

ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1920.

The annual excursion for 1920 took place on June 23rd, when, by kind permission and invitation of Sir Harry and Lady Rachel Verney, a visit was paid to Claydon House. The members of the Society visited Claydon in August, 1885, and in the issue of the RECORDS OF BUCKS for the following year appeared a paper upon the mansion, written by Lady Verney. There was a large attendance, formed into two parties. Lady M. Verney conducted one party over the rooms on the first floor, while Sir Harry guided the other party on the ground floor. Afterwards the parties changed places.

Claydon House came into the possession of the Verney family in 1465, when it was acquired by Sir Ralph Verney, Lord Mayor of London. During the reign of Henry VII. (1485—1509), it was partly rebuilt and enlarged; but, in 1752, the second Earl Verney had the west wing pulled down and rebuilt after designs by the brothers Adam, and a good deal of their decorative work can still be seen in the Saloon. It is said that the ghost of Sir Edmund Verney, Charles I.'s standard bearer, used to make his appearance, always in search of his hand which he lost at the Battle of Edge Hill, where it was found still clasping the King's standard. There is a fine portrait of Sir Edmund in the Breakfast Room, with several other family portraits.

The staircase in the central hall is inlaid, and has a wrought-iron balustrade of scrolls and wheat-ears of such delicacy as to rustle at the tread of a passer-by. Earl Verney, the last male of the family in the direct line, ruined himself by his extravagant outlay upon re-building and decorating the house.

Miss Florence Nightingale was a frequent visitor at Claydon House. There is an 18th century Chinese Room with peculiar bamboo furniture. In the Museum were several ancient dresses worn by members of the family, one worn at the Coronation of Charles I. in Scotland. In the Muniment Room are preserved above 30,000 letters and papers of twelve

successive generations of the Verneys. In one of the rooms is a large collection of old English Bibles and Prayer Books.

THE CHURCH.

Middle Claydon Church, dedicated to All Saints, stands close to the Manor House, on the site of a much older edifice. It consists of a west tower, south porch, nave, and chancel. The principal dates connected with the church are: Nave and chancel arch, early 14th century; tower and chancel, early 16th century; south porch and vestry, modern. A flight of nineteen stone steps leads to the chancel on the north side through the priest's door, above which is this inscription: "Rogerus Giffard et Maria uxor ejus hanc cancellum fieri fecerunt, an'o D'ni 1519." On the north wall is a large brass to their memory, with their 13 sons and 7 daughters. Roger Giffard, who married Mary Verney, died in 1543. There are also brasses to Isabelle Giffard, d. 1523, and Alexander Anne, the last chantry priest, in Eucharistic vestments, d. 1526. There are several sepulchral monuments of great interest, the oldest one being an altar tomb of alabaster to Margaret Giffard, 1539. The large monument on the south wall was executed in Rome in 1652, by order of Sir Ralph Verney, to the memory of his parents, himself, and his wife. This monument contains an inscription to Sir Edmund Verney, the Standard Bearer. There are also memorials to three rectors named Butterfield, who held the living from 1657 to 1758. The church was restored in 1871.

ADDITIONS TO MUSEUM AND LIBRARY, 1920.

There were 211 acquisitions during the year, of which the following are the most important items:—

BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS.

