

HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WYCOMBE.

SINCE the issue of the last number of the RECORDS, the new Grammar School buildings at Wycombe have been completed, they are set back some distance from the old structure. The Governors and their Architect, Mr. Arthur Vernon, were anxious to preserve the historical memorials which formed portions of the old School, and therefore in pulling it down, much care was taken to retain the Norman work intact. In the grounds fronting the New School may now be seen the remains of the Norman hall of the Hospital, and a portion of the north wall of the Chapel ; to protect them from the elements, the arches have been roofed over ; some mediæval woodwork, used for the purposes of a screen in the hall, is also preserved. These interesting relics are open to view from Easton Street, and are a source of attraction to the ancient borough town of Wycombe. When one considers the care with which every vestige of ancient Rome is preserved in the modern city, so abounding in archæological treasures, it would be strange, if the few remains of our past history preserved to us in our English towns, were not in an equal degree religiously guarded. The Hospital of St. John the Baptist at Wycombe peculiarly claims the interest of the townspeople, because the hospital was, as before observed, a town institution, it was a shelter for the poor and sick of the district, and its patrons were the Mayor and burgesses from very early times. The inhabitants of Wycombe, no less than archæologists, may well be grateful to the Governors of the Grammar School Foundation for having preserved with so much solicitude all that is spared to us of this ancient establishment.—ED.