

A letter was read from Dr. Cotton, and it was resolved that the subscription to the Index of Archæological Papers be continued and paid for at the rate of £5 per annum.

It was proposed by Mr. Cumberland Woodruff and seconded by Lord Northbourne, "That the sum of £100 be withdrawn from the Deposit Account and placed to a separate account for the purpose of forming a Research Fund." Carried.

A grant of £30 out of the Research Fund was made towards the Excavations of St. Augustine's Abbey.

Mr. H. Elgar was appointed Clerk to the Society and Curator of the Society's collection at Maidstone at a salary of £40 per annum payable quarterly, and that his full duties be formulated by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff and recorded in the Minutes.

The following persons were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Mr. F. W. Franks, Mr. Walter Prentis, Mr. H. E. Gregory, Mr. W. Leach Lewis, J.P., Rev. A. A. Carré, Rev. J. A. Miller, Mr. Humphrey Golding, Miss M^cGill, Mr. Eric A. Goddard Jones, Mr. J. C. Anderson, Mr. Robert M. Sebag Montefiore, Mr. Roger Abbot Raven, B.A., Mrs. Samuel Hill, Mr. E. C. Swindells, Mr. R. S. Jones, M.A., Mr. H. W. Stringer, B.A., Mr. A. T. Williamson, Rev. Seymour Henry Rendall, M.A.

July 26th, 1904.—The Council met this day at the Town Hall, New Romney. There were thirteen members present, Lord Stanhope in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Acting Honorary Secretary then read the Report of the Finance Committee with regard to Arrears of Subscriptions, Investments of Life Compositions, etc., which was adopted.

After some discussion on a motion by Mr. Cooke, that the Annual Meeting should extend over three days, the Council adjourned.

The Annual Meeting commenced at the ancient Cinque Port town of New Romney on Tuesday, July 26th, 1904. The President, Earl Stanhope, was, with the members of the Society, welcomed in the old Town Hall by the Mayor of New Romney, Colonel H. C. Wilson. After a few words from his Worship wishing success to the Society, to which Lord Stanhope replied, the usual business was proceeded with.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff read the following Report :—

REPORT, 1904.

Your Council have much pleasure in presenting their Forty-Seventh Annual Report in the ancient Cinque Port town of Romney after an interval of twenty-five years. It is hardly to be expected that much fresh material can be added to that which was so exhaustively illustrated by the late Canon Scott Robertson and others in 1879; but a new generation has arisen to which Romney Marsh is untrodden ground, and the kindly interest and co-operation shewn by some of the leading residents and authorities in our Proceedings encourage the hope that the Meeting will prove both attractive and useful.

The Council regret the loss of several of our members, whose services to County Archæology have been eminent in past years. Among these Mr. Matthew Bell, who died on the 24th of December 1903, was an original member, and for forty years one of the Society's trustees; Mr. John Dobree Norwood, who died four days later, had in past years rendered valuable service; and Mr. J. Humphrey, who passed away little more than a month ago, for many years ably represented the Society in Romney Marsh; whilst among members of wider celebrity the loss of Mr. Wilfred Joseph Cripps, the great authority on old English Plate, will be generally felt.

To the regret of the Council Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., Honorary Secretary and Curator of the Society's collections at Maidstone, has resigned his offices. Mr. Payne's services as Curator and afterwards as Secretary extended over a period of fifteen years, and for a much longer time he had been widely known throughout the county as an energetic explorer and exponent of its primæval and Romano-British antiquities, and especially of the archæology of the Sittingbourne district.

The question of recommending to the Society a capable successor is one that has caused the Council considerable anxiety. After mature deliberation they have been fortunate in meeting with a gentleman whom they believe well qualified to undertake the duties. Mr. Sebastian Evans of Canterbury, a nephew of the eminent archæologist Sir John Evans, has kindly consented to allow himself to be nominated. To the office of Clerk and Curator of the Society's collections at Maidstone the Council have appointed Mr. Herbert Elgar Assistant Curator of the Maidstone Museum at a salary of £40 a year. The Council hope that by Mr. Elgar's constant attendance at the Museum the Society's collections will be rendered more accessible in the future than in past years.

Volume XXVI. of *Archæologia Cantiana* was issued in April. The Council trust that the standard of former volumes has been maintained, and they feel that any success in this respect is in a large measure due to the able architectural papers of the Rev. G. M. Livett, F.S.A.

Under the auspices of the South Eastern Scientific Societies, the Annual Congress of which was held at Maidstone in June last, a Photographic Survey, including both Archæology and Natural Science, was inaugurated. At the Preliminary Meeting the Council were represented by the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman and the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, who expressed the hope that our

Society would warmly co-operate in so desirable an undertaking. Information respecting the proposed Survey may be obtained from Mr. H. F. Wingent of Rochester, the Honorary Secretary.

The past year has produced no striking archæological discoveries within the county. Progress, however, has been made with the excavations at St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, which are gradually elucidating the ground plan of this ancient Benedictine house. The Society has made a further grant of £30 towards the work, but a much larger sum than we are in a position to contribute is urgently needed, and Canon Routledge will be glad to receive subscriptions or donations.

Balance Sheets shewing the financial position of the Society have been prepared by Messrs. King, Accountants, of Gravesend.

