



Berkshire Archaeological Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual business meeting of the Society was held at the Abbey Gateway, Reading, on Monday, May 3rd, 1915, at 3.30 p.m., C. E. Keyser, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., in the chair.

The proceedings began with the reading of the Annual Report by the Hon. Secretary.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee have the honour to present the Report for the year 1914.

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS.

During the year under review the Society has held, as in past years, the customary winter session, when lectures on various archaeological or historical subjects were given.

On the occasion of the last annual meeting, April 28th, 1914, a lecture on "The Road System of Mediæval England" was given by Professor F. M. Stenton, of University College, Reading.

The first lecture of the winter session of 1914-15 was on November 24th, when the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield took as his subject "The Towers and Spires of Village Churches."

On December 14th, Mr. J. Hautenville Cope, who had in the session of 1913-14 lectured on Winchester, continued his account of that historic city.

"Pedigrees and Genealogies," by Mrs. Cope, on January 21st formed an interesting topic. This lecture was full of original research, and was given from scanty notes.

Mr. W. C. F. Anderson, who has travelled extensively in the Balkan Peninsula, described "Constantinople" on February 24th.

"The Architecture of the Churches of Frilsham, Yattendon, Ashampstead, Hampstead Norris and Aldworth" formed the subject of the President's lecture, which was given on March 25th. His lecture, which all members look forward to, was, as usual, most interesting. It will appear in "The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal." As on previous occasions, his lecture was illustrated by lantern slides from photographs specially taken by Messrs. Walton Adams, of Reading, whose high standard of work comes out so very clear on the screen and shows the true artist's knowledge of light and shade and the best point of view for subjects.

Your Society wishes to record its grateful thanks to those who have given the lectures. The task of providing these lectures was somewhat more difficult this year on account of the war. At each of these meetings the attendance was large, a proof that the lectures are appreciated by the members.

At the conclusion of each of the lectures tea was generously provided by those members whose names appear as hosts, viz. : The President and Mrs. Keyser, Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes, Mr. and Mrs. Petrocokino, Mrs. and Miss Wedderburn, and Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Williams. To all these ladies and gentlemen a hearty vote of thanks is due for their hospitality.

EXCURSIONS.

Only two excursions took place during the summer ; like every other Society, thoughts were turned into less peaceful direction than archæology.

Following what has become an established custom, the Society carried out a "two-day" excursion to Chichester on the 11th and 12th June, 1914. On arrival at the City the Society made its way to its local headquarters, The Dolphin Hotel, from where a move was made to the cathedral ; here the party was met by the cathedral surveyor, Mr. Gordon Hills, who described the architectural features and the various historic events connected with the building. After this a tour was made round the cathedral and the chapels of St. George and St. Clement, etc., and the site of St. Richard's shrine and the library were visited. Having seen the cathedral, Mr. Gordon Hills took the visitors to the Bishop's Palace ; the interesting almshouse, known as St. Mary's Hospital, under the guidance of Canon Masters, was next seen ; after this, the Priory Park, in which

are situated the ruins of the Grey Friars Monastery. Other places shown during the same afternoon were the council chamber and the old house once the residence of the Earl of Scarborough. In the evening the Mayor and Mayoress held a reception for the Society to see the Corporation MSS. and the city plate. On the following day Bosham Church, Kingly Vale, and Boxgrove Church were seen.

The Society takes this opportunity of expressing its gratitude to all who made this excursion such a success. Special thanks are due to the Mayor and Mayoress of Chichester, also to Mr. Gordon Hills, Canon Jones and Canon Masters, both of Chichester Cathedral, as well as to the Rev. K. H. Macdermott, Vicar of Bosham, and the Rev. Richard Wells, Vicar of Boxgrove.

On July 20th an excursion in connection with the Newbury Field Club was made to Hampstead Norris, Aldworth, Ashampstead, Yattendon and Frilsham; at each of these places the Churches were most cleverly described by our President, and have since been described in his annual lecture to the Society.

It is hoped during the coming summer to have a three-days' excursion to Salisbury, Stonehenge and Romsey Abbey, in conjunction with the British Archæological Association.

PUBLICATIONS.

"The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal," which is the official journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society, has now reached its 21st year of publication. A short description of its commencement will be found on the first page of the April number. During the time it has been in existence it has been the means of elucidating much information relating to the three counties.

For several years past our President has enriched its pages with delightful and brilliant descriptions of our Berkshire Churches, accompanied by the splendid series of illustrations which he so generously presents to the journal.

While thanking all those who have contributed to its pages, the Editors would ask new correspondents to come forward—their contributions would indeed be most welcome. Information relating to the geology, the botany, the mycology (fungi), the "field archæology," the tumuli, lists of moated houses, boundary banks, folk-lore, traditions—for all these subjects in this County a large field lies waiting to be explored. Members of the Society are asked to assist in this and similar work.

Major Kempthorne, R.A.M.C., whose interesting account of the parish of Sandhurst has been appearing in recent numbers, was ordered to the front during the early part of the war. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Mons ; but towards the close of the year was released by the Germans. He is now, we are pleased to say, back again at duty in England.

The third and fourth volumes of the "Victoria County History of Berkshire," under the editorship of Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., and the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, F.S.A., assisted by Mr. J. Hautenville Cope, are now in the Press, and in due course will be issued.

OBITUARY.

