letter of protest was sent to the Dean

and Chapter of Westminster Abbey against any restoration of the western screen of the shrine of Edward the Confessor.

Coming to later years, in 1885 a movement was set on foot to demolish the time-honoured Charterhouse in order to provide a site for speculative building purposes. A memorial signed by the President and Council was presented to the Governors of the Hospital, with the result that the ancient portions known as Howard House, which are almost exactly as they were left by the Duke of Norfolk in 1570, were not disturbed.

Members of Parliament of the Metropolitan County have even been approached and invited to take an intelligent as well as a local interest in the conservation of ancient remains, records, buildings, etc., when such questions presented themselves for public opinion.

The general meetings, too, have done much, not only in drawing attention to, and creating an interest in, buildings archæologically valuable in the county, but also by encouraging archæological research among numbers of persons who have not themselves been able to publish the results of their work in the Society's journal. There are evidences, too, that in many other directions the Society has been able to make its influence felt.

All members must be conscious of the number of buildings of antiquarian interest, some of them of unapproachable value, which had been mutilated or swept away, and of the ruthless alterations perpetrated in others during the course of the nineteenth century, including both mediæval remains and many very curious structures of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as the conventual premises of St. Helen, Bishopsgate, the Collegiate Church of St. Katharine, and later still the fifteenth century Crosby Hall, to mention but a few.

Other precious buildings which might have been restored and beautified had in the past been wantonly

and barbarously destroyed, while pavements and other ancient work had been dug up and carted away to waste land. That and much more which had been permitted without a word of protest had its due weight in bringing the Society into existence.

Fortunately, we still have with us remains of superlative interest, and despite the devastation wrought by the Great Fire there are *in situ* portions of the mediæval wall as well as specimens of every successive style in architecture, viz., the noble simplicity of the Norman chapel in the White Tower and that of St. Bartholomew's Priory; the early English Westminster Abbey, the most revered of our English temples and a vast national monumental shrine. Then there are the Temple Church, dedicated in the twelfth century; Westminster Hall, the scene of regal magnificence; All Hallows, Barking, where the venerable Fisher and the martyred Laud were carried headless when tyranny and puritanism had done their worst; the Decorated period of Austin Friars with its fearful tale of sacrilege, and the Perpendicular of St. Helen's Priory Church.

MEETINGS.

From its early days the Society has been somewhat peripatetic in character, the advantage of which has been that the members have been able to gain much and varied information which they might not have gained had the meetings invariably been held at headquarters. Summer meetings have been held in nearly every place of interest in London and in the County of Middlesex, and in many instances local interest has thereby been aroused or stimulated. No less than 509 places of historical and archæological interest have been visited by the Society since its foundation.

Up to the year 1860 the general meetings, few in number, had been held at irregular intervals. In April of that year it was suggested that, apart from the ordinary general meeting, much benefit to the members would

result from monthly evening meetings for the recording of discoveries of archæological interest in London and Middlesex, for the exhibition of antiquities, and for the reading of papers with discussions thereon.

A committee was formed to consider the proposal, and on the 6th July a preliminary meeting was held at 7, St. Mildred's Court. After several succeeding gatherings of the committee a report was submitted to the Council containing the following suggestions: "That a meeting should be held on the third Tuesday in each month. That as it was obviously impossible to provide for the expenses of the meetings out of the funds of the Society, a charge of 5s. should be made for annual tickets of admission to the evening gatherings." The Council approved the recommendations, and on the 18th September the first of the meetings was held at the chambers jointly occupied by the London and Middlesex and the Surrey Archæological Societies, the object being to take immediate notice of any discoveries that may occur in the city of London and in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey.

The discourses at the evening meetings on the progress of investigation formed a most important side of the Society's work, for they contributed greatly to the study of archæology. Many valuable unpublished papers were read before the members, and curious works of art were regularly submitted for the inspection of large audiences, evidencing the keen interest taken in archæology at that time.