ABSENT VOTERS LIST, Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Wycombe Divisions, 1918	Mr. W. Crouch.
"BUCKS LOCAL RECORDS," by J. Gibbs	} Miss Rowe.
"RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD COUNTRY LIFE," by J. K. Fowler	
"ECHOES OF OLD COUNTY LIFE," by J. K. Fowler	
"RECORDS OF OLD TIMES," by J. K. Fowler	
"THE ROMANCE OF THE LACE PILLOW," by T. Wright	Purchased.
TRANSCRIPT. Register of Great Brickhill, 1559-1781	} Rev. R. Ussher.
" Register of Little Brickhill, 1559-1752	
" Register of Hulcott, 1539-1805	
" Register of Hulcott, 1806-1835	
POLL BOOK. Borough of Aylesbury, 1852	Mr. Weston.
POLL BOOK. County of Buckingham, 1784	} Dr. T. G. Parrott.
" Borough of Aylesbury, 1801	
" Freeholders of Buckingham, 1831	
COPIES OF 78 LETTERS from J. Wilkes to Mr. Dell, of Aylesbury	
PARCHMENT DEED, 38 Eliz. Relating to Parson's Fee, Aylesbury	Col. T. Horwood.
"HISTORY OF THE HAWTREY FAMILY," 2 vols.	Mr. E. S. Roscoe.
2 BOOKS M.S. CALENDARS OF PRISONERS. Midsummer Session, 1789, to Epiphany Session, 1804.	Mr. W. Crouch.
DEED, 1603. Sale of Manor of Quarrendon, etc.	Capt. I. Stewart Liberty.
OVERSEERS' ACCOUNTS MS. 1778-1826	Stoke Goldington,
CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS M.S. do., 1748-1815.	Mr. C. Davis.
HISTORY OF 1st BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BATTALION, 1914-1919	Mr. W. Bradbrook.
4 POLL BOOKS. Aylesbury, 1802, 1818, 1832, 1835.	Mr. W. R. Locke.

DRAWINGS AND ENGRAVINGS.

- FRAMED WATER COLOUR DRAWING of Butlers Court, Beaconsfield. Probably Architect's elevation.
Mr. F. D. Mackinnon, K.C.
- COLOURED ENGRAVING, framed, Richard Earl Howe, K.G., after portrait by Gainsborough in Trinity House Mr. A. E. Holloway.
- FRAMED ENGRAVING. Bishop Atterbury ... Mr. W. Barnes.
- ENGRAVED PORTRAIT, Thos. Willis, M.D., by G. Vertue, 1742 Rev. F. W. Bennitt.

COINS, TOKENS, AND MEDAL.

- TWO GROATS, Henry VII. and Edward IV. Dug up in Walton Street, Aylesbury Miss Rowe.
- 2 (HARRINGTON) FARTHING, Charles I. and James I. Found with others in donor's garden, Whitchurch, Bucks Lady Duthie.
- SILVER ELECTION MEDAL. J. Wilkes, Member for Middlesex, 1773 Mr. F. G. Gurney.
- 17th CENTURY TOKEN. Thos. Austin, at the Red Lyon in Atterbury. Dug up in Aylesbury.
Mr. J. Pengelly.
- 18th CENTURY TOKEN. Aylesbury, Atkins, 18. Dug up at Little Kimble Mr. E. Smith.

FOSSILS.

- 108 MICROSCOPE SLIDES. Foraminifera of the Gault, Ford, Bucks. Collected by donor. 1919 ... Mr. E. Hollis.
- SECTION OF LARGE AMMONITE. From Hartwell Clay at Pumping Station, near G.C.R. Station, Aylesbury.
Mr. Cannon.
- FRAGMENTS OF CIDARID TEST. From Hartwell Clay at Pumping Station, near G.C.R. Station, Aylesbury.
Mr. E. Hollis.

EXTANT FAUNA.

- WOODCOCK. *Scolopax rusticula*. Killed at The Lee, Bucks, 26-xii.-1919 Mr. E. R. Green.
- PIGMY SHREW. *Sorex minutus*. Found dead in donor's garden, Aylesbury. 28.vi.-1920 Mr. W. Crouch.
- GOLDEN PLOVER. *Charadrius pluvialis*. Killed at Stoke Mandeville, 21-x 1920 Mr. T. R. Seaton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- BRONZE SEAL ON RING. Found at Whitchurch.
Mr. W. R. Jennings.
- WROUGHT IRON KETTLE TILTER, or "lazy-back."
Lord Cottesloe.
- 3 STRAW BONNETS, of Bucks plait Mrs. Johnson.
- FLINT HAMMER STONE. Found at Boddington Hill Camp Mr. F. W. Reader.
- 7 SPECIMENS OF STRAW PLAIT Mrs. Parsons.