

behind him a multitude of beautiful etchings and water-colour sketches of early Kentish houses and other monuments of antiquity, which have become of great value, and will be highly prized by his family. Canon Murray had been a Member for forty years, and was often at our Meetings. Mr. Peacock was a regular attendant during the twenty years of his membership. Eighteen new members have joined our ranks during the year, while ten more await election at your hands to-day. The Council has appointed a Finance Committee to deal with the finances of the Society, and the Balance Sheet will henceforth be drawn up by a Chartered Accountant; a Treasurer will also be appointed if the proposed alterations in the Rules are approved by you to-day. During the year no important archaeological discoveries have been made, but as this is an era of great building operations in all parts of the county, constant watchfulness is necessary to prevent valuable antiquities being either destroyed or removed from our midst. The Council views with much satisfaction the spirited action of the Corporation of Rochester in securing and restoring at great cost that fine example of domestic architecture, "Eastgate House," and converting it into a local museum. Its safety is now secured for centuries to come.

The Council has recently made a further grant of twenty-five pounds towards the very important excavations still going on at St. Austin's Priory at Canterbury. A large sum of money is still needed by Canon Routledge and his colleagues to enable them to prosecute a complete research.

The balance at the Society's Bankers at the present moment, together with the Deposit Account, is £619 14s. 11*d.*

A special visit of the Society was paid to St. Augustine's, Canterbury, on May 12th, when Mr. Sebastian Evans explained the excavations, and the members spent the afternoon at the Museum and in the Cathedral.

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The Report having been adopted, Mr. H. Hordern and Capt. C. F. Hooper were elected Auditors. The six retiring Members of the Council were re-elected. The following were then elected to Membership: Major Moore, Miss Ebbs, Mr. E. A. Terry, Mr. P. Lubbock, Mr. Sebastian Evans, Mr. C. Marchant, the Rev. F. J. Cleave Warne, Miss Philpotts, Miss Holmes, and Mr. B. L. Selby.

The necessary alteration in the Rules was made to permit the appointment of an Honorary Treasurer, and a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Youens, the Society's Honorary Photographer, was passed.

The Members were then conducted through the Cathedral by the Rev. G. M. Livett, formerly Precentor, who lucidly described the main features of interest. Eastgate House, the well known Elizabethan mansion in the High Street, recently purchased by the Corporation of the City and opened as a Public Museum, was next visited, and its history and treasures explained by the Honorary Secretary. A perambulation of the city walls and an inspection of

the Norman Castle were then undertaken, in spite of persistent rain, by the more adventurous spirits of the party, under the direction of the Honorary Secretary, who ably elucidated the ancient defences of the City. Mr. Payne's recent discovery of the hitherto unsuspected remains of the Roman wall of Durobrivæ lent additional weight and interest to his remarks. A few only of the Members found their way to, and were kindly permitted to examine, Restoration House.

The Annual Dinner was served at the Bull Hotel under the Chairmanship of the President, supported by Archdeacon Cheetham, Mr. and Mrs. Burch Rosher, the Rev. G. M. Livett, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland H. Woodruff, and Mr. and Mrs. George Payne. The usual loyal toasts were duly honoured. The toast of the prosperity of the Society was proposed by the Archdeacon of Rochester, and responded to by the Noble President.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Corn Exchange. A Paper on "Archbishop William de Corbeuil's connection with Rochester" was read by the Archdeacon of Rochester, and an Address on "The Archæology of the Rochester District" given by the Honorary Secretary.

On Tuesday, July 28th, carriages conveyed a large party to Cliffe-at-Hoo, where the Rector, the Rev. H. B. Boyd, welcomed the Members and read a Paper on the Church. An excellent luncheon, organized and provided by the Rector and Church-workers, was served in the Schoolroom.

From Cliffe progress was made to Cooling Castle, where the Honorary Secretary touched upon the chief points in the history of this ancient abode of the powerful Cobham family.

High Halstow was next reached, and the twelfth-century Church of St. Margaret was briefly described by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Longfield. Mr. Livett also called attention to some interesting features indicating the course of the Church's gradual development.

At Stoke the Rev. T. J. Cleave Warne welcomed the Members and read a Paper by Mr. Leland Duncan on the Church of St. Peter, supplemented by some instructive observations by Mr. Livett on the architecture of the building, with its existing original Norman and thirteenth-century work.

Time did not permit more than a hasty examination of Hoo St. Werburgh, where the Members were kindly received by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Marley. This Church, one of the most pictur-

esque in the district, containing work of the thirteenth century and later periods, is worthy of, and we trust will receive, more prolonged study on some future occasion.

The return to Rochester brought to a conclusion a Meeting the enjoyment of which was in a great measure marred by the rain, which fell almost without intermission during the whole of the two days. Our county archæologists, however, were led to regard their own discomfort as trivial compared with the widespread evidence of agricultural disaster and rain-soddened crops encountered in their journey through the Hundred of Hoo.

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### Obituary Notices.

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#### Mr. JAMES FOSTER WADMORE.

By the death of Mr. J. F. Wadmore of Dry Hill, Tonbridge, our Society loses one of its oldest and staunchest supporters. Born in 1822, Mr. Wadmore was educated at Tonbridge School, and for many years practised successfully as an architect in the City of London. He was elected a member of our Society as far back as 1864, and for the last twenty years of his life served on the Council, occupying a like position in the London and Middlesex Archæological Society. To our Transactions Mr. Wadmore contributed several important Papers, amongst which we may mention: "Tonbridge Castle and its Lords," "St. Mary Magdalen's Priory, Tonbridge," "Smythe of Westenhanger," and "Knight Hospitallers in Kent." He also wrote a history of the Skinners Company, of which body, at the time of his death, he was Senior Past Master.

#### Mr. WILFRED JOSEPH CRIPPS, C.B.

Mr. Wilfred Cripps, whose death occurred in the autumn of the present year (1903) at the comparatively early age of 62, although not a contributor to our Transactions, was one of the Society's most distinguished members, and was always ready to give advice and help to those who were working on the subject which