The marked success of the meetings, which continued for nearly 40 years, was mainly due to the untiring and skilful management of Mr. John Edward Price, F.S.A., who conducted them until the year 1888, from which date until 1897, the gatherings were held under the direction of Mr. Martin L. Saunders, and it is regrettable that the excellent work so accomplished is only very briefly recorded.

On the 1st December, 1862, the first part of the

“Proceedings” of the meetings was issued as a separate pamphlet. This was continued periodically until the sixth section had been issued in 1863, when, owing to lack of funds, the publication ceased, and from March, 1863, till June, 1869, the “Proceedings” appeared only in the *Transactions*.

In 1870 a general desire had been expressed that the “Proceedings” should again be printed as a separate publication at the conclusion of each session, and early in 1871 several members having subscribed an additional sum of 5s. towards the cost of publication, the Committee was able to issue a volume of the “Proceedings” for the year 1870, consisting of 110 pages, the “Proceedings” for 1871 appearing late in the year 1872. Although the audiences at the meetings were extraordinarily large, the Committee over-estimated the probable demand for the first three sections for the year 1861, which unhappily did not sell well, for there are many copies still in stock. Anxious not to repeat the mistake, the Committee strictly limited the publication of the 1862-3, 1870 and 1871 sections. The demand for those, however, was so great that they were speedily exhausted, and to-day they are extremely scarce. Indeed they have been unobtainable for half a century or more, and to secure a complete set one might easily have to pay three or four guineas for a couple of hundred pages. Anticipating a similar demand for the 1872-4 sections, the Council was prompted to issue a larger number of copies than the membership justified, with the results that the error of 1861 was repeated, and the Society still holds a heavy stock of the publication.

Apart from the talks and addresses given by guides at the various places visited, 539 papers have been read before the members, the subjects treated covering nearly every phase of the history and topography of London and Middlesex from primæval times, including Roman remains, monastic life, churches, parish life and customs, city guilds, early municipal history, ancient edifices,

public buildings, genealogy, heraldry, palæography, city records, etc.

MEMBERSHIP.

A scrutiny of the first printed list of members published in January, 1856, shows that the Society attracted men of taste and judgment who threw themselves vigorously into the work, the original character of the membership being kept up by the steady flow of entrants, some of them being recruited from the Society of Antiquaries. In March, 1856, one-seventh of the members were Fellows of that Society.

With most organisations it is found that the original promoters and members quickly fall out of the ranks, but not so with our Society, for more than half of the provisional Committee and original Council remained active members for periods ranging between 20 and 43 years, and although the membership is not so large as it was half a century ago, the Society has lost none of its vitality.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

It was the intention of the projectors that a museum should be formed, and to that end, soon after the foundation of the Society, many valuable objects of antiquity were presented, forming the nucleus of a museum. Unhappily the magnanimous example of the early members has not proved a characteristic of the general spirit of the later members. In those early donations we had the beginning of what might have proved a very respectable collection of early remains, including Roman vessels of earthenware, bronzes, lamps, Anglo-Saxon fibulæ, coins, medals, urns, etc., but what became of those objects of interest it is impossible to trace. It is recorded however, that much of the Society's property went astray through carelessness on the part of an early Hon. Secretary.

The founders realising that a library of books upon

archæological and historical subjects was an indispensable handmaid to their studies, they set out to form a collection. In the lists of donations appear many works which no longer grace the shelves. There is no record how the books were lost, but it is known that when the stock was removed from St. Mildred's Court to Dane's Inn in 1863 the books so removed did not represent the entire collection belonging to the Society; and doubtless the many migrations of headquarters are responsible for some of the books going astray. During the last few years the collection has been enriched by gifts from Mrs. Corcoran, Mr. Philips, Mr. Harold Sands and Sir Montague Sharpe; but the stock has increased most largely in the section containing the publications of kindred learned societies.

