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~~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 archaeologists, 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.~~

Obituary Notices.

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

he had made peculiarly his own. The first edition of Mr. Cripps' now classical work on *Old English Plate* appeared in 1878, and although considerable contributions towards the scientific knowledge of silver plate had been published by the late Mr. Octavius Morgan and Sir Augustus Franks, Mr. Cripps' book at once supplied to humbler workers a reliable hand-book, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. During the last twenty-five years immense progress has been made in the knowledge and appreciation of the treasures in the custody of the Clergy and Corporations, and much has been done by the various local Archæological Societies throughout the kingdom towards cataloguing and describing old English Silver Plate. The result of their investigations Mr. Cripps has incorporated in the later editions of his book, which is likely to remain for many years the standard work upon the subject.

Rev. CANON JOY.

The Rev. Samuel Joy, Honorary Canon of Canterbury and Vicar of Maidstone, who died Dec. 19th, 1903, was not very closely connected with our Society, the duties of a large town parish precluding any very active participation in local archæology. He possessed, however, very considerable knowledge of several branches of the subject, and an excellent judgment on all that related to the fabric and fittings of the fine church of which he was the chief custodian. During his short incumbency of seven years many improvements have been effected to the interior of All Saints', which we think will be admitted to be such alike by Churchman and Antiquary. In the Society's Meeting at Maidstone in 1901 Canon Joy was unfortunately unable to take part owing to illness, but many of the preliminary arrangements conducive to the comfort of the members were due to his cordial co-operation.

MR. MATTHEW BELL.

Mr. Matthew Bell, J.P., D.L., who died at Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne, on December 24th, 1903, at the advanced age of 87, was one of the original members of our Society, and for more than forty years he acted as one of its Trustees. Mr. Bell was a country gentleman of the best type, a generous landlord, an active magistrate, and a liberal supporter to most of the charitable agencies in East Kent.

MR. J. D. NORWOOD.

By the death of Mr. John Dobree Norwood, which occurred at his residence in Ashford on December 28th, 1903, we have to lament the loss of another old and highly respected member of our Society. Mr. Norwood, who was a descendant of the Thanet Norwoods and possibly of the great Northwood family of Milton Chasteners, was elected a member of the Kent Archæological Society in 1859, and from 1877 to 1886 acted as Local Secretary for the Ashford district. In the latter year he was placed on the Council, and for many years was a regular attendant at the Quarterly Meetings. Latterly failing health prevented him from taking an active part in the affairs of the Society, but he maintained his interest in archæology until the last. Many years ago Mr. Norwood published an instructive paper on Gavelkind, and to the Eighteenth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* he contributed some interesting notes relating to Roses Farm in Broomfield.

SIR ALBERT WOODS.

Sir Albert Woods, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.S.A., who died January 7th, 1904, aged 87, had been a member of the Kent Archæological Society for thirty-five years, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries for fifty-six, while his connection with the Heralds' College extended over the unprecedented period of sixty-seven years. Since 1868 he had held the office of Garter Principal King of Arms. Although a genealogist of considerable repute, Sir Albert Woods does not appear to have contributed any papers to the *Transactions* of the Society of Antiquaries.
