



## Oxford Ladies' Brass Rubbing Society.

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YEAR 1896-7.  
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### President :

MISS SWANN, Walton Manor.

### Committee :

*President* :—MISS SWANN.

*Hon. Treasurer* :—MRS. DRINKWATER.

*Hon. Secretaries* :— { MISS ROSA BLAKE.  
                                      { MRS. MEE.

*Hon. Librarian* :—MISS GREEN.

MRS. WHITMARSH.

MRS. G. EVANS.

40 Members.

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The O.L.B.R.S. has completed its third year, and the number of its Members is increasing.

Seven meetings have been held during the year and all have been well attended.

Papers have been read on :—

“The Evolution of Brasses,” by Mrs. MEE.

“Some Brasses at Dartmouth,” by Miss BLAKE.

“Three Brasses in Fairford Church,” by Miss GREEN.

“Brasses in St. Aldates and St. Peter le Bailey,” by Miss POYNTER.

“Brasses in St. Michael, Oxford,” by Miss DRINKWATER.

“On the difficulty of deciphering inscriptions,” by Mrs. MEE.

"Brasses in Higham Ferrers Church, Northampton," by Miss BELL DIXON.

The Society visited the Churches of St. Aldates, St. Peter le Bailey and St. Michael, Oxford.

Many rubbings of brasses have been shown, and curious epitaphs noted in the Society's list.

Mr. Parker's book on Heraldry has been presented by Mrs. Hore.

Miss Stone having resigned the office of Secretary, Mrs. Mee, has kindly consented to replace her.

On March 4th, Viscount DILLON, F.S.A., read a paper to the Society on "The Relations of Brasses to Effigies."

Members of the O.U.B.R.S. and other friends were invited to this Meeting and the attendance numbered 175.

The last Meeting was held on June 10th, when Sir Edmund and Lady Verney having kindly invited the Society to visit Claydon House and Church, 34 Members availed themselves of the invitation, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. Lady Verney gave a most interesting lecture on the historic portraits in Claydon House, and afterwards hospitably entertained the Members to tea, after which the Church was visited, and rubbings taken of the brasses contained in it.

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SWAN UPPING ON THE THAMES.—In accordance with an ancient and annual custom, the Swan Masters of the Crown and the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies of the City of London arrived at Windsor on July 22nd, for the purpose of marking the cygnets upon the Thames. This "swan upping" excursion commences on the west side of London Bridge, terminating at Henley. At Windsor the capturing and marking of the swans created some little commotion along the water-side, five boats in festive array being engaged in the work of "nicking." The jackets of the men of the Queen's skiff were of bright scarlet, the Dyers' uniform dark blue, and the Vintners' red. Keeping line the rowers of the skiffs drove the frightened swans on to the banks of the river, where, after their legs had been secured, the birds were assorted preparatory to their bills being "nicked" with distinctive Crown, Vintners' and Dyers' marks. About 170 old and young birds passed through the "swan upper's" hands before reaching the Royal Borough. There are, in all, 481 birds between the Metropolis and Henley.