

THE MUSEUM

THE number of visitors during 1960 was 26,000 compared with 22,000 in the previous year. This sharp rise is due to the popularity of some of the temporary exhibitions held and other special circumstances.

The major temporary exhibition during the year was "The History of Rocket Propulsion", arranged in conjunction with the Ministry of Aviation Rocket Propulsion Establishment, Westcott, which aroused considerable public interest. There was also an exhibition commemorating the Bicentenary of Browne Willis, and others on the work of Buckinghamshire Architects, the County Gaol in Aylesbury, which was arranged by the County Record Office, and the work of two local artists, Mrs. Bertha James and Mr. Bernard Tomlins. In addition, there were several exhibitions similar to those held in previous years.

Changes of staff mean that progress in the Museum has been slower than in normal circumstances. A plan has, however, been drawn up for the complete reorganisation of the Archæological Collections, which it is hoped to begin early in 1961. In connection with this, a card index of all archæological finds in the County is being made. This will obviously take a number of years to complete, as it is to include a full description of all the material concerned, and will be supplemented by a photographic record of the more important objects not in the museum's collection.

It is difficult to select a few of the many accessions for special mention, but they included two interesting groups of costume—one nineteenth-century group which

was worn in the area and given by Miss E. M. Ballard, and the other mainly comprising male court dress dating from the late eighteenth century and lent by Mr. Benedict Eyre. Amongst the other folk material, mention should be made of a large collection of frame-makers' tools from Stokenchurch given by Mr. J. Harding. A hand printing press of 1832, a most elaborate example of cast-iron work, was given by Messrs. Freer & Hayter and forms a most striking addition to the collections. From the archæological point of view, there were few accessions, one of the more interesting being parts of two Romano-British pottery funnels found near Fenny Stratford and given by Mr. Denis Mynard.

C.N.G.