PATRONS.

The Most Honorable the Marquis of Salisbury 1855-1868
His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G. .. 1868-1881

Archbishops of Canterbury:—

Archibald Campbell Tait	..	..	1868-1882
Edward White Benson..	..	..	1883-1896
Frederick Temple	..	..	1897-1902
Randal Thomas Davidson	..	..	1903-1909

Bishops of London:—

Archibald Campbell Tait	..	..	1857-1868
John Jackson	..	..	1869-1884
Frederick Temple	..	..	1885-1896
Mandell Creighton	..	..	1897-1900
A. F. Winnington Ingram	..	..	1901-1909
Lord Enfield	..	..	1885
The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor	..		1931
The Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex	..	..	1931

PRESIDENTS.

The Society has been fortunate in its presidents, and the list revives memories of their ability in various directions.

The Society suffered a great loss by the early death of its first learned and indefatigable president. Lord Londesborough was an early and constant supporter of the Society, an active member of several learned bodies, and a representative of culture and taste. His zeal for the Society's affairs had been unremitting, and the homage of the highest respect is due to his memory. He was a kind and liberal patron, at all times ready to appreciate learning, and invariably willing to aid it alike by the assistance of his purse and by the influence of his noble name.

Lord Talbot de Malahide, the President for over 20 years between 1861-1882, succeeded Lord Londesborough. He regularly attended the meetings and rendered essential service towards the advancement of London's history and archæology. The next to fill the presidential chair was Lieut.-General Pitt Rivers, F.R.S., F.S.A., the well-known excavator and collector of weapons and other articles illustrating the course of human invention. He occupied the chair for one year and was succeeded by Dr. Edwin Freshfield, F.S.A., who was a strong supporter of the Society. We have various testimonies of the high respect in which Dr. Freshfield was held by all who were acquainted with him, and the sincere regard felt for him by his colleagues. Although busily engaged in his professional avocations he did not neglect the application of his talents to the advancement of archæology among the members. Dr. Freshfield continued our President for a period of 24 years.

It would be difficult to name a man who so well combined the qualities of an English gentleman and an antiquary as our late lamented President, Sir Edward Brabrook, C.B., Dir.S.A., a man whose memory calls

forth so fervent and unanimous a feeling of respect. He occupied the chair for a period of 19 years, and he had previously served the Society as Treasurer and joint Hon. Secretary. The lively interest which at all times and upon all occasions this distinguished and amiable man took in promoting the work of the Society was strikingly evinced in many directions. His addresses were gems of eloquence, breathing the true spirit of antiquarianism, and his many contributions to the *Transactions* show the depth of his antiquarian research and learning.

Sir Edward was succeeded by Sir Montague Sharpe, K.C., D.L., who is well known for his careful and erudite works on Middlesex in Roman times.

HONORARY SECRETARIES.

Early in the year 1857 Mr. George Bish Webb, who, as it has already been stated, was the originator of the Society, and elected the first Hon. Secretary, expressed himself reluctantly compelled to relinquish the office. In view of the deep interest Mr. Webb had taken in the welfare of the Society, a proposition was put forward that it was desirable to retain, by some slight remuneration, those services which as Secretary he had previously rendered gratuitously both with ability and fidelity, upon the strength of which proposal Mr. Webb consented to continue the office. Subsequently the Council, because of limited funds, found it impossible to accede to the proposal, consequently on the 25th March of that year Mr. Webb tendered his resignation.

