

IN HONOUR OF STOW
 COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT
 ST. ANDREW UNDERSHAFT

THE Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended in state the annual service in memory of John Stow, the London historian, at St. Andrew Undershaft, on 29th April, 1937, and, in accordance with custom, placed a new quill pen in the hand of Stow's effigy.

His Lordship was received by Sir Charles Batho, Bt. (Alderman), Mr. Deputy Wardlaw, Mr. F. H. W. Church and Mr. W. R. Andrews, representing the Ward of Aldgate, the Bishop of Willesden (Rector), the Rev. Eric Jay (Assistant Priest) and the Churchwardens, and conducted to his seat.

The Rev. Eric Jay officiated, and the Lesson was read by Mr. Albert C. Dabbs, F.S.A., a member of the Council of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

IF STOW CAME BACK?

In an address, the Bishop of Willesden said that it would be interesting if Stow could stand there and speak for himself. Should we welcome his criticisms of the London of to-day? He had said that "his only pains and care was to write truth," and he would certainly express a candid opinion about any daily newspaper whose motive was chiefly to spread propaganda for a particular point of view. Stow knew Bishops and Lord Mayors, and probably summed them up shrewdly. Matthew Parker, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was his generous supporter; but the Bishop of London, Grindal, had the historian's house searched,

and reported that he found "a great store of fabulous books and old fantastical Popish works."

There were encroachments on the common grounds in and about the City at that time, and the citizens were, perhaps, losing their open spaces even then. Since to Stow the moor outside Moorgate was a suburb, he would be astonished, could he return, at the great population which to-day occupied the distant fields of Middlesex, where only ten years ago were country districts with village churches.

"THE WORTHINESS."

Stow attached great importance to the character, "the worthiness," of London's citizens, and would be greatly concerned about the welfare of that population to-day.

Of the many threads that ran through the story of ancient London as told by Stow, he would mention only one. In Elizabethan London the care of the sick, the cause of education and the habit of alms-giving were in the hands of individual benefactors, whose Christian beliefs led them to such practical charity. To-day, our social services were a proof of the extent to which the Christian's life in the heart of England had created a growing Christian's conscience in and for the whole community. Stow would welcome the Archbishop's recall to religion in this Coronation year.

FOSSILS AND FOUNDATIONS.

By commemorating the famous historian, we assented to the principle that progress must spring from the understanding of the past. Archæological societies did not bid us look back that we might bury our interests in fossils and foundations—that would make us sentimentalists—but summoned us to gain knowledge of the ancient customs of our ancestors and the foundations of our common life that we might in our turn build with understanding and zeal.

The Lord Mayor, followed by the Clergy and Churchwardens, then proceeded to the effigy of Stow. After the Bishop had read the prayer of commemoration, his Lordship placed a new quill in the hand of the effigy.

Those present included Mr. C. W. F. Goss (Chairman of the Council of the Society), Mr. George Fox (Deputy Chairman), Sir Ambrose Heal, Major Brett-James, Mr. Percy Lovell, Mr. Allen Walker, Mr. Sly and Mr. H. McClintock Harris.