During the period under review, the Society has lost by death Mr. W. W. Cowslade, whose family had for several generations owned the "Reading Mercury," the leading County paper.

Though he, through age, had not taken a leading part for many years in public affairs, his death leaves a gap which no one else can fill.

Two of our lady members, Mrs. Beaumont and Miss Deacon, have also passed away.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

This year (1914) 12 new subscribers joined the Society, while eight retired ; three, as stated in the previous paragraph, have died. The membership, therefore, on the 31st December (1914) was 146. In spite of the war, on which everybody's thoughts and energies have been concentrated, this report demonstrates that the Society can claim to have passed a useful year. It has been able to continue its winter session, thus making known many archæological facts, not only relating to the County of Berkshire, but on antiquarian subjects generally.

Although the various funds in connection with the war have the first and chief claim on the people of this County, your Committee do venture to ask the members of this Society to make known the exceedingly useful work it accomplishes and if possible to enlist new subscribers.

The report was adopted on the proposition of the President, who, in referring to "The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological

Journal," expressed the wish that more members would take it. He himself provided 50 illustrations each year, and its intrinsic value was far more than the 5s. paid for the four quarterly issues, while a larger circulation would be a great encouragement to Mr. Ditchfield. The Society was financially just holding its own, but they ought to be doing better.

Mr. Ravenscroft produced the financial statement, which showed a balance in hand of £12 6s. 4½d. at the end of 1914. They required more members to pay their way properly.

The balance sheet was passed on the proposition of Mr. Massey.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, in proposing the re-election of Mr. Keyser as President, said that they had in him an ideal president. He was an expert in various branches of archæology and took a very personal interest in the Society and attended their excursions. Mr. Theodore H. White seconded the proposition, which was agreed to with acclamation.

Mr. Keyser, in reply, said he did take a great interest in the Society and its objects.

Mr. Fellowes retired from the Committee owing to leaving the neighbourhood, and Mr. Radford and the Rev. J. Varley were added to it.

In proposing the re-election of the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield as hon. secretary, Mr. Keyser paid a tribute to the great interest he took in the Society.

Mr. J. Hautenville Cope, in seconding, said working as he did with Mr. Ditchfield on the Journal he could say that no one could wish to be associated with a pleasanter colleague, and he knew the very keen personal interest which Mr. Ditchfield took in forwarding the work of the Society. The proposition was carried with acclamation.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield proposed the re-election of the treasurer, Mr. E. Ravenscroft, whose work he warmly eulogised. The Rev. Morris Williams was re-elected librarian.

Mr. Keyser supplied some details of the proposed excursion to Salisbury, Stonehenge and Romsey Abbey, the suggested dates being July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. So far as their own County was concerned, it was suggested that they should go to Appleton and Fifield and to Barkham and Finchampstead.

OLD HOSPITALS OF BERKSHIRE.

Professor W. Carleton Williams was to have read a paper on "The Old Hospitals of Berks," but unfortunately he was unable to be present, and the paper was accordingly read by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield. It noted that many of these old hospitals (almshouses) were carrying on much the same work to-day as they were designed to carry on so long ago, and under somewhat similar conditions. The paper referred mainly to the Hospitals of Christ and St. John, at Abingdon; Jesus Hospital, Bray; the Maison Dieu, Donnington; St. Bartholomew's, Newbury; Lucas' Hospital, Wokingham; Wallingford Almshouses, Lambourne, and Childrey. At St. Bartholomew's, Newbury, it was granted by the King that an annual fair should be held to assist the funds of the hospital, and to provide a priest to sing and two men to say prayers perpetually in the chapel. The provisions for the government of the hospital at Childrey were also commented on. It is laid down that the Master shall be a priest, and shall hold office unless involved in any great crime, or living a bad life, or neglecting his duties, in which case the Governors have the alternative either of dismissing him or "reforming him by suspending his salary."

An interesting discussion followed the paper, and tea was provided by Mrs. F. E. Williams.

Death of Miss Sharp of Upton Court.

While these pages were in the press Miss Sharp, whose account of Beenham has been appearing in successive numbers of this Journal, has passed away.

The MSS. of Beenham are with Mr. Cope and the proof corrections are to be supervised by Mrs. Stanton.

Miss Sharp is a very great loss, she was much beloved by all who were acquainted with her. She was one of our oldest contributors.

Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting, May 10th, 1915.

CASH STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1914.

Receipts.	£ s. d.		Expenses.		£ s. d.
1914.	1914.	...	...
Cash in hand, January 1st, 1914	...	0 13 3	Paid Caretaker	...	...
By Subscriptions for 1912	1 10 0	Wood, Coal and Gas Accounts	...	...
" " 1913	13 5 6	Rents, Rates and Taxes	...	...
" " 1914	42 2 0	Cost of Lectures, Lanterns, etc.	...	...
" " 1915	1 0 0	Postage, Carriage of Parcels, Telegrams, etc.	...	3 11 6½
Hire of Rooms for 1913	2 12 6	Printing, Treasurer's Expenses, &c.	...	13 8 9
" " 1914	16 16 0	Cash in hand, December 31st, 1914	...	12 6 4½
Profit on Chichester Excursion	...	0 8 0			
		<u>£78 7 3</u>			<u>£78 7 3</u>

Audited and Correct

W. R. MORRIS,

22, The Forbury, Reading.

May 10th, 1915.