The name of the Rev. Charles Boutell was then put forward for election, and against the advice of the Rev. Thomas Hugo, Mr. Boutell was duly elected. Owing, however, to serious irregularities, Mr. Boutell ceased to possess the confidence of the Council and of the members in the following month of August. A special general meeting was called for the 27th November, for the purpose of declaring the office vacant, and at that

meeting Mr. H. W. Sass was elected, an office which he held until January, 1863. Mr. Bassett Smith was then asked temporarily to take over the duties, and after eight months the Rev. Thomas Hugo and Mr. Charles J. Shoppee expressed themselves willing to take the office for one year, and were accordingly elected joint secretaries. They held office, however, until July, 1867, when they were succeeded by Messrs. W. H. Black and Thomas Milbourn, 1867-70. Mr. Black, who died in 1872, had been a most valuable member of the Council. His profound learning, his ready felicity of illustration and his faculty for discovering everywhere traces of Roman occupation of Britain, made his presence a marked feature at all gatherings. Sir Edward Braybrook and Mr. J. E. Price served the office during the years 1870-77. Messrs. G. H. Birch and S. W. Kershaw 1877-83; Mr. J. E. Price between 1883-86; Mr. T. Milbourn 1886-90; Messrs. Charles Welch, T. W. Shore, A. S. Walker and Dr. E. Freshfield between the years 1889-1909; Dr. E. Freshfield and Mr. Walker 1909-13; Messrs. A. S. Walker and G. Bridgmore Brown 1913-15; Messrs. A. C. Knight and G. Bridgmore Brown 1915-17; Messrs. C. W. F. Goss and G. Bridgmore Brown 1917-1927. Upon the resignation of Mr. Goss, Mr. Brown undertook the task single-handed, and continued the duties until April, 1931, when Mr. M. W. Bingham was elected to the office.

HEADQUARTERS.

From the beginning there appears to have been some difficulty in procuring suitable headquarters, and the Society had frequently been obliged to shift its home. The first offer of accommodation emanated from the Surrey Archæological Society which agreed to let a room for the Society's meetings upon payment of half the expenses of the premises at 6, Southampton Street. This proposal of a joint tenancy was accepted by the Council for a period of six months, and was subsequently renewed for a like term.

Early in 1857, upon Mr. Webb resigning the Secretaryship, the Society migrated to 32, Fleet Street. After a period of two years, in December, 1859, it found shelter at 7, Mildred's Court, where it remained for four years. In 1863, it was resolved to remove from St. Mildred's Court as early as might be possible, and that the books and other property of the Society be removed to Dane's Inn. No. 1, Elm Court was temporarily rented for three months, and meanwhile strenuous efforts were made to find suitable and congenial quarters. Elm Court was shortly abandoned in favour of 22, Hart Street, where we remained until June, 1870. The Society then removed to more dignified quarters at University College for three years. After the exodus from the College in 1873 accommodation was found at 4, Martin's Place, for 11 years, then it was transferred to Bedford Place, followed by an eight years' tenancy of a room in Dane's Inn. The Society was again in quest of a settled habitation, and in February, 1886, an unsuccessful application was made to hold the meetings in the apartments of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House. Ultimately the Council decided upon a room at the London Institution where the Society's business was transacted for 15 years.

Exactly 20 years ago it found a home at Bishopsgate Institute at a nominal rent. Here a handsome board room is available for Council meetings, and the choice of two halls for general meetings with splendid accommodation for shelving the Society's collection of books.

Hitherto no account has been published of the circumstances attending the origin of the Society, nor of the men who laid its foundation and materially aided its progress, and even in the foregoing brief review we cannot pretend to offer a narrative of all that the Society has achieved amidst trials and difficulties; nor have we the space in which to pay the tribute due to those who have in the past contributed to its success by their strenuous and splendid services; but the Society

may well look back with satisfaction upon all that had been accomplished by the promoters and early members in the cause of archæology, and the Council would press upon the members the great benefit which would result from their giving early information of the repair, restoration or contemplated destruction of any ancient edifice.

Threequarters of a century has run its course since the Society was first constituted, and the founders, animated by mighty enthusiasm, have long since passed away; but for the continuity, efficiency and success of the work, the responsibility—individually and collectively—lies with the present members as well as the large and ever increasing number of antiquarian and historical enquirers.