

A NOTE ON THE PLAN OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S
ABBEY CHURCH.

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FOR the plan in this volume which embodies the results of many years' work, we are indebted to Mr. J. P. G. Meaden, a member of our Society. It is based upon the plan originally measured and drawn by the late Sir W. H. St. John Hope, which included the eastern apse, with the sixteenth century Lady Chapel beyond it, the central tower, north transept and eastern portion of the nave as far west as the north porticus. For the plan of Abbot Wlfric's work as well as of the early Saxon Church, which underlies the Norman nave, we are indebted to Mr. C. R. Peers, C.B.E., F.B.A., Director S.A., Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and to Mr. A. W. Clapham, F.S.A. With their permission Mr. Meaden has incorporated into his plan, their sections of the whole plan which he has himself measured and drawn.

Sir William St. John Hope described fully in *Archæologia*, Vol. LXVI, and in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXXII, the portion which he had mapped, and Mr. Peers, in *Archæologia*, Vol. LXXVII, has described the Pre-Norman Church. I have also written sundry notes about the church in *Arch. Cant.* in the course of the excavations. So far as we can say the site has now been thoroughly explored and it seems unlikely that any further addition to our knowledge of the plan of the church can be made, or to the identification of any more of the tombs. In the excavation of the cloister in which we are now engaged we may be able to throw some light on the early buildings adjoining the North porticus and the extension of that porticus, but so far as the Church is concerned we shall not learn much more. Of the chapel on

the south side of the nave, corresponding with the Brenchley Chapel (now demolished) in the cathedral, only parts of the foundation remain underground. No record has yet been found about it. It was in the north east corner of this chapel that the stone containing the leaden cylinder was found, sealed up with a tile with its face downward.

We have nothing also to explain the abrupt break in the south wall of the church just west of that chapel. Was the charnel house which is alluded to, somewhere there? Doubtless when the south western tower, "the steeple" fell between 1538 the date of the dissolution and the conversion of the Abbots' lodgings into quarters for Madame Anne of Cleves, and the construction of the garden wall out of the debris of the church in 1539, it must have dragged down with it, or crushed the western end of the south wall, but more we know not.

When the excavation of the cloister is complete we hope to be able to publish the plan of the whole monastery of which an outline up to that date was given in *Arch. Cant.*, XXXV. We have the plan of the Infirmary buildings by Sir W. Hope with an explanatory note by Professor Hamilton Thompson, as well as a more recent one of the Frater and Kitchen, which shows not only the later Kitchen but at least an earlier and a later Frater and under them, but apparently quite disconnected, a rectangular building of the earliest date. All these have been incorporated in a general plan by Mr. Meaden which is just waiting for the cloister section. This, alas, can only proceed slowly for want of funds. We should be most grateful for help towards the completion of this work which has now been going on for over twenty-five years.

NOTE.—Special thanks are due to Mr. Meaden for his kind trouble in making arrangements for the lithographing of the plan, and in supervising the work while it was in progress.—Ed.