For some time past a sum of £400, representing the accumulations of many past years, has been standing on deposit at the Society's Bankers. The Council have decided that £100, part thereof, be set apart as a Research Fund, out of which grants for excavations and other special objects may be made from time to time. The Income of the Society is so little in excess of its Ordinary Expenditure that it is impossible to provide adequate assistance to research out of this source without interfering with the regular issue of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

Although the roll of our members is still a long one compared with similar bodies, the Council feel that in these days of increasing intelligent interest in the study of the past it might be largely extended, and they trust that during the coming year a considerable accession of recruits to its ranks will aid in stimulating the activity and augmenting the usefulness of our Society.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff proposed, and the Rev. G. M. Livett seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That Mr. Sebastian Evans be elected Honorary Secretary in place of Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., resigned." Mr. Evans having thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, the retiring Members of the Council, the Rev. J. A. Boodle, Colonel Copeland, Mr. F. F. Giraud, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, Mr. W. H. Burch Rosher, and the Rev. Canon Routledge, were re-elected.

The Rev. C. H. Wilkie, Vicar of Kingston, Mr. G. E. Cockayne of the Heralds' College, and Mr. Hubert Bensted of Bearsted were elected Members of Council.

The retiring Honorary Auditors, Captain Hooper and Mr. H. Hordern, were re-elected.

The following persons were then elected Ordinary Members of the Society: R. H. Fremlin, Esq., Harry Leney, Esq., the Rev. Julian Guise, M.A., Hugh Leney, Esq., the Rev. Herbert Smith, M.A., the Hon. H. Hannen, Captain Read, Thomas Pledge, Esq., Walter

Day, Esq., the Rev. G. O. Hardy, M.A., the Rev. Hugh South, B.A., the Rev. J. Miller, B.D., Lieut.-Colonel A. Pennefather, E. Finn, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Wilson, W. F. G. Nicholls, Esq., Dr. Herbert H. Oliver, the Rev. Hankin Martin, Miss Anna Hussy, Miss MacKay, Miss Alston.

The members then inspected the interesting collection of antiquities displayed in the temporary museum arranged in the Town Hall. These included the Corporation maces and insignia, and several of the earliest Charters of the Port. An interesting series of maps of the Marsh and its coast from 1588 to 1799, and other documents relating to the history of the district, were lent by Dr. Cock, who had very kindly forwarded for distribution a number of facsimiles of "The Carde of the Beacons in Kent," from W. Lambarde's second edition of his "Perambulation of the County," and a portrait of William Harvey. Other objects of interest were lent by the Rev. R. M. South, Messrs. Arthur Finn, H. W. Stringer, W. Whitehead, T. Brand, G. B. Anderson, A. Masey, A. Barnes, and Miss Buss.

After luncheon the members proceeded to the Church of St. Nicholas, where they were welcomed by the Rev. Hugh South, and the various points of architectural interest were pointed out by the Rev. G. M. Livett. The original Church, Mr. Livett thought, had a nave of five bays, with a fairly long square-ended chancel without chapels. The present fine tower was probably built somewhat later even in its lower portions. There had been some alteration of the Church in the thirteenth century, but its extent could not be accurately traced. In the fourteenth century, however, considerable enlargements had been made, the new portion being built round the old Church, which was disturbed as little as possible.

The party then drove to the Church of All Saints, Lydd, where the members were received by the Rev. G. O. Hardy, the Rector. Here also Mr. Livett acted as guide. Especial attention was called to the remains of the eighth-century Saxon Church, which now forms the western corner of the north aisle, and the gradual growth of the main portion of the Church was explained in detail. We hope to print Mr. Livett's paper on this fine Church in a subsequent volume. Mr. Arthur Finn then briefly described the monuments and brasses.

From Lydd progress was made to the Church of St. Augustine, Brookland, where the Vicar, the Rev. N. L. Batson, welcomed the party and displayed for their inspection the early Register Books.

Mr. J. Oldrid Scott, F.S.A., described the Church, its interesting detached campanile of timber-work, and fine late-Norman font of lead.

On the return journey to Romney a halt was made at the Church of St. Clement, Old Romney, which was briefly described by the Rev. G. M. Livett and the Rev. J. Wilkinson, the Rector.

Upon the return of the members to New Romney the Annual Dinner was held in the Assembly Rooms. Lord Stanhope presided, supported by the Mayor, Alderman Edwin Finn, Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, Mr. Arthur Finn, the Rev. G. M. and Mrs. Livett, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland Woodruff, the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, and about sixty others.

The Evening Meeting was held at the National School Room, under the Presidency of Lieut.-Colonel N. Pennefather.

Mr. Arthur Finn, the Local Secretary for New Romney, read an interesting paper, "Notes and Extracts from Lydd Records," which was much appreciated by all present, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him at the close.

A paper was also read by the Rev. G. M. Livett on "Leaden Fonts," which was well illustrated by lantern slides, and a hearty vote of thanks to this gentleman brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

On Wednesday the 27th the company partook of luncheon and proceeded in carriages to St. Mary's in the Marsh, where some delay was caused by a heavy thunderstorm. The members were received by the Rector, the Rev. E. W. Woolatt, and the Church was described by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff. Ivychurch was next visited, where the Rector, the Rev. J. A. Miller, described the fine Church, to the fabric of which some extensive and much needed repairs are in course of execution.

At Ruckinge, which was also visited, the members were welcomed by the Rev. R. Hamer, and the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was described by Mr. J. Oldrid Scott.

Owing to delays caused by the wet weather it was decided to omit the visit to Bilsington Church and to proceed at once to the Priory, where, after tea, kindly provided for the members of the Society by Mr. and Mrs. W. Stonebridge, Mr. Cumberland Woodruff read the following paper on the remains of the Augustinian Priory:—

BILSINGTON PRIORY.

The Priory of Bilsington was founded in 1253 by John Mansell, Provost of Beverley, and dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine.