The Kent Archæological Society.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1913—1914.

March 13th, 1913.—The Council met this day in the Society's rooms at Maidstone. Fourteen members present. F. F. Giraud, Esq., in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary was directed to convey the thanks of the Society to Mr. C. J. Phillips for a munificent gift of topographical works relating to the county of Kent; and to Mr. Nicholls, Surveyor to the Borough of Folkestone, for a plan drawn to scale shewing the exact position of the Saxon graves lately discovered on Folkestone Hill.

Mr. Leland Duncan reported that the paintings on plaster panels from Stodmarsh Court had been acquired by the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, and that the authorities of that institution would permit photographs of the paintings to be taken on behalf of the K.A.S.

The following ladies and gentlemen were elected members of the Society: Mrs. Pearce Clarke, Mrs. Keith Jones, Mrs. F. Robinson, Mrs. C. Wright, Rev. L. W. Goodenough, Rev. E. J. Wild, Rev. F. Somers Cocks, Messrs. W. T. Brown, C. Clouting and J. G. Hunter.

Records Branch.—A resolution was passed approving of the formation of a Records Branch of the Society for the publication of Records which, on account of their length or special character, may not be suitable for the pages of *Archæologia Cantiana.* The following gentlemen were elected as members of a Committee of the Records Branch: Messrs. L. M. Biden, J. Churchill, the

Hon. H. Hannen, L. Duncan and Rev. G. M. Livett, with power to co-opt additional members and appoint officers either from or outside the list of members of the K.A.S.

Mr. Knocker reported that Earl Amherst had graciously communicated to him an assurance that steps would be taken to preserve from further destruction the ruins of Otford Place, and that Caxton House, Sevenoaks Weald, had been purchased by a lady in the district, who proposed to put it into a proper state of repair.

The Rev. T. S. Frampton, F.S.A., a member of the Council since 1889, having resigned his seat on account of ill-heath, was unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Society.

Passbooks were produced and cheques drawn.

At the Meeting of the Society held on the same afternoon at the Maidstone Museum, by kind permission of the Trustees, Mr. Aymer Vallance read the following Paper on

THE FITTINGS OF MEDIÆVAL CHURCHES.

I am not going to deal on this occasion with the growth or development of Mediæval Church plans, but rather with their Fittings.

It may be noted, however, that parish churches were usually so placed in relation to their surroundings that a clear way was available for outdoor processions making a complete and uninterrupted circuit round the exterior. Thus when Sir John Cobham in 1362 was granted a licence to found Cobham College, one of the conditions stipulated was that the residential buildings were to be erected at such a distance from the church as not to interfere with the procession.

In cases where the east end of the church abutted right up against the boundary of the churchyard as at Hythe, a procession-way would be provided under the chancel in order that the procession should pass right round the church without going outside the churchyard on to unconsecrated ground. At Wrotham, where the western tower abuts on the roadway, side doorways to the tower were provided so that the procession could pass underneath it. The same occurs at East Bergholt, Suffolk, and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. At Walpole St. Peter, Norfolk, the procession-way passes underneath the chancel for the same reason.

So much for the placing of the church. There is another thing

to notice before entering the building—the consecration crosses. In this country there were always twelve consecration crosses outside, as well as twelve inside every consecrated church. The most famous example is at Salisbury Cathedral, where there are at least ten if not all the twelve complete outside the building. An example of one from the buttresses of the Lady Chapel is 2 ft. 6 in. in diameter. Some two and a half inches below the cross the hole still remains where a branch or bracket was inserted for a light to be burnt on certain days—*e.g.*, the anniversary of the consecration. This is interesting because the exact date of the consecration is known, September 20th, 1258; in the interior of churches they were usually painted on the walls.

Next we come to the church porch, which was no arbitrary addition, but was put to important uses. It was employed ceremonially for the first part of the Baptismal and Marriage Services and for the Churching of Women.

It was decreed in 1225 that any child baptized by a lay person should afterwards be brought to the church porch, and there the priest should supply whatever was lacking in the ceremony of lay baptism. The porch was the recognized place for teaching, for fulfilling certain solemn obligations such as the paying of bequests, and for the execution of deeds and solemn contracts. Until the practice was forbidden at the end of the twelfth century civil and criminal cases were sometimes tried in the porch. Sometimes also the porch was the place where inquests were held in cases of sudden and violent deaths.

In or close to the porch was a little recess for the holy water in order that people might bless themselves as they went into the church. At Hawkedon and Poslingford, both in Suffolk, the stoup is on the outside. More usually, however, the holy water stoup was placed inside the porch or in the church itself.

Inside the building, as near as possible to the principal entrance, would be the font. The most primitive form was a tub font; there is an example of twelfth century date at Gillingham in this county. The next type of fonts would be square, and finally octagonal. At the Council at Durham in 1220 fonts were ordered to be kept under lock and key lest the water should be stolen for purposes of sorcery or magic. In 1305 Archbishop Winchelsea decreed that font covers, with lock and key, should be supplied at the expense of the parish, an order binding throughout the Southern Province. On some fonts you will find the places where the

attachment for securing the covers was fixed. The cover, at first probably only a flat lid, grew to be a handsome ornament like a spire, with a mass of carved work and soaring pinnacles. At Ewelme, Oxfordshire, there is a fine fifteenth-century example raised by a pulley; but as these covers became larger and heavier they could not easily be raised, and consequently folding doors in the sides of the cover were provided something like a triptych. I do not know of any very large or imposing font covers in Kent, but fine specimens may be seen at Holy Cross and St. Dunstan's Churches, both in Canterbury.

In the pillar close to the font is sometimes to be seen an aumbry, or a little niche in which some of the utensils required at the baptism were placed for convenience during the ceremony. A niche of this character remains at Moulton Church in Lincolnshire, and another, supposed to be for the same purpose, in the nave of Great Malvern Priory Church, Worcestershire.

We now come to the seats in the nave. The earliest form of fixed seats was of stone, and fixed wooden benches do not occur before the latter part of the thirteenth century, nor did they become general before the fifteenth century. The low stone bench, or bench-tables as they are now commonly called, were built along the wall or around the foot of the piers. Usually, however, in such cases the bench-tables have been ruthlessly swept away or hidden by the pewing. Instances may be seen round some of the nave piers at St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, near Dover, at Lydd and Upchurch.

Probably the earliest fixed wooden benches existing in any church in this country are at Clapton in Gordano in Somerset. Another early example is at Honeychurch in North Devon. There is a curious example of fifteenth-century fixed seats in the north aisle of the nave of Cawston Church, Norfolk, where on the seat nearest the door a back is placed as a protection against the draughts, but none of the other seats have backs. It is now very rare to find these old seats without backs surviving.

Beside the pulpit in the nave, another point to note would be the presence of nave altars. In all mediæval churches there were at least two altars—the High Altar and the Altar of Our Lady. Where the church consisted of nave and chancel only the High Altar was in the chancel and the Altar of Our Lady in the nave. You can always be quite sure of the position of the altar where you see the piscina in the wall.

In every pre-Reformation church the most conspicuous object

was the Great Rood (the symbol of man's redemption and the all-compelling majesty of the Son of Man), usually accompanied by figures of Mary and John on either side. The Great Rood was either attached to the top of the rood screen or later to the rood loft; occasionally it was suspended by chains from the roof, but perhaps most usually it was placed on a separate beam above the rood loft. Roods were destroyed on the accession of Edward VI. in 1547; they were restored again for a short period during the reign of Queen Mary, and finally destroyed on the accession of Queen Elizabeth in November 1558. The ends of the rood beam, sawn off, remained in the wall on each side of the church at Ightham until recently, when the whole beam was restored to the pattern of the surviving fragments. The rood gave its name to the screen which stood underneath. Rood screens were sometimes of stone, but usually of oak, a material of which England had a finer supply perhaps than any country in Europe. There is a fourteenth-century stone rood screen at Broughton Church, near Banbury in Oxfordshire, and a plain oak one at Shutford Church in the same county. The solid panels in the lower part of screens were sometimes perforated with little holes of various shapes and patterns, and at different levels. The reason for these perforations is not always understood, but, personally, I believe these holes were squints through which children might see the Elevation of the Host. I am confirmed in this belief by noticing the holes at various heights in the panelling, some being only about 2 feet from the ground. The Elevation of the Host obtained increasing importance from the thirteenth century onwards, and the reason was that the Host should be shewn to the people. An interesting side light is provided in the case of Smarden Church. Those of you who have read Fox's *Acts and Monuments* will perhaps remember how the writer gives an account of Justice Drayner, who, in the time of Queen Mary, was supposed to have spied on people in order to see who were good Catholics and who were not. Fox tells how Drayner pierced holes in the front of the rood loft at Smarden into which he mounted, and at the moment of the Elevation of the Host he would be able to watch the congregation through these holes and take note of those who looked up and lifted up their hands, and those who did not he arraigned and caused to be punished. I do not know of any examples of these Elevation Squints in this county.

The earliest screens were rectangular, and not designed to carry

a rood loft. Rood lofts were introduced in a few parish churches, *e.g.*, Holy Trinity, Hull, as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century, but they did not become general and indispensable until nearly the close of the fifteenth century. They then went on being built to the eve of the Reformation. Whenever you see a screen with an arched opening you may know for certain that it was planned from the outset and built to carry a rood loft. It is an error, therefore, to decorate the spandrels of screens which have lost their vaulting, because these spandrels would have been hidden within the pockets of the vaulting, and a mutilation cannot properly be treated as a subject for ornament. An illustration of this mistake occurs at Stalisfield.

Rood lofts were intended chiefly for the accommodation of the singers and whatever musical instruments were in vogue at the time. The rood loft was also a convenient place from which to reach the Great Rood for veiling it in Lent, and for placing lights on the rood beam. Perhaps in the majority of churches the rood loft extended across the width of the nave only, but in the south-west of England, *e.g.*, in Devonshire, it usually spanned the aisles as well as the nave, reaching from the north to the south laternal wall, or, in cases where the continuity of the loft was interrupted by the arcades, openings would be tunnelled through the corresponding spandrels of the arcades to provide a passage from one part of the loft to the other. A feature, almost peculiar to Kent, is the rebuilding of the easternmost arch of the nave arcade (or arcades) to a higher sweep, producing in effect a rampant arch, in order to make headway for persons to pass along from the gangway across the aisle (or aisles) to the central part of the rood loft in the nave. Instances of this may be seen at Erith, Biddenden, Doddington, Lynsted, Sittingbourne and Staplehurst Churches. Rood stairs were, of course, in every case provided to mount up to the rood loft. Where there are none remaining it is either because the stone stairs have been purposely obliterated, or because they were of wood and have subsequently perished. Rood stair turrets are so familiar in this county that they need no illustration. At Hatfield Broad-Oak in Essex there is a little bell cot on the top of the rood turret.

The subject of "The Doom" or "The Last Judgment" was commonly painted on the east wall of the nave, above the rood loft, forming a background for the Great Rood. Sometimes a background was provided in the shape of a tympanum of boarding,

of lath and plaster, or sometimes only a canvas stretched on a wooden framework in the head of the chancel arch. The reason for this was that as the Great Rood always had to be the most prominent object in the church, and our national custom was to have a large east window, the light shining from the latter would prevent the Great Rood being seen clearly unless a background shutting out the light was provided.

Another thing to note in connection with the Great Rood is that sometimes the roof above was decorated, forming what was called a "celure," *i.e.*, canopy of honour, as at Rainham, where the panels are painted with the roses and sun-rays of Edward IV. At Southwold Church, Suffolk, is a very rich example of a celure painted with angels holding emblems of the Passion. At Great Rollright, Oxfordshire, and Woolpit, Suffolk, may be seen an overhanging canopy of wood projecting from the east wall of the nave over where the rood stood.

The destruction of rood lofts began in the diocese of Canterbury as early as 1560, by order of Archdeacon Guest, afterwards Bishop of Rochester, but it was not officially required before the third year of Queen Elizabeth, when an Order in Council, dated 10th October 1561, commanded the removal of rood lofts, at the same time expressly ordering that the "partition" beneath, *i.e.*, the chancel screen, should be retained, and that where the screen had already been removed a new one must be provided. This order has never been repealed, and it is thus strictly illegal to this day to remove a rood screen.

One thing more to notice is that sometimes it happens that the doors of the screen will not shut. A fantastic reason given is that the nave of the church represented earth and the chancel heaven, and the doors of the screen were purposely made not to shut as a symbol that the way from earth to heaven was always open. That is quite true about heaven and earth, but it has nothing to do with the screen. Whenever screen doors will not shut it simply is because constant usage has strained the hinges of the doors and caused them to drop.

Passing into the chancel we note sometimes the low side window near the west part of the north or south wall, and more rarely on both sides. Various explanations have been given and hazarded. We may dismiss the popular theory that they were for lepers, whether for the administration to them of the Holy Communion or for other reasons, because in the Middle Ages leprosy

was such a terrible scourge that lepers were not allowed to associate with other people, nor to come near the churchyard at all. Lepers were not cut off from religious ministrations, but they were confined to lazar houses, which were provided with a chaplain, who administered the Holy Communion to them. Therefore the leper theory is sheer nonsense. Other people think that low side windows were intended for light, ventilation, or for hearing confessions. Whatever their purpose, it must have been connected with some action from within, though I scarcely think that any one explanation covers all cases. At Leeds Castle, in the Chapel, there is a low side window in the upper floor of a part of the building rising sheer from the water. Therefore its intention obviously had nothing to do with anybody looking into the church from outside. Authorities still differ as to the object of this low side window, but the view most generally accepted among archæologists is that it was intended for a bell to be rung at the elevation of the Host, to afford people unable to be present in church an opportunity to join in the spirit of the service. Accordingly the lower part of low side windows was not glazed but shuttered with a wooden shutter, the iron hooks for which are frequently to be observed in the jamb. Archbishop Peckham in 1281 directed as follows: "Let a bell be rung at one side of the church at the Elevation so that persons who have not the leisure to be present, wherever they happen to be, indoors or in the field, may bend the knee and thus obtain the indulgences granted by many Bishops." Low side windows extended over a long period, one of the earliest, a twelfth-century example, being found at Burnby in the East Riding of Yorkshire. One of the best known and most perfect instances is at Doddington at the west end of the north wall of the chancel. The iron hinges for the shutter remain though the opening has been blocked up. I can remember the time when this church was restored. The walling of the lower part of the window was then removed and the whole window glazed from top to bottom, thus destroying an interesting piece of history.

The seats in the choirs of monastic and parish churches were arranged in rows facing north and south with a clear alley between; and in cathedrals it was usual to arrange other stalls against the west enclosure of the choir with their fronts facing towards the high altar. These were called return stalls, and the same arrangement obtained sometimes in parish churches also. The seats were joined together in rows having divisions marking the separate

places, the ends being often richly carved in what we call poppy-heads, but in the Middle Ages "popies" (*i.e.*, French *poupée*, doll). In many churches these seats were provided with hinged slabs to raise up or down as desired, with a little projecting ledge or bracket attached under the front edge; this is a misericord—*i.e.*, an alleviation from the fatigue during the long period of standing for the divine office. They were provided out of compassion for human infirmity, for according to ancient usage the recitation of the Psalter was not spread over a whole month as it is in the Book of Common Prayer, but it was recited once a week, and this was obligatory on all clergy and was part of the regular routine of the religious houses.

Other fixed seats in the chancel were those commonly called Sedilia, which are found on the south side of the altar near the east end on the south wall. They were intended for those ministering at the altar, who would occupy them at mass and other times. They vary in number from one to four, although quite the most usual number was three; they were generally of stone. Oak sedilia remain at Rodmersham.

Just east of the sedilia and commonly of one design with the latter is the altar drain, which we now call a piscina—literally a fish-pond; in this the priests washed their hands and the sacred vessels.

And now the Lenten veil. Archbishop Gray, of York, in his constitutions of 1250 directed that the Lenten veil was to be provided at the expense of the parishioners in every church; and Archbishop Winchelsea in 1305 made it obligatory throughout the Southern Province. The Lenten veil was hung across the chancel between the choir and the altar at a line just to the west of the sedilia. It remained in position from after Compline on the First Sunday in Lent until the Wednesday in Holy Week, and during all that time (except on occasions when a high festival occurred) it was only raised for the reading of the Gospel until the "orate fratres" (a point of the old service which may perhaps best be compared with the Exhortation before the Prayer for the Church Militant in the Prayer Book). On the Wednesday in Holy Week, at the words in the Gospel "the veil of the temple was rent in twain," the Lenten veil was taken down or torn asunder. The iron hooks for the Lenten veil remain at Heckington Church, Lincolnshire. There are others in the presbytery at Ripon Minster; while on the north side of the presbytery at Salisbury Cathedral may yet

be seen the winch by which the cord suspending the veil might be lowered or drawn taut as required.

In many churches on the north side of the chancel opposite the sedilia there remains a recess for the Easter Sepulchre. This was universally in use once a year, and where no stone recess survives one may be sure that a wooden receptacle was provided. The sepulchre was used to deposit a crucifix (the same that had served at the "Creeping to the Cross" on Good Friday) and a pyx containing the Sacred Host. These were placed in the sepulchre after the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified on Good Friday and remained therein, constantly watched with much devotion until Easter morning; then they were brought back with festal solemnity to the high altar. It was a much coveted honour to have one's tomb in this position in the north chancel wall, where with a flat top and without an effigy over it might serve yearly as the sepulchre for the Blessed Sacrament to rest on.

In every church, too, in addition to the great rood were two images, one on either side of the east window—one of the saint to whom the church was dedicated and the other of the Blessed Virgin.

The reredos was never very high because an important feature of the east end of English churches was the east window, which did not admit of much space for a high structure underneath.

Lastly, the altar. The high altar was ordered by Archbishop Lanfranc in 1076 to be of stone. It was a plain rectangular mass of masonry supporting a flat slab without ornament, except that its overhanging edge was sometimes chamfered on the underside. The reason for the absence of ornament was not that the altar was considered unimportant, but that it might always be perfectly bare when stripped on Good Friday. Of course altars had gorgeous hangings and sometimes a carved movable front of alabaster in a frame, but the altars themselves were obliged to be plain and unadorned.

At the Reformation these stone altars were taken down and broken up, sometimes the consecrated slab was laid on the ground by the porch or in some other situation where everyone who entered the building must, consciously or unconsciously, degrade it by treading it underfoot.

The features I have enumerated were familiar throughout the land in the Middle Ages; but on account of the havoc wrought at the Reformation and from that time onwards it is necessary to go

far afield, gathering together the various examples, one here and one there, in order to appreciate the complete aspect of a mediæva church interior.

Mr. L. M. Biden followed with a Paper on "The Purpose and Work of the Records Branch."

June 3rd, 1913.—The Council met this day at the Coburg Hotel, Mount Street, W., by invitation of the President, who, previous to the meeting, hospitably entertained the members to luncheon.

Lord Northbourne in the chair. Twenty-three members present.

Maidstone "Tithe-Barn."—The following resolution was adopted: "The Council venture to express the hope that any restoration or repair to the above building may be entrusted to an architect accustomed to deal with ancient structures, and that plans and particulars of such repairs may be submitted to the Council of the Kent Archæological Society."

Reports from the Local Secretaries Committee and the Records Branch Committee were presented and adopted.

Protection of Ancient Buildings.—After a long discussion the following resolution was passed: "The Council of the Kent Archæological Society would welcome any well-considered scheme or schemes whereby—without infringement of the jurisdiction of ecclesiastical authority, whether Diocesan, or Capitular, or the rights of parishioners—the preservation of features of architectural or historic interest in churches undergoing alteration or repair would be insured." The Hon. Secretary was requested to send copies of the above resolution to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the lord Bishop of Rochester.

Mr. L. M. Biden was elected a member of Council. The Rev. G. M. Livett and Mr. Aymer Vallance were re-elected as the Society's representatives at the Congress of Archæological Societies.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. F. E. Foreman, J. D'Avigdor Goldsmid, D. Vaughan Rice, P. F. Potter, H. T. Underwood, F. Watson, Miss V. E. Potts and Mrs. Raggett.

The Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting was held at Westerham and Edenbridge on Monday and Tuesday, July 28th and 29th, 1913.

The members and friends present included Lord Northbourne,

Sir Martin and Lady Conway, Miss Conway, Hon. H. A. and Mrs. Hannen, Mr. Herbert and Mrs. Monckton, Rev. G. M. and Mrs. Livett, General Wolseley, Rev. W. and Mrs. Gardner-Waterman, Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Woodruff, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Chapman, Rev. H. L. Somers Cocks, Mr. Richard Cooke, Mr. L. W. Biden, Major and Miss Powell-Cotton, Mr. Cripps Day, Mr. J. Ellis Mace and Mrs. Mace, Rev. R. Swan, Mr. J. A. Walter, Rev. S. R. and Miss Wigan, Mr. G. E. Duveen, Mr. W. E. Hughes, Mr. W. T. Vincent, Mr. S. W. Kershaw, Mr. A. H. Taylor, Major F. Lambarde, Rev. and Mrs. McCheane, Mr. S. Manser, Rev. C. N. Wilkie, Mr. Till, Mr. H. S. Cowper, Mr. E. Garnet Man, Mr. Youens, Mr. A. A. Arnold, Rev. J. Rooker, Mr. C. J. and Mrs. Phillips, Mr. H. W. Knocker, Colonel Rogers, Captain, Mrs. and Miss De Gale, and many others.

The large party assembled at Sevenoaks on Monday morning, and proceeded to Westerham in motor cars.

The road from Sevenoaks westward to Westerham runs parallel with the chalk escarpment (2 miles to the north), and along the lower greensand formation. It passes Riverhead, with its modern church, Bessels Green (left), and Chipstead (right). From Sundridge Cross onwards it follows the right bank of the little river Dart, which rises near Westerham. On the right, between Sundridge and Brasted, is the park of Combe Bank, the seat successively of the Isleys, who joined Wyatt's rebellion, the Campbells (Duke of Argyll) and the Mannings (parents of the Cardinal). The house of Brasted Park was designed by the Adam brothers. Going up to Westerham Church, which occupies a fine position, a headland surrounded by the sources of the Dart and having an extensive view towards Chevening on the N.E., we pass (right, opposite the turning to Edenbridge) Quebec House, with its three gables, the family residence of the Wolfes, recently purchased and offered to the Canadian Government, and the Vicarage on the left, where General James Wolfe was born.

The Preliminary Meeting for the despatch of business was held in the King's Arms Hotel, Westerham, with the President in the chair.

The following were elected members of the Society: M. P. Castle, Esq., M.V.O., J.P., Canon H. Beanlands, William Daws, Esq., John Messenger Madders, Esq., W. H. Elgar, Esq., Captain Garnon Williams, R.N., Rev. Dr. Moore and Colonel Sinclair.

Mr. R. Cooke, the Hon. Secretary, next read the Annual Report, which alluded to the loss the Society had sustained through the deaths of Lord Avebury, well known for the interest he took in all matters relating to archæology, natural science and literature; Mr. Oldrid Scott, to whom they were indebted for many papers and much assistance; and the Very Rev. Dr. Ernald Lane, Dean of Rochester, whose genial presence at the meetings of the Council would be much missed. The change advocated by Mr. Knocker with respect to defining the districts of the Local Secretaries, and suggesting new and enlarged spheres of work for them, would shortly come into operation. At a meeting of the Local Secretaries held last December at Maidstone, the scheme, after a two hours' discussion, was approved. Very much of the work attending this alteration had fallen upon Mr. Knocker and the Rev. G. M. Livett, to both of whom the Society was much indebted. It was hoped that this meeting of Local Secretaries might be the precursor of a meeting to be held yearly in future.

Another important subject had been the formation of a Records Branch to the Kent Archæological Society, with Mr. L. M. Biden as its first Hon. Secretary, and Lord Northbourne as Chairman of the Committee.

A work on lines similar to the Rev. W. E. Buckland's *Parish and Diocesan Records of the Diocese of Rochester* is now in hand for the Canterbury Diocese under the hon. editorship of the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the Society on doing very useful work. The Society was extremely fortunate in securing and retaining the services of Mr. R. Cooke as Hon. Secretary, and the energy of the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman as Financial Hon. Secretary had placed the business side of the Society's affairs on a satisfactory basis. The President concluded by referring to the importance of the work which was being done by the Parochial Records Enquiry Committee appointed by the Canterbury Diocesan Conference, and exhorted those persons who have influence and opportunity to induce the custodians of these documents to furnish full returns.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff, Hon. Secretary to the Parochial Records Enquiry Committee, reported that good progress was being made in cataloguing the ancient documents in the custody of incumbents and churchwardens in the diocese of Canterbury.

The Committee hoped that the enquiry might not only be the means of drawing attention to the value of these records for parochial history, but also of ensuring their more careful preservation in the future.

The report was adopted.

Mr. Leland Duncan and Mr. A. Finn, retiring members of the Council, were re-appointed.

WESTERHAM CHURCH.

Dr. Maude received the members at the churchyard gates, and made a few remarks before they entered. He said:—

I have been asked, almost at a moment's notice, to say what I know about this church, but unfortunately I do not know very much. I propose leaving the real architectural features to Mr. Livett to describe because he knows a great deal more about them than I do, but there are a few general features to which I may allude. This church is dedicated in honour of St. Mary the Virgin, and the original Early English structure was in existence up to about the middle of the fourteenth century, when a complete reconstruction of the edifice took place. The only part of this Early English church now remaining is the fabric of the tower. The tower was higher than it is now, and besides the actual masonry of the walls there are parts of the original archway, as well as the jambs and sills of the old lancet belfry windows, which obviously ran up higher than the present Perpendicular window. The rest of the church shews hardly any trace of the older structure except just the quoins at the extreme end of the chancel, and the outer and inner jambs of the two outer lights of a triple lancet east window, which are in the Perpendicular window you see now; that window was restored in the last century, but was originally three lancet lights. The plan of the church before the fifteenth century was much smaller than now; it did not include the two side-aisles or the aisle on either side of the chancel. They were included in a general scheme of reconstruction in the fifteenth century at different dates, according to Mr. Leveson-Gower, but I should doubt that—at least there is no evidence to prove it. I have not had access to any of the plans which were drawn out during the successive restorations the church has undergone. This arch in the tower looks like a relieving arch and is obviously part of the original tower arch. The porch was entirely

reconstructed in 1878 when the church was restored, but there was a porch in existence before, though it had been closed for a number of years, and perhaps centuries.

The Visitors having entered the church, Dr. Maude continued his observations. He remarked: As I said outside, the north and south chancel aisles were constructed probably in the middle of the fifteenth century and the aisles of the nave probably rather later. The south aisle is supposed to have been constructed first. The puzzle about this church would appear to be why the arcading in the chancel looks of a later date than the arcading in the nave. I should hazard the suggestion that the arcading of the nave was copied from some arcading in the neighbourhood, as was often the case in the reconstruction of churches. I would also suggest that the designers had the arcading of Sundridge Church in their minds because that arcading is one of the finest pieces of Early English pointed work you will find in any small parish church. The church was restored partly under Mr. Teulon in 1852, but he did not do very much; among other things the gallery at the west end was then removed. A complete restoration was carried out in 1882-3 under the supervision of Mr. Edward Streatfield, to whose memory the east window was erected by his family. The points of interest in the church are the windows. There is no old painted glass nor evidence that there ever was any; if any ever did exist it has been completely destroyed. We know the agents of Cromwell were here about 1650, and possibly they may have been at work here as at Croydon. Taking the modern windows, I think we have a very good show of modern glass in this church. The east window is one of Powell's from designs by Mr. Henry Holiday; those on the north side are at once recognized as from the atelier of Kemp. A very fine window has lately been placed opposite the door, to which I should like you to pay special attention; it is an example of Morrison's work from the design of Burne Jones. There are eight ancient brasses; one of them is rather curious. It is to the memory of two men, each of whom had two wives and one of whom had fifteen children. The curious thing is that on the brass they have mixed up the children, and probably the wives accredited to these two individuals. The south chancel aisle is called the chapel of St. Catharine; there was an altar at the east end and a very fine piscina at the side. There are no very early tombs in the church. Over the south door is a marble tablet erected to the memory of the brave General Wolfe, who, however,

is buried in St. Alphege's Church, Greenwich. Then there are various memorials to members of the Warde family, who have been at Westerham since about 1730. One tablet is to the memory of Admiral Warde, father of the late Colonel, and another to one of his sons who died in the massacre of Cawnpore. There is also one to the memory of General George Warde, but that is not the General Warde who was the great friend of Wolfe, but his nephew.

Dr. Maude then described the church plate. Of the fine Nurenberg cup (see *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI.) he said: "These cups were shooting trophies, given by the citizens of Nurenberg to the Shooters Guild, hence the figure on the cover which has been variously taken for St. George and Minerva. The cup is of silver gilt, 11½ inches high, of cylindrical form, ornamented with strap work, on a stem with knobs and cherub heads. The figure by which it is surmounted is holding a bow and a shield. It has the initials "N.G.S.," "N." probably meaning Nurenberg. I had the advantage a few years ago of going through the Carthusian Monastery's Museum at Nurenberg, and of being shewn there by one of the Curators a fine collection of similar cups to the one at Westerham. It is one of the later examples, shewing considerable Renaissance influence in its design —date *c.* 1600."

The Rev. G. M. Livett said: "The Society would wish me to thank Dr. Maude for giving us the benefit of his time and knowledge on the subject of which he has been speaking. I will devote only a few moments to certain points in the architecture of this church which came to my notice during a brief visit in company with the Vicar, the Rev. S. Le Mesurier, whose absence to-day we regret. First, with regard to the tower. The tower is Early English, and the west door, if I remember right, is Tudor, as is also the window over it. The arrangement of the buttresses is very peculiar, and suggests that when the tower was built the west boundary of the churchyard ran in a line with its west wall, leaving no passage-way at that end. This is confirmed by signs of an archway in the south wall, to which Dr. Maude at my request kindly called attention outside. The archway was blocked up at a later date, and a small doorway inserted in it. There was doubtless a similar archway in the north wall or tower, so that, as at Wrotham Church, by this arrangement processions might pass round the church through the

tower. We remember the provision made for a like purpose at Hythe, in the ambulatory under the east wall of the chancel. The tower has remains of lancet windows. The great arch at the west end of the nave seems to have been raised in height at a date unknown. With regard to the rest of the church, Dr. Charles Cox, in his *Rambles in Kent*, has rather wronged the architect, Mr. Streatfeild (to whose memory the great east window was glazed), in saying "that the whole was drastically restored in 1852-3, and has lost all interest to the architectural student." The way in which the Tudor builders, when they remodelled the Early English building, ran their arcades through from end to end, as at Chiddingstone, is extremely interesting. We can recover the lines of the nave and chancel of the Early English church. As usuall the chancel was slightly narrower than the nave. Its east wal, remains; both outside and inside, beside the inserted four-light Decorated window, there are signs of the Early English triplet of lancets, and also of the quoins. On the south side a few feet of the Early English wall (the south wall of the chancel) remain near the east end, beyond two Tudor arches of unequal span. On the north side the Tudor people inserted two arches of equal span, occupying the whole length of that side. Why did they not do the same on the south side, and so make the whole look uniform? Doubtless because they wanted that bit of wall for ritual purposes, to contain the aumbry and piscina and for a backing for the sedilia. A portion of a blocked Early English lancet remains in that bit of wall, shewing that the Early English aisles did not extend to the full length of the chancel eastward. Now we come to the interesting features which shew how the Tudor people accommodated the width of the Early English chancel to the greater width of the nave. On the north side they ran the arcades exactly on the old Early English lines, both in the nave and in the chancel, and at the point where the two approach each other (*i.e.*, on the line of the old chancel arch wall) they designed a column of peculiar shape, which served to deceive the eye and conveyed the impression of an unbroken continuous arcade. On the south side they managed it differently: from the bit of Early English walling at the east end they ran their arches a little askew, so as to meet the line of arches along the side of the nave. By this means they were able to dispense with the adoption at the meeting point of a column of peculiar shape, like that on the north side. But in inserting these skewed arches on the south side of the chancel they left the old

Early English wall above them, paring its face down to the imposts of the arches. In the wall above the column at the said meeting point, on the line of the destroyed Early English chancel arch, as seen from the aisle, you may see the remains of the original quoin, the south-east quoin of the nave. There is no time left to enable me to trace in detail the evolution of the aisles of the church, but there is one further feature to which attention must be drawn. The central portion of the aisle wall had at some period inclined outward towards the top, and in arranging for the new roof the builders thickened the wall on the inside so as to support the wall plate of the roof, and they supported this thickening by means of a series of three depressed wall arches, springing from corbels, seen in the dim light near the top of the wall. I regret that I am unable to fix the date of this work, as I have spent only a short hour and a half in examining the building, and had no ladder which would enable me to inspect the arches at close quarters."

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff said: "The Church of Westerham in mediæval times was appropriated to the great Benedictine Convent of Christ Church in Canterbury. As was the custom, the small tithe was set aside for the perpetual vicar of the parish, but it proved insufficient for his maintenance. At length in 1453 the vicar was constrained to ask the prior to augment his stipend, and at the same time he submitted a financial statement. Both are preserved amongst the Archives of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and are worth quoting in full."

"Be it remembered to my Lord the Prior of Christis Chirch of Cawnturbery, and to all my masters his brethren there pretendyng Patrons and parsons of the Church of Westerham that the tithes and commodities longyng to the Vicarage of ye saied Chirche be not sufficient neyther of reasonabill valew to susteyn the Vicary and ye onerous grevous and unportabill charges of the said Chirche and Vicarage as ye said Vicary can shew for hym by a rekenyng of all paryssohns made, and in the most opynyst wyse made and rekened of the Vicary, of the tithes and commoditees, and valew of every howsolder both of grete and small, rich and poore men, from the secund day of April ye yere of oure Lorde mcccclliii to the xxii day of April next follewyng.

"ffirst the tithe commodities and valew by a rekenyng made by twene the saied Vicary and every howsolder of the saied parish of Westerham as tochyng to ye Vicarage drawth to the sum of vj*li.* vij*s.* iij*d.* ob.

"The Costis and Chargis of the said Chirche and Vicreage is as it is undir wreten.

ffirst for ffrankyncens xvi*d.*

It. for syngyng brede and hoselyn brede xv*d.*

It. for my lord of Rowchester's visitacion every third yere iij*s.* iiij*d.*

It. for ye Kynge's dymse (tenths) xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

It. for my Master Archedekyns proxies vij*s.* vi*d.*

It. for wast of wex brynnyng in the said Cherche xxiij*s.* x*d.* ob.

It. for syngyng wyne and hoselyng wyne iij*s.* i*d.*

It. for reparacions of bokes, vestments and weshyng of the vestments and reparacion of ye vicreage xl*s.*

It. for a clerk to help ye vicary synge every weekday and to goo with ye saied vicary a visitacion, and a man also to fetche home all the tithes longyng to the saied vicreage iiij*d.*

It. for certifying of mawndments of citacions, suspencions, excommunicacions as well in the diocese of Rowchester as oute of the diocese foresaied xl*s.*

It. the Vicary must have an hors to fetche home ye forsaied tithes xxvij*s.* viij*d.*

It. ye Vicary must have of custome at dynner with hym all the priests and clerks of the Chirche at ye principall fests of ye yere vi*s.* viii*d.*

It. ye Vicary must of custome to have all his parishons uppon Esturday with in the Vicreage forsaied and they must have of custome brede with chese and ale with cidar x*s.*

summa. tot' is xij^{li} xviij*s.* ob."

Mr. Woodruff added: This document throws considerable light on the condition of the incumbents of impropriated parishes in mediæval times, and should be compared with Abbot Gasquet's remarks on the same subject in *English Monastic Life*, p. 194.

THE BRITISH OPPIDUM, SQUERRYES COURT.

Luncheon was served at the King's Arms Hotel, Westerham, and afterwards a visit was paid by kind permission of Mrs. Warde to the British Oppidum in the Park at Squerryes Court.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff, in the absence of Mr. Clinch, who was to have acted as guide, said:

The Society met here about twenty-eight years ago, and at that

time the late Canon Scott Robertson described briefly the chief features of the earthwork. His remarks were afterwards published in the XIVth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* accompanied by a map. Mr. Livett has enlarged that map, and you will have an opportunity of seeing it at the evening meeting to-day, when you will be able to understand the contour of the country, and the shape of this earthwork. I may say it is in form an irregular oval, covering an area of about eleven acres and enclosed on its eastern side by a double vallum. The original entrance was apparently at the south extremity, although several other entrances have been made since. I have been told that at the northern extremity there is an ancient trackway which the people still call the Roman Road. I do not think we can attach much importance to that, because we know a generation or two ago all these earthworks were called Roman camps. It is quite possible that it may have been occupied and strengthened by the Romans. Perhaps it is more likely that it was used in opposition to the Romans, and that British forces as they were driven back from the eastern parts of Kent may have retired into West Kent and fortified themselves in this wooded district. At the same time the work may be of much earlier origin. We have not sufficient information for dating with accuracy these rude earthworks. The purposes they served were various; some were forts, some pounds for cattle, some had settlements or villages within them. We have to await the elucidation of the problem which these camps offer until further spadework enables them to be classified in a scientific manner. The thorough examination of earthworks is an expensive and tedious business, and we cannot expect many such enthusiasts as the late General Pitt Rivers to arise in a single generation, but gradually the requisite data will be got together.

SQUERRYES COURT.

A drive through the beautiful park brought the party to Squerryes Court, the residence of Mrs. Warde, by whose kind permission the house and gardens were inspected, an account of which and of the family portraits will be found in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI.

SUNDRIDGE CHURCH.

Sundridge Church, where the Vicar, the Rev. E. K. B. Morgan, received the Society, was described by the Rev. G. M. Livett, who said: This benefice is a rectory in the patronage of the Archbishop. The church is mentioned in Domesday Book, and is an example of a church in which the original Norman plan is plainly visible in the existing plan, but of which no other architectural evidence remains. The Norman church consisted, as usually, of plain aisleless nave and short square chancel. Imagine solid walls in place of the nave arcades, a small chancel arch in the place of the present arch, and the chancel ending across the present chancel where the solid side walls of the eastern part of it commence. Such was the Norman church. Its height is indicated by the offsets running along the nave walls above the arcades, and which, under the quatre-foil openings, formed a clerestory. The line also appears at the west end. The Early English additions to that original Norman church consisted of (*a*) the west tower; (*b*) narrow nave aisles of the same width, but not so high as the present aisles; (*c*) side chapels to the chancel on the lines of the existing chapels; (*d*) an eastward extension of the chancel; (*e*) the nave arcades inserted in the old walls; (*f*) clerestories of quatre-foil openings, formed in an addition to the nave walls above the arcades; (*g*) choir arcades; and (*h*) chancel arch. All these remain. Notice how in extending the chancel eastwards the Early English builders splayed their walls, making the chancel about a foot wider at the extreme east end. On each side of the five-light Perpendicular east window the moulded jambs of the original Early English lancets remain. The side windows (lancets) of this addition are modern; that on the north replaced a Perpendicular window above a tomb. There is a double piscina in the chancel. The arcades are all in Kentish rag, a hard intractable material, hence the rudeness of the Early English mouldings. The tower arch is Perpendicular, and the whole tower is wrongly assigned by Sir Stephen Glynne to that period. The tower had lancet lights, as seen plainly on the inside on the first stage. One of these lancets is still seen on the west face exterior, with its pointed head blocked and a straight lintel inserted. The west door is Perpendicular (Tudor). The massive clasping buttress of the south-west angle may be original. The newel staircase is an addition. In the shingled spire on the west face peeps out a sanctus bell, a very rare and precious possession. The remodelling of the aisles in

Perpendicular times is most remarkable. As a rule Perpendicular architects widened the early aisles of a church; in this case they simply raised the outer walls to contain tall three-light windows and to support new roofs. The object of the new windows was the display of stained glass, all of which is destroyed. In the aisles can be seen the horizontal weather-course of the original sloping roofs, and below this a series of corbels that carried the wall posts which supported the plate (immediately under the weather-course) on which the rafters rested, or with which they were framed. The aisles, doubtless in accordance with the usual arrangement, communicated with the chancel chapels in each case by means of an arch. A sign of such arch is seen at the east end of the south aisle, in the bit of string-course which served as the impost of the arch on the south face of the chancel arch pier. In the wall opposite may be seen the blocked doorways which formerly communicated with the rood loft. There are remains of two doors of exit from the newel staircase on to the loft, one above the other, pointing to a rebuilding of the loft at a different level. Note the way in which the jambs of the Perpendicular windows run down to form recesses for benches.

A fire in 1802 destroyed the remains of the rood screen, and did much damage in the chancel. Notice the altar-tomb of John Isley and his wife (1484) at the east end of the north aisle, and brasses under the chancel step, two to Isleys (1429 and 1515), and a third to some civilian. The Isleys owned Combe Bank in this parish before it passed to the Campbells. It may not be generally known that it was as Baron Sundridge that the late Duke of Argyll sat for many years in the House of Lords. Lady Frederic Campbell, previously widow of the Earl Ferrers, who was executed for murder in 1760, was burnt in one of the towers of Combe Bank, and only a single bone was recovered for burial in this church. Mary Bellenden, the court beauty and correspondent of Mrs. Howard (George the Second's Countess of Suffolk), married a Campbell, and her bust, chiselled by Mrs. Anne Seymour Damer, is in the chancel, as is also the bust of Lady Caroline Campbell, the sculptor's mother. This Mrs. Damer was the author of the busts of Thames and Isis on the bridge at Henley-on-Thames, and was sung by Erasmus Darwin in the following lines:—

"Long with soft touch shall Damer's chisel charm,
With grace delight us and with beauty warm."

My last note refers to Beilby Porteus, Bishop of London in the reign of George II., who lies buried with his wife on the east side of the churchyard.

CHIPSTEAD PLACE.

Another motor drive brought the party to Chipstead Place, the residence of Mr. J. Duveen, who had generously provided tea for his guests on the lawn. Before they dispersed to view the garden and grounds, Mr. C. J. Phillips apologized for the absence of Mr. Duveen, who had asked him to undertake the duty of reading a short account of Chipstead Place. Mr. Phillips said: The Manor of Chipstead was formerly called Wilkes, from a family of that name who possessed it in the reign of Richard II., 1377—1399.

The first mention of the manor is in the reign of Edward III., when it was in the possession of a family who took their name from it. In 1347, when the Black Prince was made a knight, the heirs of John de Chepsted paid aid for it as the tenth part of a knight's fee.

The first mention of *Chipstead House* that I can find is in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558—1603), when Robert Cranmer lived here. He died March 4th, 1619, and was buried in Chipstead Church.. His daughter Anne married Sir Arthur Herrys, who died possessed of this house on January 9th, 1632, and was succeeded by his second son John Herries, who married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacre of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

Frances Herries survived her husband and afterwards married William Priestly.

The Priestlys, with other interested parties, in October 1652 conveyed Chipstead House and Estate to Jeffrey Thomas, son of Richard Thomas of Sevenoaks, who in November 1654 conveyed it to Ralph Suckley.

In 1658 Suckley conveyed it to Mr. David Polhill of Otford.

The Polhills are first heard of at Detling in 1619, and branches of the family settled at Shoreham, Otford and Wrotham. A local descendant of this family is Mrs. Polhill Drabble of Sevenoaks.

David Polhill died in 1665 and left Chipstead House to his brother Thomas, who married Elizabeth Ireton, her mother being Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell.

Thomas Polhill, prior to his death in 1683, conveyed Chipstead to Sir Nicholas Strode of Westerham, whose widow Catherine and

her two daughters sold it to William Emerton of the Temple, London, in July 1693.

Emerton pulled down the old mansion and built the present house. I shew a print of this house as it was in 1719.

Emerton married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Beale of Farningham and left two daughters.

In 1710 the widow and daughters sold the house to David Polhill, so it again passed into the possession of this family.

David Polhill was M.P. for the county in 1708 and Sheriff in 1715. He died January 15th, 1754, and was succeeded by his eldest son Charles, born May 8th, 1725, succeeded in 1754, and died in 1805.

Charles Polhill married twice. By his first wife, Tryphena, daughter of Sir John Shelley, he had one daughter. I shew a view of this period with the roof altered.

His second wife was Patience Haswell, by whom he had six sons and one daughter. His eldest son George Polhill succeeded; he was born March 2nd, 1767, and died in 1839.

In 1829 he sold Chipstead House to Frederick Perkins, and I shew a print of the house dated 1838 by which you will see that the upper story has been rebuilt and a number of rooms added under the roof.

Mr. George Perkins, son of Frederick, next held Chipstead House and let it about 1864 to Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart, M.P., who had a famous library of books and a collection of valuable pictures.

In 1911 Mr. John Duveen became the tenant.

PRESENTATION TO REV. W. GARDNER-WATERMAN.

This concluded the excursions of the first day, and the party motored back to Sevenoaks, where the Annual Dinner took place at the Royal Crown Hotel in the evening, with the President in the Chair.

Before the company took their seats for dinner, Lord Northbourne made a presentation to the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman, Vicar of Loose, of a chest of handsome silver plate, consisting of silver teapot, coffee pot, sugar basin and cream jug. Upon each is engraved the arms of the Society, and there is an inscription on the teapot as follows:—

"Kent Archæological Society to the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman, *Præterita grate recordantes*, July 1913."

The President, in making the presentation, said: I beg you, Mr. Gardner-Waterman, to accept this small chest of plate which I have placed on the table, and I hope it will remind you during your whole life, and your successors after you, of the many useful offices you have discharged and the many friendships you have formed. I have much pleasure in handing you the key with our very best wishes (applause).

The Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman acknowledged the gift in suitable terms.

Dinner then proceeded, and two toasts, the King and the K.A.S., proposed by the President, followed.

At the evening Meeting the Rev. H. L. Somers Cocks read the following Paper on "Edenbridge," of which parish he is Vicar.

This picturesque and old-world little market-town is situated in the valley of the Eden, across which, even in British times, there must have been considerable intercourse, as it lies midway between the camps at Squerries to the north and that of Dryhill to the south. In 1840 some urns, probably British, were unearthed at Skeynes, within a mile of the present village. In 1912 a fragment of British pottery was discovered during the digging of a grave in the burial ground which adjoins the bridge. No traces of Roman occupation have been found.

About half-a-mile above the town on the left bank of the river Eden is an island surrounded by a moat. It has been suggested that this was an earthwork thrown up by Aesc, King of Kent, as a defence against the South Saxons; other conjectures also exist to explain the origin of what is now known as "Devil's Den." It is therefore hoped that means may be forthcoming to make such excavations on the spot as may throw light on this subject.

In 862 King Ethelbert, brother of Alfred the Great, granted to his Thane, Dryhtwald, ten ploughlands at Bromley, and with the land five denes in the weald. Of these, four (Broceesham, Billemora, and two* on Gleppanfields) appear to be on the outskirts of Edenbridge, the fifth being Sundridge.

In 966 Eadgar the Peaceable granted these denes to the church at Rochester; they formed roughly a ring in the weald. In the centre lay Sundridge.

Edenbridge is not mentioned in Domesday, but in *Textus*

* The unnamed dene was probably Crippenden.

Roffensis it is returned as a church paying chrism fee of ninepence. In 1114 the so-called "Chapel" of Edenbridge was paying the chrism fee of a parish church.

The first parson of Westerham with Edenbridge whose name has yet been discovered is that of Clement, styled the Chaplain. He held the living in 1199 and was still holding it in 1213. From 1270 onwards there appear to be few if any gaps in the list of incumbents. At the death of the Rev. Richard Board in 1859 the two parishes were separated. He and his successor, the Rev. C. F. Gore, held the living for 111 years between them.

The living was impropriate in the hands of the de Camvilles; appropriate after 1290 for nearly three centuries; then, after the dissolution of Christ Church, Canterbury, impropriate to the present day.

Within the parish are five manors. That of *Edenbridge*, or as it was called later Stangrave, occupies about half the parish. The manor must have been one of the smallest, as well as one of the latest formed in the weald. It was held together with Westerham until about 1263, when it was granted to John de Camville. Gilbert de Clare held it for a few years, but relinquished it to Edward I. when he married the latter's daughter in 1290. The same year Edward granted it to St. Peter's, Westminster. Until the dissolution of the greater monasteries, Westminster Abbey held the manor, and Christ Church, Canterbury, the advowson.

The manor house stood a few yards west of the present High Street, but a part of the moat is all that can now be seen. Those who held the manor from the Abbey were the De Stangraves, John Dynley, the Staffords and the Dukes of Buckingham. John Gresham, mercer, of London, bought the manor in 1540, and it remained with his family until 1714, when it was purchased by Richard Still of Cowden. From the Stills it passed to the Streatfeilds of Oxted and of Chiddingstone. *Broxham*, which now lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Four Elms, was held from 1260 onwards by three Henry de Appuldrefelds. Margery de Appuldrefeld married John de Nelde, whose daughter Margaret married Stephen de Ashway. The next lord was John Brocas, who inherited it by marriage. Richard Whytyngton, mercer of London, and Lord Mayor, held it with others in trust in 1391.* The first Lord Clinton and Say died possessed of it in 1432. It then passed to

* For this fact I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. H. W. Knocker,

the Squerryes of Westerham, and changed hands frequently until 1906, when it was bought by Mr. Herbert Whitmore of Limpsfield.

Shernden lies to the south of the parish. It figures in charters of Saxon kings, when, as part of Bromley Manor, it was made over to the See of Rochester. It is mentioned in a charter of William the Conqueror, when, as part of the manor of Lewisham, it was granted to the Abbey of Ghent. Later, the Cobhams held it from the lords of Lewisham Manor. The little cottage called "Cobhambury" is the only name in the district which recalls the once famous lords of Prinkham *alias* Sterborough.

Browns, which lay on the west side of the parish, occupied almost as many acres of Edenbridge parish as the manor of Edenbridge. It took its name from owners who held it for three centuries. About the middle of the seventeenth century it passed from the Brown family, and after several changes it came in 1860 to the Leveson-Gowers of Titsey.

Marsh Green belonged to the manor of Cudham, and for its history that of the latter manor must be studied.

The following buildings in Edenbridge are of interest:—

The Church.—Its early history will be explained to-morrow by the Rev. G. M. Livett. It is sufficient here to say that the whole edifice has been thoroughly restored during the past seven years, the walls and buttresses being underpinned and rebuilt when necessary. In 1912 the oak roof of the chapel was exposed to view, the staircase to the rood loft was discovered, and a fourteenth-century aumbry was found close to the south end of the altar. Oak panelling and a screen of Jacobean design were erected on the north and east walls of the sanctuary, and between the arches which divide the chancel from the chapel. An attempt made to repair the south pier of the chancel arch led to the discovery of an Early English respond embedded within it. The lower part of this respond was exposed in a recess, and a large squint was cut through the pier.

The timbered house just outside the lychgate is said to have been the residence of the chantry priest. It is worth examination for those interested in what are known as "crucks" (*crux*) houses.

The Crown is an ancient hostelry. In it is a concealed passage where could be kept casks from which pipes ran secretly to the taproom, to be quickly disconnected if an exciseman appeared.

The Taylor House dates from the fifteenth century, if not earlier. During alterations in 1900 three floors, one of bricks, two of tiles of different dates, were found in one of the rooms. Part of the house was built by Sir William Taylour, Lord Mayor of London, and the arms of the Grocers Company were carved within the spandrels of the doorway. In the house (now occupied by a dealer in antiques) may still be seen some of the stair-treads, each hewn from one solid block of wood, and a very handsome staircase.

Gabriels, which lies about three-quarters of a mile south of Edenbridge, is a fine Jacobean house, now going fast to decay. It has a panelled hall and carved oak fireplace, and carved stairway, and would well repay a visit. Some illustrations of the carved work may be seen in *Archæologia Cantiana* (Vol. XXI., p. 103).

The Stone Bridge records date from 1595, but it is known that there once existed much earlier deeds and accounts which have been lost. As early as 1447 Matthew Mowshurst left "to the highway between the bridge of Edynbrig and the tenement formerly Henry atte Hookes 6*s*. 8*d*.; to the repair of the bridge 6*s*. 8*d*." The present bridge was built in 1833. The income of the Great Stone Bridge Trust amounts to £209 4*s*. 0*d*. per annum.

The Vicarage, which was formerly a public-house, is an old timbered building. In the garden is a very fine yew tree, well worth inspection.

The Tannery employs about 70 men, and the owners possess deeds which shew a continuous title since 1673. The office is part of a very ancient house. Tradition says that it possessed a central hearth, with an opening in the roof through which the smoke escaped.

The Parish Registers, which have been well preserved, date from 1545. The earliest book consists of the original entries on paper. If, as Convocation ordered, these were copied on to parchment at Edenbridge, as in other parishes, the copy has disappeared.

This register has a vellum cover, which once formed part "of a manual of the 14th or beginning of the 15th century." The last two leaves of the earliest register, which are very much torn, contain extraneous matter. The first entry appears to be a recipe or charm, but only the following words can be deciphered: "myngle . . . . with the . . . . the . . . . and . . . . wafe(rs ?) from the Ho(st ?) . . . . and stampe them at . . . . then . . . . halfe pennyworth . . . . and myngle yt with iii spoonfulls of

the juce (this word has been erased) . . . . and give so much to one man or a beast that . . . . yt must be taken fastynge and the crea . . . . must fast two houres after."

The remaining portions of these leaves are filled with over 70 entries, each of two lines, with the name of a place in the left margin. These places, for the most part, are in or near Kent. The following are examples:—

Strand. Thomas Brand ye xxix of June a Regini.
Elizabeth 25 begynninge ye xxvth of mdie a dom. 1583.
Gillford. John Thomas the firste daie of maye ad. Regni.
Elizabeth 28 endithe the 20th daie of Aprill adom. 1586.

Can anyone present explain these entries?

A Paper on the "Vale of Homesdale" was then read by Mr. H. W. Knocker. Mr. Knocker's Paper will be found in a subsequent page of the present volume.

SECOND DAY.

The party again met at Sevenoaks on the morning of Tuesday, July 29th, and enjoyed a fourteen miles motor-drive to Edenbridge, where the church was described by the Rev. G. M. Livett, who said: Edenbridge was until quite recently a chapelry of Westerham; and the parish of Westerham, like all the parishes on the north fringe of the old Andred's Weald, is a very ancient parish. Like its fellows it extends in a long strip from the chalk downs right across the Lower Greensand down into the weald. Edenbridge, five miles south of Westerham, was a chapelry of Westerham. Probably all these parishes had their churches of wood in Saxon days, and most of them were rebuilt in stone in the Norman period. Most of them are mentioned in Domesday, but not so Westerham and Edenbridge. An article in the *Rochester Diocesan Chronicle* for March says: 'The earliest incumbents of the benefice of Westerham-cum-Edenbridge were rectors, not vicars. The first name that is now known is that of "Clement the Chaplain," who held the two churches, and enjoyed tithes and other emoluments accruing to them by the presentation of Hugh de Camvill, Lord of the Manor, early in the thirteenth century. Late in the same century we have apparently an unbroken succession of rectors, namely, Ralph de Tytbesye, William Burnell, and John de Raddinggate. John's successor was one Richard de

Haute, in whose incumbency an important change was made in the status of the holder of the cure of souls. Previously the advowsons or patronage of the churches of Westerham and Dover with the chapels appendent thereto, with one acre of land in each vill, had been given by Queen Eleanor to the prior and convent of Christchurch, Canterbury. The grant was confirmed by the King in 1291. In 1327 Hamo, Bishop of Rochester, on the petition of the prior and chapter of Christchurch, granted to them the church of Westerham with the chapel of Edulwesbrogge, the gift to take effect on the resignation or decease of the then rector, Richard de Haute. In this grant the bishop reserved a "perpetual vicarage" in the said church with a "suitable endowment" (*congrua porcio*), not to mention a pension of ten shillings which the church had always paid to the bishop himself, and certain other burdens amounting in all to forty marcs, which the monks were to pay. The perpetual vicarage was created by a separate deed, executed by the bishop, which provided the "suitable portion" of the vicar, subject to certain burdens amounting to ten marcs. The advowson was put into the hands of the monks, who became the rectors, and were to receive for their own use the rectorial or great tithes (of corn, etc.), while the vicar was endowed with the small tithes (of hay, hemp, wool, milk, lambs and calves, fruit, etc.) and oblations.'

This is merely an example of the way in which vicarages came into existence, and the rectory (or "parsonage" as it was often called) was diverted from a benefice having the cure of souls and placed in the possession of a monastery, passing at its suppression later on into lay hands. In the *Taxatio* of 1291, before the appropriation of the rectory to Christchurch, the entry referring to it runs simply, *Ecclesia de Westerham cum capellis* . . . . £33 6*s*. 8*d*. In the *Valor* of Henry VIII. the distinction between the rectory and the vicarage is clearly marked under the provisions of Christchurch, Canterbury. There is an entry referring to the "farm of the rectory," that is of the great tithes which were let by the monks for a fixed annual rent of about £13. From the same document we learn that the Vicar of Westerham with its chapelry of Edenbridge received £16 5*s*. as the value of the vicarage of Westerham, and £10 15*s*. 4*d*. from Edenbridge, making in all £27 0*s*. 4*d*., out of which he had to pay for procurations to the Archdeacon of Rochester 7*s*. 6*d*., and stipend of a chaplain for the chapel of Edenbridge £6 13*s*. 4*d*., leaving the total, after deductions,

£19 19*s.* 6*d.*, the tenth thereof being £1 19*s.* 11½*d.* . . . . "to be levied to the Kyng's use according to the statute made and providyd of the graunte thereof."

Though in the heart of the forest of Andred, yet Edenbridge was inhabited at a very early period, owing probably to the patch of gravel that occurs here on the bank of the river. A sherd of the early Celtic or Roman British pottery has recently been found in the churchyard. But history is silent about the place until the tenth century, when rights of pannage in certain denes here, that can be identified, attached to the manor of Bromley in the possession of the church of Rochester. The next bit of evidence is the bit of an unmistakable little Norman window, seen only on the exterior and blocked up, near the Early English lancet towards the west end of the north aisle of the church. That there was a Norman church here is confirmed by mention of it in the *Textus Roffensis*, which is dated about 1120. No doubt the north and west walls of the existing nave lie on the lines of, and incorporate some of the original walling of that original Norman church. The rest of the Norman church has disappeared, and we must leave the recovery of its probable dimensions until we have studied the building which we see, and have traced its growth from the Early English building which took the place of the Norman church. But first of all I would like to run through the successive restorations which the church has recently undergone. In 1906, under the supervision of Mr. Maberly Smith, the gable-wall and buttress of the south transept chapel were entirely rebuilt and the tracery of the Perpendicular window was renewed. In 1908-9, under Mr. A. S. W. Elder, A.M.I.C.E., the walls of the north chancel chapel aisle and tower were underpinned. The walls and buttresses of the chancel were taken down in small portions, made good to the inside, and the stones taken from the face replaced as far as possible in their original position (of course this work necessarily destroyed the character of the original walling). Portions of the mullions and tracery were renewed in sandstone. The stone work of the east window is a modern reproduction of the Decorated window that formerly existed here. The old window was taken out and replaced by something indescribable in 1859-60. Fortunately in 1848 Sir Gilbert Scott had visited the church and made a sketch of the original, which is now in the hands of the vicar. From that sketch the present window was inserted four years ago. The original was doubtless intended for glazing, repre-

senting the Crucifixion. On the south side of the chapel a buttress, immediately to the west of the two-light window, was taken down and rebuilt a few feet further west—*i.e.*, about the centre of the wall. The wall here is said to have contained indications of an opening which had been blocked, and when it was being treated a large portion of the blocking fell out. A new door was inserted further to the west, the little lancet light to the west of it being at the same time taken out and re-inserted some inches from its original position. The aisle wall was found to be about thirteen inches out of plumb, and its face and windows were brought forward to make them vertical, the inner face of the wall being left untouched. The aisle roof was made secure, and the stone work of the tower was repaired. In 1912 internal repairs were carried out and the chapel roof was unsealed and its beams exposed. The stairway to the roodloft, blocked in 1860, was reopened. New oak screens and panelling made from the old bell cage, from designs by Mr. G. E. S. Streatfeild, were put up in the chancel. The south respond of the Early English chancel arch was discovered behind that of the Decorated successor, and a rough squint was made so that it might be left exposed. In 1895 the altar-tomb of Richard Martyn and his wife (1499) was removed from the middle of the side wall of the chapel to make room for the new organ. A portion of the tomb has been rebuilt into the east wall (another panel lies in the churchyard). According to the Rev. H. R. Hubbard, the late vicar, a recess for the altar of St. John the Baptist was seen in the east wall prior to 1905. In 1875 the buttresses at the north-west corner of the nave were rebuilt. In 1859-60 the font (apparently Decorated work, with square sandstone bowl adorned with slightly raised trefoiled arcading on a central shaft with four small corner shafts with bases and caps having round mouldings, all in firestone on a square plinth) was found in a square pew. A pillar piscina was removed from the south wall of the chapel to the north wall of the chancel (replaced in 1912), and communion rails made in 1670 and placed round the three free sides of the table were removed. The tower screen containing, it is said, the old rood beam was erected. These are all the points of restoration I need dwell upon.

The church, as we see it, took its final shape in the Perpendicular period (fifteenth century), when all its parts were re-roofed, though probably not all at one time, the roof of the south chancel chapel being probably somewhat later than the rest of the roofs.

The roof of the nave, with its fine woodwork and the curiously carved corbels of its wall posts, are worth observation. In the same period (Perpendicular) the tower arch and all the windows in the north wall of the nave (excepting the little Early English light near the west end) were inserted, and the south aisle of the nave was rebuilt with all its windows, the Early English lancet towards the west end evidently coming from some position in the walls of an earlier aisle.

Leaving for a moment the question of the south chancel chapel, we now go back one step further, and notice that the nave arcade on the south side has all the appearance of fourteenth-century Decorated work. You note the bases of the piers with mouldings consisting of two rounds, and the capitals with scroll mouldings in the abacus, all characteristic of the fourteenth century. The chancel work is of the same period, and the windows of the chancel beautiful examples of tracery of the early years of the fourteenth century. I believe that the south chancel chapel was built at the same time, but the east window of this chapel is clearly a fifteenth-century insertion, and the arcade of three arches separating the chapel from the chancel is also fifteenth-century work. The little Early English lancet to which I shall refer again later is near the west end of the side wall of the chapel, and must have come from some earlier chapel which has disappeared. In all this work we have to look very closely to discover signs of the remains of Early English work; but signs there are, and sufficient to enable us to recover the dimensions of the Early English church. Look at the little opening recently made behind the south respond of the chancel arch. From the west it looks rough, as it is; but on the other side one may see an Early English chamfered quoin ending above at the height of about seven feet in a small line of undercut string-course of characteristic Early English moulding. This is without doubt a portion of the jamb of the original Early English chancel arch. Look again at the west respond of the nave arcade, and you will find its base and capital differ from all those of the rest of the arcade. They are mutilated Early English mouldings. The abacus is exactly like the little bit of the string already described. The rest of the capital I have carefully examined and measured; the round of the bell of the capital and also the round of the necking have both been sheared off; the restoration gives a perfect capital of Early English design. The base mouldings, I believe, consisted of hollow between rounds of a form of Early

English work, but slightly removed from Norman; the date may be about 1200. Here then in this respond we have a sure sign of the existence of an Early English arcade, betokening an Early English aisle of narrower dimensions of course than the present broad aisle. The Early English people never designed so wide an aisle as the present one. Now if we look at the four columns of the arcade and notice the material and the coursing we are struck with the fact that in every case the uppermost two or three courses, occupying about two feet of the columns under the capitals, are longer than the courses below, and the material is different. The explanation of this doubtless is that in the lower part of the columns we have remains of the original Early English arcade, which the Decorated or fourteenth-century builders altered by heightening the columns and raising (of course by rebuilding) the arches above them. Lower the columns by two feet, and you would have the springing of the arches exactly on a level with the top of the bit of string-course recently discovered, which (as we have seen) formed the impost of the Early English chancel arch. The Decorated builders, in altering the arcade, inserted new bases and new capitals. In recent restoration some fragments of octagonal columns of firestone (the material of the capitals of the west respond) were found; they may be seen in the porch. They shew leaf foliage of early thirteenth or late twelfth-century type. One of them has a pointed design very like that of the early thirteenth-century capitals of the nave of Battle Church. I have no doubt these capitals belonged to the Early English nave arcade. I am sure you will agree with me that the study of this arcade gives results of a most interesting character. The raising of the height of an arcade was a device practised occasionally by fourteenth and fifteenth-century builders. A good example may be seen in the nave of Selling Church, near Faversham, in which the Perpendicular builders made use of the old Early English voussoirs for the inferior order of their new arch, and cut fresh voussoirs for the superior order.

The height of the plates of the Early English nave roof is indicated by the two square masses of masonry in the western angles of the nave; they doubtless supported the main tie beam at that end. A similar mass in the angles of the aisle indicates the height of the sloping roof of the narrow Early English aisle which has vanished. The next sign of the Early English design is in a small splay, cut off the southern face of the south pier of the

chancel arch, *i.e.*, the south-east quoin of the nave. The work above and below this little splay belongs to the Perpendicular arch which spans this line of division between the aisle and the chancel chapel. But the stones of this splay shew the characteristic Early English chisel tooling, and I have no doubt the splay originally formed one side of a narrow squint, through which a priest, serving a side altar at the east end of the narrow Early English aisle, could view the host reserved in the pyx hanging over the high altar. This again gives us approximately the position of the high altar in the Early English chancel, which position corresponds with that of the existing altar. In fact, I have no doubt that, in spite of the fact that all its windows are fourteenth-century work, the chancel of the thirteenth-century church is that which we now see. The size and plan correspond well with that of the Early English chancel which (as we saw yesterday) once existed at Westerham, and also with that which once existed at Chiddingstone.

In the east wall of the present chancel, behind the wooden panelling on the south side of the altar, is an aumbry, which may be seen by opening a door in the panelling. I am not sure of its date, but if it be Early English, it is a further confirmation of the supposition that the east wall is the original east wall of the Early English chancel. I will not weary you with details, otherwise I could give further reasons from a study of the buttresses.

No doubt the sanctuary of the Early English church was bounded on the south by a blank wall, as at Westerham, and west of it there was a short arcade of two arches communicating with the side chapel. On the plan you will notice that I have run the lines of the destroyed aisle and chapel right through straight from east to west, with an arch of communication on the cross line of the chancel arch. This is in accordance with the plan of enlargement which (as we saw yesterday) was adopted at Sundridge, and also probably at Westerham. Further evolution of the aisle and chapel is easily traced. First, the Chapel was enlarged in the fourteenth century, and then in the fifteenth century the aisle was widened so that its side wall runs in line with the previously enlarged chapel.

A note on the little Early English window towards the west end of the chapel. The proof of its removal is seen in the quoins of the rear arch, which have been re-cast to fit a slightly narrower splay than it had in its original position. The Early English

tooling is left on one face of each stone, but the other face has been cut back. This window was removed a second time in 1908-9 and placed a few inches further west, when the doorway beside it was inserted. Also note the position of the buttress midway—this was built in 1908-9 out of old materials, falsifying history. It was originally further east, and doubtless there was another, further west, and a window between the two.

These changes made in 1499, when the chapel was remodelled and re-roofed, and this arcade rebuilt and the west arch inserted, were all in connection with the tomb of Richard Martin, whose altar-tomb was placed where the organ now stands. It remained there till it was removed in 1890 to make room for this organ. Portions of the tomb were then rebuilt into the east wall of the chapel, which previously had an altar recess, then filled up. All this is falsifying history.

We are now able to approximate the evidence, such as it is, for the form and dimensions of the early Norman church. We have seen that the existing north and west walls are incorporated in the present walls. The Early English nave, however, is too broad for an early Norman nave, and I have no doubt that (as we saw at Aldington last year) in the Early English enlargement of the nave the Norman lines of the south side were disregarded, and the new Early English arcade built just outside the south work of the earlier church. Now, if we give to the Norman church a length about the same as that of Sundridge, and also as that of Westerham (deduced from the present plan of that church), we get a chancel whose east wall falls on the line of the Early English chancel arch. This accords with the plan of enlargement which I have recently deduced from a study of the evolution of Hythe Church.

There are one or two other things mentioned in the book by the Rev. H. L. Somers Cocks: "The Clock, which possesses an hour hand only, was brought from the church of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, in 1795—96. The stone coffin and lid of marble, discovered under the flooring of the nave in 1860, are unusually fine. The year they date from is unknown. The old tiles in the tower and in the chapel were found in various parts of the church in 1860. The font has a square bowl, which is supported on an octagonal stem with shafts at the angles. The mouldings on the capitals and bases of the shafts perhaps belong to the Transition period between Norman and Early English, A.D. 1180. The pulpit is early Jacobean work. The church chest is of

the oldest known form, being dug out of the solid oak trunk. Its original length was 5 feet 6 inches, width 16½ inches, depth 14 inches. The lid was in one piece and without hinges."

Now, lastly we go to the tower. This has remains of Early English windows in its middle stage interior, and I have no doubt that it is an Early English tower, like Westerham and Sundridge. A glance at the plan proves that it could not have belonged to the Norman church; it seems to run too far to the south. The great buttress and the newel staircase are Perpendicular additions.

COWDEN.

Luncheon was served in the Oddfellows' Hall, and then the party divided, the hundred who had first made application left for Hever Castle, and those who were not so fortunate as to be able to accompany them started in two cars, under the guidance of the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, for Cowden, Chiddingstone and Hever churches, which were to be described by the Rev. C. M. Livett. In a preliminary examination of the church of Cowden, Mr. Livett pointed to the south-eastern quoin of the nave as containing squared stones which looked like Norman work. The church is not mentioned in Domesday, but appears in the *Taxatio* of 1291. It consists of chancel, nave, north aisle erected in 1837, Perpendicular south porch, and modern organ chamber at the north side of the chancel.

It has a shingled spire which rises through the nave roof towards its west end, a few feet from the west gable, from a massive framework of wooden beams which are exposed at the end of the nave interior. The main uprights stand on modern brick footings which stand on the floor of the nave, and no doubt indicate some decay of the beams at the bottom. The curved braces of the lowest stage form arches on the four sides of the framework, and also diagonal arches.

The church contains no visible sign (other than the quoin mentioned) of date earlier than the fourteenth century, when square-headed windows were inserted in the south wall of the nave, one of them shewing a peculiar label, over the very slightly pointed nave arch, consisting of a scroll moulding turned over at the ends. At the same time, as indicated by the fine mouldings of the tie beams and wall-plates shewing triple-filleted rounds, the nave was covered with a new king-post roof. The stops of the mouldings of

the wall-plates shew that the timber tower and spire must have been erected either previously to, or at the same time as the Decorated nave roof. The roof of the chancel seems slightly later in date, but the east end contains a modern window which may very well be a fairly good representation of its Decorated predecessor, and on the north side of the chancel, near the east end, is a two-light square-headed window of the same period. On the opposite side there is a similar opening, transformed into a modern single foiled light of ungraceful proportions, and underneath is a mutilated piscina with a crocheted hood-mould of Decorated date.

The south wall of the chancel also contains two delightful two-light Perpendicular windows of very small dimensions. The most remarkable feature of the church consists of two piscinæ opposite to one another, one on either side of the chancel close to the west end. They lie on the line of the destroyed chancel arch, which was probably removed in the fourteenth century. The width of the chancel arch wall is indicated by the eastward extension of the nave roof about three feet beyond the chancel step and the quoins of the chancel side-walls which rise therefrom. The piscinæ have trefoiled heads of the fifteenth-century date. They indicate that the fifteenth-century rood screen crossed the chancel to the east of them, and that on the west side of the screen there were two altars, one on either side of the screen door. The close proximity of one of the two Perpendicular windows in the south wall seems to leave very little room for the screen, which of course has disappeared. The difficulty was explained by the Parish Clerk when he told the members of the Society that this window formerly existed on the north side, opposite the second of these two windows, and that it was removed thence and placed in its present position when the organ chamber was erected on the north side. The screen which Glynne, writing in 1853, described as "modern Gothic, set a little eastward of the entrance to the chancel," was taken down at the same time. No doubt this modern screen occupied the position of the fifteenth-century screen, crossing the chancel some five feet or six feet to the east of the chancel step, and allowing ample room for the two altars. Altars were very commonly placed on the west side of the screen in its normal position at the east end of the nave, but the position of the screen in this case, some feet within the chancel, was very unusual. The rood loft, the entrance to which is still visible, was doubtless bracketed in the usual way, so as to extend westwards over the altar. The west door is Perpendicular,

and above it is a two-light window of the same date, while high up in the gable is a circular cinquefoiled window of Decorated date, singularly placed a little to the right of the centre. The pulpit is Jacobean, and has the old hour-glass stand attached.

Both church and churchyard contain grave slabs of local ironstone, one of which in the floor of the church, dated 1620, has some curious divisions of words, such as the "wh" of "who" being in one line and the "o" in the next, and the "da" of "day" finishing in one line, and the "y" commencing the following one. Ironworks appear to have existed formerly in this parish.

CHIDDINGSTONE.

Half an hour was all too short a time for a close inspection of the church of Chiddingstone and the picturesque timber-houses opposite the church. Moreover the chauffeur of one of the cars unfortunately missed his way and arrived late. Like Cowden, Chiddingstone is mentioned in the Taxatio but not in Doomsday. It is a fine building with a notable Perpendicular west tower, which has a stair-turret running up its full height, and is capped with four dumpy crocketed pinnacles. The eastern face has three gables, and under the central one there are slight signs of the Early English triplet of lancets, which existed before the insertion of the late fourteenth century three-light window. The Early English church must have been very similar in plan to that of Westerham, with nave a little longer, and probably with south aisle to nave and chancel. The first alterations belong to the Decorated period, dating about 1320 or 1330, to which date are to be assigned the east and west windows of the south chapel and aisle, and also the west window of the north aisle, indicating that the north aisle was built at that period. The principal remodelling of the church whereby, as at Westerham, the arcades of the nave and chancel were made continuous from west to east, seems to have been carried out at an earlier date, but in more drastic manner than at Westerham, no signs of the earlier work or of its walling above the arcade being left. The whole of the old arcades and walls above them were taken down and rebuilt. The only indication of the original width of the Early English chancel is seen on either side in a little bit of walling, to which the responds are attached at the extreme east end. A peculiar feature is seen in the angle-buttress which these builders erected at the south-east angle of the chancel. Instead

of placing at the usual angle of 45°, they inclined it a little to the east, presumably to avoid interfering with the light of the fine Decorated window at the east end of the adjoining chapel. The date of all this work, Mr. Livett, with some hesitation, placed in the latter part of the fourteenth century. The scroll mouldings of the abaci of the capitals of the arcades, and the roll-mouldings of the bases, suggest Decorated influence. The north chapel, originally built in the earlier part of the fourteenth century, was enlarged in the Tudor period, and to the same period belong the four centred roofs of the nave and its aisles and all the windows in the side walls. The weather-course of the earlier roof of higher pitch is plainly visible on the east wall of the tower exterior. The south chapel retains its earlier roof. The south porch is probably of the date of its sun-dial, 1626, and forms an interesting example of a mixture of Renaissance and Gothic forms. The pulpit and font, with its cover, are Jacobean. The communion rails date from the time of Archbishop Laud probably. A brass chandelier is dated 1726, and there are grave slabs of ironstone, one of which is inscribed as follows:—

> "Loe here the copes of Richard Streatfeilde Greene in yeres But ripe in faith and fruits yet eene God hath his Sovle. This towne his fame, the poor a portion large of all his worldly stoore. *Vivit Post Funera virtus. Obiit* 15 *die Septembris anno* 1601, *ætatis sue* 40."

By the courtesy of the tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, the members were enabled to view the old timber-houses opposite the church, and a few paid a hasty visit to the "chidingstone" in the park. This mass of rock is a natural feature, belonging to the Tunbridge Wells sands (the highest stratum of the Hastings sands), very similar in formation to Harrison's Rocks and Toad Rock, near Tunbridge Wells. The hand of man seems to have cut some rude steps upon it, and a hole in the top, and many legends have become attached to it. There is nothing to support the local belief that it was planted here by Druids, but it is not unlikely that our heathen forefathers regarded it with reverence. The laws of King Edgar enjoined "that every priest zealously promote christianity and totally extinguish every heathenism, and forbade well-worshipings, tree-worshipings and stone-worshipings." The belief that prominent natural features were invested with spirits died hard. Moreover, such objects continued for many

centuries to form the meeting places for the administration of local affairs. It may be conjectured that the first part of the place-name is the patronymic of the early settlers.

HEVER.

The two parties met at Hever Church. This is a small but interesting church, mentioned in the "Textus Roffensis," but bearing no signs of Norman date other than in its simple plan. A narrow north aisle was added apparently in the thirteenth century there is a small window at the west end which has been blocked up. The arcade of three arches has plain circular columns. The tooling, however, of the voussoirs seems to point to the fourteenth century, and there is a fourteenth century square-headed two-light window. The existing chancel-chapel on the same side, separated from the chancel by two four-centred arches, is of the Tudor period, and contains a pre-Reformation fire-place. The chancel arch, as in so many other churches, was removed probably in connection with the erection of the rood loft, of which the staircase remains on the south side, or in connection with the re-building of the roofs in the Perpendicular period, to which also the west tower seems to belong. The chief interest of the church lies in its memorials. In the chancel-floor is a beautiful brass to Margaret, the wife of William Cheyne (1419), which shews the head with mitred head-dress resting upon a richly embroidered cushion, supported by two angels. In the north chapel an altar-tomb bears a brass to Sir Thomas Bullen, who died in 1538, two years after the execution of his daughter Anne Boleyn. The inscription describes him as "Knight of the Order of the Garter, Erle of Wilscher and Erle of Ormunde." The head rests upon a tilting helm and crest, a falcon, and the feet on a griffin. The Knight wears the blue mantle, hood and collar of the Order, and the Garter buckled round the left knee outside the armour. Both these brasses are figured in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. I.

A beautiful drive took the members over Ide Hill to Sevenoaks Station, which was reached at 5.30.

September 11th, 1913. The Council met this day at the Bridge Wardens' Chambers in Rochester. Nine members present. F. F. Giraud, Esq., in the Chair. On the motion of Mr. H. W. Knocker, the following resolution was passed: "This Society

deprecates any statutory enactment which will abolish Gavelkind tenure in Kent."

New Members.—The following persons were elected Members of the Society: Mrs. Scarlett, Messrs. De Barri Crawhay, G. Eliot, T. C. Hughes, E. Kraftmeier, and Dr. Harbord.

A grant of £20 was made to the British Record Society towards the cost of publishing an Index to the Ancient Wills and Administrations preserved in the District Probate Office at Canterbury.

December 12th, 1913. The Council met at St. Martin's Priory, Canterbury, by the invitation of H. Mapleton Chapman, Esq., who also kindly entertained them to lunch. Eighteen members present. Lord Northbourne in the Chair.

Richborough Castle.—The President drew attention to the desirability of preserving such objects of antiquity as had been or should be discovered during the excavations now in progress under the auspices of H.M. Office of Works, in the neighbourhood of the Castle. It was decided to communicate with the Office of Works suggesting that the objects in question should be entrusted to the custody of the Municipal Authorities of Sandwich.

St. Austin's Abbey.—Dr. Cotton made a brief report of the progress of the excavations on the site of the Abbey Church, and drew attention to what he believed to be a portion of the original boundary wall of the precincts on the southern side. This piece of walling, which is built of red tiles laid in mortar similar to that used at St. Pancras' Church, has hitherto escaped notice owing to its southern face being visible only from a garden, which until recently was attached to the private dwelling house formed out of the cemetery gate. Dr. Cotton said that Sir William St. John Hope had seen this piece of walling, and had pronounced it to be of Saxon date.

The Secretary read a letter from the Rev. G. M. Livett tendering his resignation of the Editorship of *Archæologia Cantiana*, on account of ill-health and the claims of parochial work.

Mr. Livett's resignation was accepted with much regret.

A small Committee consisting of the President, Mr. Leland Duncan, and the Revs. W. Gardner Waterman and C. Eveleigh Woodruff were appointed to go into the matter of the Editorship and the punctual production of *Archæologia Cantiana*, and to report to the Council at their next meeting.

The following were elected Members of the Society: Rev. G.

Le Bosquet, Colonel W. Eliot, R. Griffin, Esq., Wentworth Huyshe, Esq., Rev. R. Pyper, Mrs. Blois Turner, Miss Furle, and St. Augustine's College, Canterbury.

Pass books were produced and cheques drawn.

March 12th, 1914. The Council met at Allington Castle by invitation of Sir Martin and Lady Conway, who also entertained the members to luncheon. Eighteen members were present. Lord Northbourne in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. C. R. Peers, F.S.A. (on behalf of H.M. Office of Works), in reply to the Council's letter relating to antiquities discovered at Richborough. Mr. Peers, after thanking the Society for their communication, proceeded as follows: "The insufficient storage at Richborough is much on my mind, though I should regret having to take them away from the site, as it is much better on all grounds that they should remain there to be seen by visitors. I shall certainly consider the Sandwich proposition if other things fail me."

Mr. W. J. Mercer wrote resigning the local secretaryship of the Margate district. Mr. Mercer had filled the office for many years, and his resignation was accepted with much regret.

The announcement of the death of Mr. A. H. Gardner, a member of Council and Local Secretary for Folkestone district, was received with profound regret.

The Secretary announced that he had received a communication from the British Archæological Association inviting the Kent Archæological Society to co-operate with them in their Congress to be held at Canterbury July 13th—19th.

The Council decided unanimously to accept the invitation.

The following were appointed to act as a Committee to make arrangements with the British Archæological Association: The President, Messrs. H. Mapleton Chapman, C. Cotton, R. Cooke and the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of going into the question of the Editorship reported in favour of the appointment, as joint Editors, of Mr. Leland L. Duncan, F.S.A., and Major F. Lambarde, F.S.A. The names of these gentlemen were adopted by the Council as those they would submit to the General Meeting for election.

A grant of £2 2*s*. was made to the Rev. J. S. ff. Chamberlain towards the cost of printing the ancient parish registers of Staplehurst.

The Hon. H. Hannen drew attention to the dilapidated condition of a fine set of eighteenth-century chairs in the Society's rooms at Maidstone. The chairs, he said, were of very considerable value, and should be either sold or entrusted to a competent workman for repair. After some discussion, in which the general opinion appeared to be that on no account should the chairs be alienated, the Council decided that the chairs should be submitted to an expert for advice as to the best methods for their preservation and repair.

A Report was presented by the Joint Committee of the Kent Archæological Society and British Records Society, in which the cost of compiling and printing the first volume of a Calendar of the ancient Wills preserved in the District Probate Office was estimated at £80, towards which £54 14*s*. had been promised. The Council agreed to make the second moiety of their grant of £20, namely, £10 payable in 1914, contingent on the work being completed and the whole of the said sum of £80 being in hand.

The following new members were elected: Right Hon. Earl Beauchamp, K.G., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., Miss A. Hammond, Miss T. Rosher, Miss Gibson, Rev. J. A. Forrest, Messrs. S. A. Clarke, W. H. MacMahon and J. N. T. Vachell. Pass books were produced and cheques drawn.

June 3rd, 1914. The Council met at the Coburg Hotel, London, after luncheon kindly provided by the President. Lord Northbourne was in the Chair. Eighteen members were present.

Mr. Leland Duncan reported that he had received from the authorities of the Victoria and Albert Museum copies of photographs of the Stodmarsh wall paintings, with permission to reproduce the same in *Archæologia Cantiana*. The Hon. Secretary was directed to convey to the Museum authorities the thanks of the Society. The Dean of Canterbury, V.P., said that the Cathedral would be open to the inspection of the members of the British and Kent Archæological Societies on the occasion of their proposed joint Congress in July; and further drew attention to the dilapidated condition of the Christ Church gate, and expressed the hope that the Societies might help the work of repair both by contributing to the Chapter fund and by giving expert advice.

The President proposed that Mr. Strange of South Kensington be asked to come to Maidstone for the purpose of inspecting the eighteenth-century chairs in the Society's rooms, and advising as to

the best method of repairing the same. This was agreed to, and the matter was left in the hands of Lord Northbourne and Mr. H. Monckton.

The following gentlemen were elected members of Council: Messrs. H. W. Knocker, H. Western Plumptre, H. L. Cowper, F.S.A., and R. Griffin, F.S.A. And the following ladies and gentlemen were elected members of the Society: Lady Sargent, Mrs. F. W. Furley, Mrs. S. Williamson, Mrs. H. M. Pritchard, The Very Rev. the Dean of Rochester, Rev. C. R. L. MacDowall, Rev. R. Staple, Rev. C. M. Tudor, Messrs. W. W. Blest, L. Cust, F. Godwin and R. E. M. Wheeler.

Pass books were produced and cheques drawn.

The Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting was held at Canterbury, July 13th—18th, in conjunction with the Congress of the British Archæological Association. A full report of the proceedings has been published in the Journal of the latter Society (September 1914), but as much of the ground traversed has been gone over by the Kent Society at a recent date, the following abridged account of the meeting may suffice here.

Monday, July 13th.—After luncheon the members of the two societies visited St. Augustine's College, where they were welcomed by the Right Rev. the Warden (Bishop Knight) and were then conducted to the site of the Abbey Church of SS. Peter and Paul by the Rev. R. U. Potts, Subwarden, who explained the work that had been carried on during the last two years, as well as the earlier excavations which had revealed the Norman crypt. After visiting the ruins of St. Pancras' Church the party proceeded to St. Martin's Church, which was described by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff. Mr. Woodruff said that a careful examination of the fabric led undoubtedly to the conclusion that the western half of the chancel was the oldest part of the church; here the walls were built very much after the Roman manner, and were probably the very walls of the oratory erected for Queen Bertha. The nave represented an enlargement made subsequently, but still in early Saxon times. Bede's statement that the church had been built during the Roman occupation of Britain could not be accepted for the following reasons: first, because we should expect to find the Romano-British church just outside the city walls, as at Silchester—and as a matter of fact such a church did exist at *Durovernum*, for Bede states that when Augustine set up his *Cathedra* at Canterbury he did so in a

church which had been erected during the Roman occupation on the north side of the city, and which he rescued from desecration and rehallowed for divine worship. A second reason was the fact that the material, workmanship and ground plan—as far as the latter has been recovered at St. Martin's—conform closely with that of the early Saxon churches of St. Andrew, Rochester, St. Mary Lyminge and St. Pancras, Canterbury, all of which were built by King Ethelbert or members of his family.

After some observations by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, F.S.A., and Canon Minns, the visitors adjourned to St. Martin's "Priory," where they were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Mapleton Chapman.

In the evening after dinner a reception was given by the local committee in the Guildhall. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor the Chair was taken by the Dean of Canterbury, who after offering to the members present a hearty welcome in the name of the Mayor and the Reception Committee, called upon Mr. Charles E. Keyser, F.S.A., President of the British Archæological Association, to deliver his Presidential Address.

Mr. Keyser, after mentioning the fact that it was seventy years ago since the Association last visited Canterbury, expressed his satisfaction that the present Congress was being held in partnership with the Kent Archæological Society, whose services in elucidating and protecting the various objects of archæological interest throughout the county had been invaluable. It could not be expected that on the present occasion any attempt should be made to propound new theories or to lecture those who were more intimately acquainted with the antiquities of the county than the visiting society could be. He would, however, tender one word of advice to the Council of the local society, namely, to keep a vigilant eye upon what was going on in the south-east corner of the county. It might be a long time before the coal-fields of Kent were developed, but he shuddered to think of the possibility of the quiet and secluded little country parishes, with their interesting churches, mainly erected during the Norman period, becoming the centres of a large mining population. Heaven forbid that Barfreston, for instance, should ever be transformed into one of these communities, with the accompanying danger of a wealthy coalowner desiring to restore and enlarge the little gem of a church which at present is sufficient for the spiritual needs of its agricultural population. One had only to travel through Lancashire, West Yorkshire and

Staffordshire, and other great industrial centres, to observe how the ancient churches and other monuments of antiquity have disappeared, or been restored beyond recognition by the wave of utilitarianism which had followed on the material prosperity of the several districts. He ventured to hope that constant vigilance might be observed, and that the Kent Archæological Society might in the future as in the past be the means of preserving uninjured for the benefit of posterity the numerous monuments of antiquity in the county which had survived to the present day. Mr. Keyser concluded his address by expressing his approval of the careful repairs carried out recently on the three towers of the cathedral, and of the systematic excavations undertaken at St. Austin's for the purpose of recovering the ground plan of the Abbey church. Unfortunately it had been impossible to explore the site of the south transept, which was at present occupied by a laundry attached to the adjoining hospital; at some future time, however, it might be possible to remove the laundry to another site and so complete the exploration.

The Dean of Canterbury, in thanking Mr. Keyser for his address, said that he regarded the work of an archæological society such as the British Association as having an object much more important than merely artistic or historical. The work that a society of that sort was doing, perhaps to some extent unconsciously, was that of maintaining in the minds of the people a sense of the continuity of English life from first to last. He ventured to say that there was nothing more important for the welfare of a country, for the soundness of patriotic feeling, than the sense of continuity. It was one of the means of teaching, as it were by eyesight, that the country at this time, and all that we valued in it at this moment, was due not to the work of this generation or a generation or two before, but to the work of all generations which have preceded us from the beginning of civilized life in this country. That was a feeling which needed to be cultivated for the general good of the community—moral, and even political. We were apt sometimes in these days to think that there were no other wants but those of the present; but there were always other wants than those of a particular generation. The history and the monuments of the past were a witness of those wants, and the work of their Association in calling attention to them was rendering a very valuable service in maintaining that feeling throughout the community. So he desired to welcome them there not merely as a

body of archæologists, but also as a society which was promoting the very best national and public sentiment.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Dean for presiding.

Tuesday, July 14th. The members made an excursion by motor-cars to Dover, stopping *en route* at Patrixbourne, Bridge and Barfreston. At Patrixbourne Church the visitors were welcomed by the Rector (Rev. H. Knight), and Mr. Keyser described the chief features of the church, drawing especial attention to the beautiful south doorway of late Norman work, with its elaborately carved tympanum and richly wrought mouldings.

The next stopping-place was Bridge Church, which, although rebuilt in 1859, still retains some relics of the earlier church, notably the two Norman doorways, now inserted respectively at the west end and on the east side of the vestry.

Within the chancel and on the north wall there is a very remarkable series of figure subjects carved in stone. These are arranged in two tiers, and appear to represent Our Lord in Majesty, with the symbols of the Evangelists in the upper row, while below are the following scenes from Old Testament history, viz., the temptation of Adam and Eve, in which the serpent is shewn with a human head, the expulsion from Paradise, the sacrifices of Cain and Abel, and Cain killing Abel. There is an inscribed label beneath each subject, but in the defective light these could not be read except in the case of the subject representing the Sacrifices, *Dolor Cane.* Vestiges of colour remain, and the whole series of carvings are surmounted by a semi-circular moulding, which gives the appearance of a tympanum to the carved work within. It is, however, perhaps more likely that the figures once formed part of an altar-piece, and that in the days of the Reformation they were removed from their original position, but on account of their Biblical character were saved from destruction. They do not antedate the fifteenth century.

The motors then conveyed the party to Barfreston Church, where the Rector (Rev. A. W. Dowse), after briefly describing the chief architectural features, made way for Mr. Keyser, who gave a detailed account of the carvings of the magnificent south doorway, which he characterised as one of the finest specimens of late Norman work in the country. Mr. Keyser stated that when the church was restored in 1840 some very early mural paintings were

discovered in the chancel; these had since disappeared, but drawings of them were preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House.

Progress was then made to Dover, where, after a very brief inspection of the Maison Dieu, the party proceeded to Dover College, where the Rev. F. de W. Lushington, the headmaster, described the remains of the Benedictine Priory of St. Martin, now forming part of the school buildings.

After luncheon the castle, and church of St. Mary-in-Castro were visited, the latter under the guidance of General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., who described it as a Saxon building, with additions made in Norman times. From the castle the motors conveyed the party to the church of St. Margaret at Cliffe, which was described by Colonel Kavanagh. The church is of late Norman date. Traces, however, of an earlier church were revealed in the course of excavations carried out in 1913, when large blocks of masonry—possibly of Saxon date—were found below the wall of the sanctuary. That a church was in existence here in the eleventh century is testified to by the Domesday Survey, which mentions the church *Sancta Margareta*. The fine western doorway, with its thirteen sculptured figures arranged in groups of three and two, representing Our Lord and the twelve Apostles, was described by Mr. Keyser.

After partaking of tea in the vicarage garden by kind invitation of the Rev. R. B. and Mrs. Smythe, the party returned to Canterbury viâ Mongeham, Staple and Wingham.

Wednesday, July 15th. Richborough and Sandwich were the objectives on this day, a halt being made *en route* at the church of St. Nicholas at Ash, where Mr. R. H. Goodsall read the following paper:—

Mr. Goodsall said: The parish church of St. Nicholas, Ash next Sandwich, is of generous proportion. As will be seen, it consists of a nave, choir, with a large side chapel on the north, northern and southern transepts, and a lofty tower over the crossing.

Before considering the architectural details of the building it may be well to give a brief historical introduction. The church doubtless occupied a site used for divine worship at a very early date. Locally there is a tradition that on the site originally stood an altar or temple of the Druids, but as far as one can gather

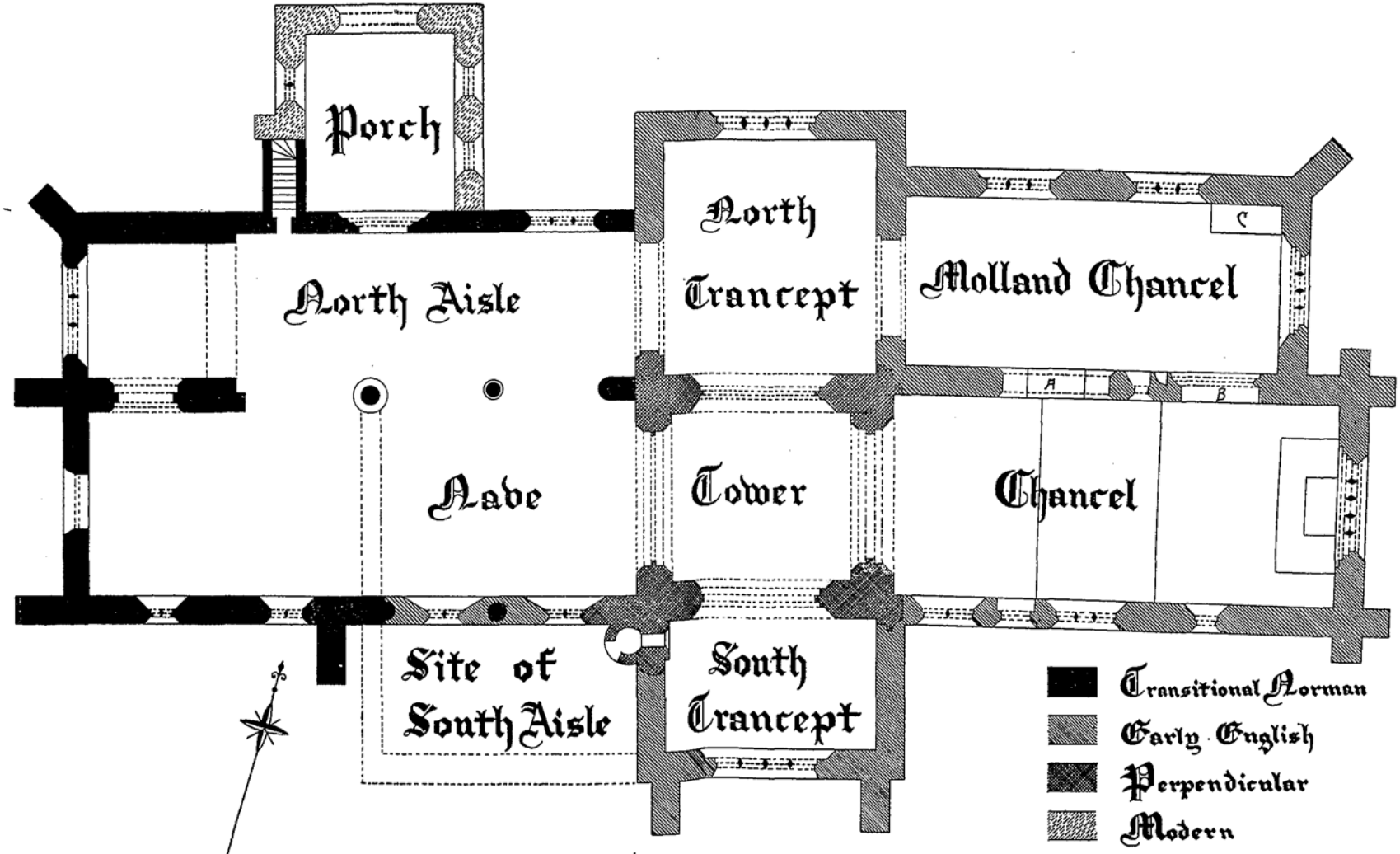
there is not the slightest scrap of evidence to support this theory. At the same time, of course, this does not prove that the tradition is wrong; indeed the spot overlooking the surrounding plain of marsh is just the position one would expect to find pre-historic remains.

The original church was built probably in Norman or possibly in late Saxon times. Of this earlier church nothing now remains above ground, but extensive remains of foundations, apparently of early date, have been found on the north side of the Molland chancel. The earliest parts of the present building date from the latter part of the twelfth century or perhaps the early years of the thirteenth.

The plan shews the building as it now stands, with the walls hatched or blacked in to indicate the various periods, as far as one is able to judge, to which they belong. Comparing this with the building you will notice that the church contains a nave, divided by an arcade from the northern aisle, north and south transepts divided by the tower, and a choir, which be it noted is inclined to the south, and a north-eastern chapel. The inclination of the choir to the remaining part of the building is an interesting but not uncommon feature. For example, it may be noticed to a very marked degree in Canterbury Cathedral, especially when standing in the Triforium gallery at the extreme east of the church. That the arrangement was intentional on the part of the workers there can be no doubt; probably it was symbolical. The inclination is always towards the right or south, and often, particularly here at Ash, of such marked extent that it cannot be accounted for by assuming that it represents an error in setting out the buildings.

In addition to the monuments, brasses, and other features of architectural interest, there are one or two points about the plan which demand very careful consideration. In the first place there is evidence that a tower stood at the north-west angle of the nave, and secondly, quite a casual inspection of the south wall of the nave will shew that at some time it has taken the place of an arcade, in other words that the arches have been walled up.

The question naturally arises, when were these alterations made and why, and what was the plan of the former building, and to this consideration I propose to devote a few words. The walling externally is of flint, and it is difficult to differentiate between examples of this work of varying dates, consequently it is impossible to apply this test as to the age of various parts of the building.



Plan of the Church of St. Nicholas Ash next Sandwich.

R H Goodsall
Architect
Whitstable

Scale of 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 Feet

Nevertheless there are indications, which will be apparent to those who have studied this question of walling, that the north-west angle, above which the old tower stood, is probably the oldest part of the present structure. As the exterior does not greatly help us to determine the date, we have perforce to turn to the interior for information. In places we notice Caen-stone has been used. This is an indication of early date, probably Norman, and one may tentatively assign to this part of the work a date not later than 1180.

After a careful examination I am inclined to think that the walling of the original tower sub-structure, that is to say, the north-west angle, is the oldest part of the work, and probably the walling of the north transept is of similar date.

At various times the flint work has been refaced, but nevertheless there is a marked similarity between the two parts. In both the use of complete stones and not knapped flints will be remarked, and the very characteristic use of narrow bricks, or more correctly thick tiles, possibly Roman, here and there throughout the work. It is hardly necessary for me to say that the vestry and room over are modern additions, carried out, I understand, about sixty or seventy years ago.

To the north the Molland chancel, or chapel, appears from a survey of the flint work outside to be of somewhat later date than the transept and western end of the present north aisle. The south wall of the nave has the appearance of later work; and it will be noticed when outside that two arches with their supports, piers, or columns have been built up or into the wall. This can only suggest one thing, namely, that at some period there was a building beyond the present south wall divided by this arcading from the present nave. I shall speak of this, however, more in detail later. I might just mention, however, that the two windows in the spaces below these arches are modern, and not restorations. In the south transept we are confronted with another difficulty, namely, that this part of the building was apparently restored during the early seventeenth century, for it will be noticed that on the external walls, built into the flintwork, are a number of stones bearing inscriptions and dates of this period, doubtless the attempts of worthy churchwardens to commemorate their own names in connection with repairs to the fabric. As the walls of the south transept have been almost entirely rebuilt, we can learn nothing as to the nature of the adjoining part of the church, which must have existed to the westward. The fine central tower was

put into the building bodily from the foundation late in the fifteenth century, and its erection probably extended over a considerable number of years. Even in mediæval times there was often difficulty in obtaining church funds, hence building operations were often held up.

We will now consider a point of some difficulty, namely, the substructure of a tower at the western end of the present north aisle. Assuming that this was the site of the original tower, what was its relation to the church? Did the original building follow the general rule of tower, nave, chancel, narrow and long, as found in churches of early date?

It is, I think, not improbable that the present archway between the north aisle and the northern transept represents the original chancel arch, at any rate the site if not the actual work. If such be the case, the present northern transept stands on the position of the original chancel, and the Molland chapel is a later addition.

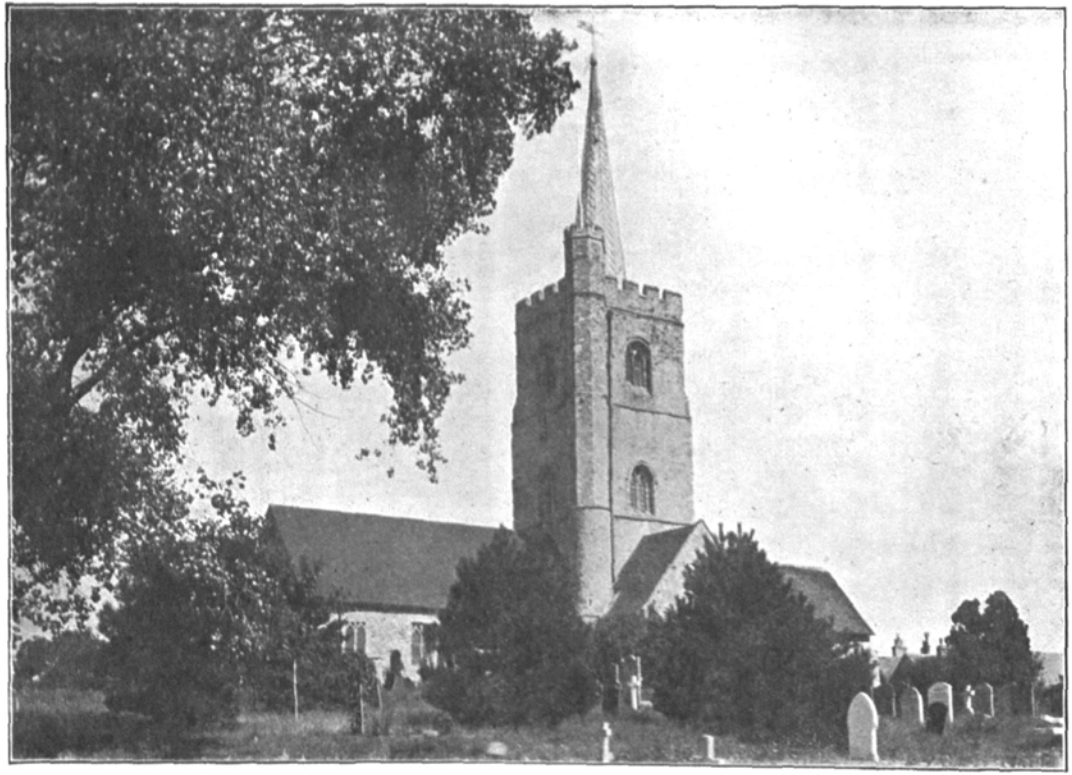
Subsequently, when the needs of the parish increased and funds were forthcoming, the present nave and chancel were added, and the original nave and chancel became aisle and transept. This would be quite a reasonable evolution were it not for the fact that the remains of arcading in the southern wall point to a different conclusion altogether.

As far as can be seen from the outside, the pier and shaft supporting the two pointed arches are of the same date as the similar shafts between the north aisle and nave; consequently the building beyond, whatever it may have been, must have dated from the same period.

If the original church followed the simple plan mentioned, it is impossible for it to have had a southern transept or chapel, such as this must have been, extending across the present nave to the extremity of the present south transept.

A much more possible theory is that the original church was entirely demolished with the exception of the western tower, and a late Norman or transitional Early English structure took its place, the date being about 1200 A.D. This would mean that the north aisle, nave and the demolished south chapel were all of the same period.

The pointed arches of the nave are of this date, and they are of the same size and shape, with hood mouldings on both faces. It will be noticed that there are responds at either abutments, and that the western end has a corbel in place of a shaft. The two



ASH CHURCH FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

shafts are dissimilar below the cap mouldings, which are alike, except that the material in each case is Kentish rag; the small one, however, has certainly been inserted probably at the time the central tower was built. The larger stones correspond in size to those used elsewhere in the alteration. In passing, it is interesting to note the small niches and corbels on each pier, which probably contained small images.

On the south wall at the west there is a fifteenth-century window and two modern ones in the built-up arcade. The stone inside, as before mentioned, is Caen, a sign of early date. If this be correct it will be apparent that the Norman church must have been of considerable size—larger than one would expect to find. Possibly the church was cruciform in plan and had a central tower —an expedient not infrequently resorted to, to overcome the difficulties of roofing the intersection. The fifteenth-century tower has, of course, entirely eliminated all traces of this if it ever existed.

A third suggestion that has been put forward to account for the substructure of the north-west tower, is that the work was commenced, and then for some reason never completed. It may have been for lack of funds or a desire to make a more pretentious addition in the shape of a central tower.

I have previously referred to the arch between the aisle and the north transept. The late Mr. J. R. Planché, in his History of the parish (*A Corner of Kent*), suggests that the arch is, perhaps, thirty years later than those in the nave. Personally I am inclined to think it contemporary. If it be later, the transept which formerly went by the name of the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr must have been an addition to the aisle. The south pier was rebuilt with a different impost moulding, probably at the time that the central tower was inserted, and this alteration converted the chapel into a Northern transept proper.

Until 1863 the organ stood in the transept. When it was removed, traces of fresco paintings were found on the walls; unfortunately owing to damp these were in a very bad state. During the restoration of the transept a stone coffin of the thirteenth century was discovered, having an overlapping lid of great weight. This is now in the north chancel. The arch between the north transept and the north or Molland chancel is of fourteenth-century workmanship.

Prior to 1840 this chapel was used as a schoolroom, and was

divided from the transept by a wooden partition. This accounts for the shameful mutilation of the two corbels above the wood screen on either side of the arch. The corbels are in the shape of human heads, and the hair is arranged in a manner peculiar to the time of King Edward I. and II.

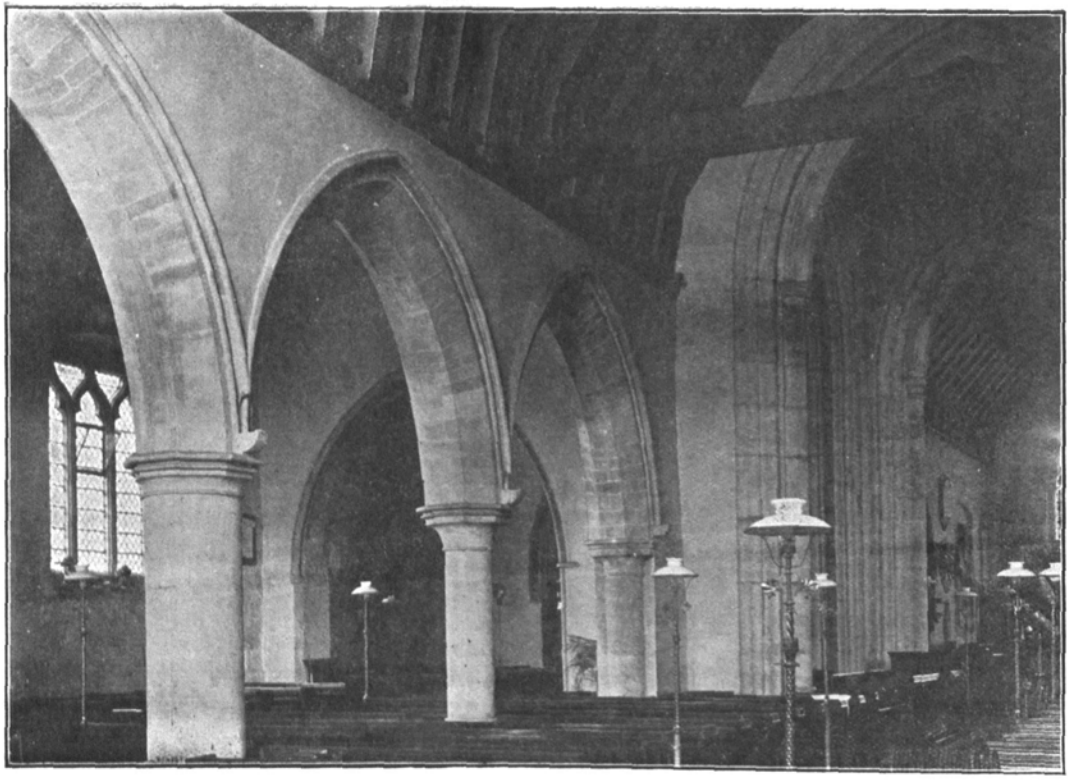
The fine oak screen now occupying the open space has apparently been removed from some other part of the church. Originally it must have been rather higher, and was cut down to its present size to fit the opening. It will be noticed that each mullion is cut through above the bar panelling; the doors which occupied the central bay are now in the tower. These of course are larger in height than the present opening, and were apparently discarded when the remainder of the screen was mutilated. Probably the original site of the screen was under the rood loft. Its date is apparently of the sixteenth century. In 1663 an entry in the church accounts records that a painter was paid for work on the "screenes."

The north chancel was originally called St. Nicholas Chancel, and the remains of early thirteenth-century work, *e.g.*, the string-courses, etc., shew that part of the original walling is incorporated in the later work. At the east end the string-courses are surmounted by a modern window. The windows on the north side are copies of the original ones.

The fine tomb of fifteenth-century work I shall speak about later. The piscina is of similar date and of good design. The restored priest's door communicates with the main or southern chancel, sometimes called the Guilton Chancel. On either side of the small door the wall is pierced with arches, those on the west being the most important. The quoins, jambs, mouldings, etc., are of ragstone. In the south wall is a trefoil-headed piscina with rounded corbels of early thirteenth-century workmanship. Above is a lancet-headed window of the same period, beside it an aumbry and two other windows of later dates, one on each side of the priest's door, which is modern.

The south transept appears to have undergone considerable repairs in the year 1675, as the stone on the external walls bear witness. At one time there may have been a gallery in this transept, for there is evidence of a built-up doorway from the turret staircase to the tower about twelve feet up, to be seen on the inside.

I have remarked previously that the tower is of fifteenth-century



ASH CHURCH.—INTERIOR.

workmanship, and not a particularly good example of the late Perpendicular style. It was apparently built at three different periods, one stage at a time, and was inserted in the building from the foundation upwards. The south chapel or aisle had been demolished prior to this. The piers are unique for the size of the stones, which in some cases are as much as six feet long, four feet wide, and two feet thick. These dimensions for Kent ragstone are abnormal, and truly remarkable. A particularly interesting point not hitherto noticed, I believe, is the remarkable series of masons' marks to be found on these stones. They are particularly numerous on the south-west pier, and in this case they take the form of an arrow with only half the head, which alternates on one side and then the other on different stones.

On the north-east pier the marks are more difficult to find, but are more elaborate, and often consist of a cross within a circle. The present ring of bells in the tower only date from 1791, when £161. 1*s*. 9*d*. was paid for casting a new peal; but Bryan Fausett, the antiquary, has recorded that in 1760 he found five bells in the belfry dated from 1581 to 1641. With regard to the tombs and brasses, the most ancient monumental effigy in the church (marked H on the accompanying plan) is that which occupies the arch between the chancel and the Molland chapel. It is that of a knight cross-legged, and is supposed to represent Sir John de Goshall, who lived during the reign of Edward III. From the character of the costume, however, one would be inclined to ascribe it to the time of the first Edward, and it may be that it should be attributed to Sir Henry de Goshall. Below the effigy of the knight is one of his lady, and in this case also the costume bears out the assumption of the earlier date.

The female effigy is of ruder workmanship than that of the knight, and it has suffered considerably from ill-treatment as well as time. The distinctive features of the costume are of the thirteenth or early fourteenth century. The other monument in the north wall of the chancel (B on plan) is probably that of Sir John Leverick, Knight, *c*. 1350, who is represented in a highly ornamental suit of plate armour. The legs of the figure are crossed and rest on a lion, the head of which is remarkable for its lifelike expression. There is a great similarity between this effigy and one in St. Peter's Church, Sandwich.

A remarkable feature of the Molland or St. Nicholas chancel is the fine altar-tomb at the north-east angle of the building (C on plan).

It is of characteristic fifteenth-century workmanship, and the effigies represent John Septvans, Esq., who served under King Henry VI., and his wife Catherine.

The male figure is in full military costume of the middle of the fifteenth century, consisting of a complete suit of plate armour, with elegantly-designed knee and elbow pieces. Round his neck is a collar of SS denoting his mark of Esquire of the body of the Sovereign. The hair is cut close above the ears, a fashion introduced at the beginning of the fifteenth century. The head, represented partially bald, reposes on a tilting helmet supported by angels and surmounted by a torse or wreath. The feet of the effigy rest upon a couchant lion.

The lady is represented in the dress of a noble widow, barbed above the chin with an angle veil and wearing a kirtle with tight sleeves buttoned at the wrist, over which is a very full-skirted surcoat, reaching in graceful folds to the feet, and itself surmounted by a mantle of state with cords and tassels dependent. There is some uncertainty about this memorial, for all traces of armorial bearings have disappeared.

It has been suggested that these effigies do not belong to the altar-tomb on which they are placed; and from the awkward manner in which the tomb is built into the wall it is not improbable that it originally occupied some other position in the church. Another theory suggested, not without reason, is that this memorial was originally in Sittingbourne Church.

The church is particularly rich in brasses. In the high chancel, almost in the centre of the floor, a fine brass, now much mutilated, of the fifteenth century commemorates Richard Clitherow of Ash and his wife. Only the upper part of the figure of the lady now remains. Next the above is another good brass in a better state of preservation representing Jane Kerriel. On the floor of the Molland chapel is a large brass in tolerable state of preservation commemorating Christopher Septvans, alias Harfleet, of Molland and his wife, and the well-preserved effigies of Walter their son, and his wife. In the south transept there are two brasses, one of which represents the figures of a man and woman in the costume of the early part of the sixteenth century, but the inscription is imperfect, the Christian names William and Anne his wife only being preserved.

Richborough Castle.—A heavy shower of rain made the inspection of this famous Roman station somewhat difficult; few

of the ladies attempted the wet and muddy walk along the trackway leading to the castle. Nevertheless a certain number of stalwarts assembled within the walls and listened to a brief descriptive address delivered by Lord Northbourne. The adverse conditions made a prolonged stay impossible, a circumstance the more regrettable owing to the fact that the recent excavations conducted under the auspices of the Board of Works have revealed much that has hitherto been concealed from view.

Sandwich.—After luncheon at the Bell Hotel the pilgrims divided into two parties, the first under the conductorship of Mr. Keyser visiting the churches, and the second, with the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield as guide, making an inspection of the "Old House" in Strand Street by kind permission of the owner, W. F. Mackmirkan, Esq., and of Manwood Court, formerly the Free Grammar School of the town, where they were received by Mr. and Mrs. Raggett, the present owners. Mr. Raggett said that the house was built in 1563-4 by Roger Manwood, a native of Sandwich, who became one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and died at Hales Place in the parish of Hackington, where his effigy may still be seen in the church of St. Stephen near Canterbury.

The site was given by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and the school endowed with lands by Manwood, who obtained the royal licence for his foundation and leave to call it by his own name. New school buildings have been erected on the eastern side of the town within recent memory, but the fabric of the old school-house has been repaired and all vestiges of antiquity reverently preserved.

Those of the visitors who made a tour to the three churches were received at St. Peter's by the Rector, Rev. B. W. Day, who read some notes on the architecture and monumental effigies of the building prepared by Dr. C. Cotton, who unfortunately was unable to be present. At St. Clement's and St. Mary's the Rev. O. D. Bruce Payne, Rector, acted as guide, and the same gentleman acted in a like capacity at the chapel attached to the hospital of St. Bartholomew. The members then drove to Betteshanger, where they were entertained to tea by Lord and Lady Northbourne before returning to Canterbury.

Thursday, July 16th.—The members motored to Hythe, paying a visit *en route* to the church of SS. Mary and Ethelburga, Lyminge, where the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff described the

church and the foundations of the earlier Saxon church in the churchyard (see *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXX., p. lvi).

The next place visited was Saltwood Castle, by kind permission of Mrs. Deedes. At very short notice it was ably described by the Rev. Canon A. J. Galpin, Rector of Saltwood, who also acted as guide at Saltwood Church.

Progress was then made to the church of St. Leonard, Hythe, where the Vicar, the Rev. H. D. Dale, gave a lucid description of the building. [Mr. Dale's notes on the church, and the Rev. G. M. Livett's exhaustive description of its architecture, are published in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXX.]

Lympne Castle and the Roman remains at Studfall were also visited.

The return journey to Canterbury was then undertaken, and after dinner the members were hospitably entertained by F. Bennett Goldney, Esq., M.P., F.S.A., at the County Hotel, where a concert party performed sweet music.

Friday, July 17th.—This day was devoted to Canterbury. Making an early start at 9 A.M. the members, after visiting Eastbridge Hospital, where they were received by the Master (Rev. P. L. Clarke), and the West-gate of the City, under the conductorship of Mr. S. Mead, assembled in the crypt of the Cathedral, where the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff described the history and architecture of the great metropolitical church. A perambulation of the Cathedral followed, the visitors being divided into three parties, conducted respectively by the Dean, Col. Hegan, and Mr. Woodruff. In the afternoon the remains of the conventual buildings, and the chapter library, were inspected, Mr. Woodruff again acting as guide. By the kind invitation of the Dean and Mrs. Wace half the party then partook of tea in the Deanery gardens, and the rest were similarly entertained by Canon and Mrs. Mason. After tea a few enthusiasts paid a visit to Fordwich, St. John's Hospital, and the remains of the Dominican Priory.

The Annual General Meeting of the Kent Archæological Society was held at St. Augustine's College, by kind permission of the Warden, on Friday evening, July 17th.

The President, Lord Northbourne, occupied the chair, and there were present in addition: The Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. Wace, the Warden and Sub-Warden of St. Augustine's College, Sir Charles

Warren, F.R.S., and Mr. Keyser, F.S.A. (President of the British Archæological Association), together with the following members of the Council of the Kent Archæological Society: Revs. W. G. Waterman, C. H. Wilkie, C. Eveleigh Woodruff, Mr. H. W. Knocker, Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Richard Cooke; while representing the British Archæological Association were the Hon. Editor, Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, F.S.A., and Messrs. R. Bagster, W. A. Cater, W. Derham, M.A., and S. W. Kershaw, F.S.A. The seats in the Museum were mostly occupied.

The Hon. Secretary read the annual report. Mr. Cooke said: "The Society would wish me to commence by expressing their regret for the loss the Society has sustained by the death of Mr. A. H. Gardner, who was both on the Council and also the local Secretary for the Folkestone district; and also by the death of Mr. Greensted, the local Secretary for the Sittingbourne districts. Both of these gentlemen were always most anxious to promote by all means in their power the interests of archæology.

A second meeting of the hon. local secretaries was held this year in the month of June at Canterbury, when the new rules relating to local secretaries' districts were further discussed; more frequent meetings of members were advocated, and after discussion it was arranged that a general meeting of the Society should be held in May, 1915, at Tonbridge, after the meeting of the hon. local secretaries; that Tonbridge Castle should be visited and described; and, if possible, someone should be requested to explain to the members present what it was the Town Council wished to prove or disprove some two years ago, when the Society made a grant towards the expense of excavations.

The subject for discussion at the spring meeting in March at Maidstone has not yet been fixed upon, though a paper on the so-called Pilgrims' Road, its origin and history, has been suggested.

Records Branch.—This branch already numbers some 150 members, and it is hoped that on the issue of its first publication, which will be ready shortly, its numbers will be largely augmented. The work of calendaring the wills and administrations of the Probate Court at Canterbury, undertaken in conjunction with the British Record Society, is also proceeding.

The Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff is continuing his work upon the Parish and Diocesan Records of the Diocese of Canterbury. It will thus be evident that though late in the field in comparison with some other county societies, the Kent Archæological Society

is now devoting attention to what is a very important part of archæological work, with a view to the enumeration and better preservation of these valuable documents scattered about throughout the county.

Your thanks are due to the local Hon. Sec. for Sandwich, Mr. Manser, for the care he has taken in keeping us informed as to the progress of the excavations lately carried out by the Office of Works inside the walls of Richborough Castle. The Council are sorry to learn that this work will now soon be discontinued, and hopes that this stoppage, if it takes place, may be only temporary. Your Council suggest that any antiquities found may be preserved near the place of discovery, provided suitable accommodation can be obtained. The Office of Works have accepted this suggestion sympathetically.

The thirtieth volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* was issued early in June; those members who had paid their subscriptions for the year 1913 and are not in arrear in a previous year are entitled to receive this volume, but not those members who have only paid for the year 1914.

The Council agreed last September, on the motion of the Rev. C. H. Wilkie, to the appointment of an honorary librarian, but as this requires an alteration of one of the Society's rules, and notice of the alteration of the said rule was not given in time to bring the question before this annual meeting, the matter still remains in abeyance.

During the year there has been but slight alteration in the number of members of the Society; it is hoped all members will do their utmost to secure an important increase.

That portion of the Caley MSS. which relates to the county of Kent will, I have reason to believe, be presented to your library within the next few months. The letters relate chiefly to queries made to Mr. Caley respecting the endowments of rectories and vicarages in the county of Kent."

The Report was adopted.

Owing to the presence of many of the members of the British Archæological Association, the business portion was shortened as much as possible, but Mr. Keyser, on behalf of the British Archæological Association, took the opportunity of warmly thanking the Council, the members, and the Local Committee of the Kent Archæological Society for the help and assistance given in making their meeting a success, particularly referring to the very valuable

help given by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, not only in the formation of plans and routes, but also in undertaking the description of several buildings visited, notwithstanding that he had at the time a large amount of work on his hands.

Lord Northbourne replied on behalf of the Kent Archæological Society.

General Sir Charles Warren then read a very interesting Paper on "The Highways of Primitive Man in Kent." After some preliminary remarks on the physical features and geological formations of East Kent, Sir Charles Warren classed the primitive highways of the county under two heads: (1) Thoroughfares—main highways leading from centre; and (2) Local highways. In Kent the highways were subordinate to three special local influences: (1) the forests of the weald of Blean; (2) the estuaries and flats about the rivers and the islands about the coast; (3) the line of chalk cliff, the lip of the crater surrounding the weald, which was used as the great highway east and west through Kent. The geological map shewed that the chalk ridge ran in nearly a straight line from Folkestone to Halling, and from Halling to Dorking, and along that line was the British east and west highway, part of which was subsequently used as the Pilgrims' Way in Christian times. The arguments that went to shew that the road was used by the Christian pilgrims journeying from Winchester to Canterbury in a great measure applied to its use by primitive races.

A hearty vote of thanks to Sir Charles Warren for his instructive Paper closed the proceedings.

September 10th, 1914.—The Council met at the Bridge Wardens' Chambers, Rochester, after lunching together at Oriel House by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Day. Mr. F. F. Giraud in the Chair. Twelve members present.

Letters were read from Mr. F. Lambert, Hon. Secretary of the British Archæological Society, thanking the Kent Society for their co-operation at the joint congress in July last; from Mr. Aldridge reporting the discovery of Roman foundations and pottery at North Ash, near Wrotham; from Mr. C. Peers, expressing satisfaction that it was proposed to mark the site of Shepway Cross, and the tree at Kingsborough in Sheppey, where the courts of the Ferry Wardens were formerly held; and from Mr. A. A. Arnold drawing attention to the statements made in the first volume of *Kent Records* (*Parochial Records in the Diocese of Rochester*) that the

earliest register book of the parish of Aylesford had been "lent to an exhibition and never returned." Mr. Arnold wrote that the exhibition referred to was the "Temporary Museum" arranged for the annual meeting of the Kent Archæological Society in the Corn Exchange at Rochester in 1886; that he remembered the loan of the Aylesford book, and that it was duly returned to the vicar's messenger after the meeting. In confirmation of this statement Mr. Arnold was able to state that he had recently inspected the loan book, which is still preserved in the office of the town clerk, wherein he found an entry in his own handwriting relating to the book, and a signed receipt for the same from the messenger of the Vicar of Aylesford, dated July 24th, 1886. The Council expressed their gratitude to Mr. Arnold for his prompt action, which has altogether exculpated the Society from complicity in the loss of this valuable record.

The following new members were elected: Dr. R. J. Dick, Dr. Gordon Ward, Mr. J. H. Sikes and Mr. W. J. Wilson.

Passbooks were produced and cheques drawn.

December 9th, 1914.—The Council met this day in the Cathedral Library at Canterbury by permission of the Dean and Chapter. Lord Northbourne in the Chair. Eighteen members present.

A letter was read from Mr. H. Elgar giving a description of a gold sceatta, and some other coins found on Mr. De Uppaugh's estate at Hollingbourne, and placed by that gentleman, on loan, in the Society's rooms at Maidstone. Thanks were accorded to Mr. De Uppaugh; to Mr. Bosanquet for the gift to the Society's library of a privately printed copy of the MS. of William Demster; and to the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff for his offer to edit *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXXI., Mr. Leland Duncan and Major Lambarde, the Society's editors, at the present time being fully engaged in His Majesty's service. Mr. H. Mapleton Chapman was re-elected the Society's representative on the Fordwich Town Hall Trust.

An application having been made by Mr. Boulter of Ramsgate for the loan of objects of antiquity, of which the Society possessed duplicates, for exhibition in the museum at Ramsgate, the Council decided to accede to the request under the following conditions:—

1. That all expenses of removal and return be paid by the borrowers.

2. That the articles be fully insured.

3. That all loans be made by the Council in writing.

4. That the Society's label be attached to all articles, and that the said articles be kept in a case under lock and key.

5. That no article of great intrinsic value or of special fragility be included in any loan.

Major Powell Cotton of Quex, Thanet, was elected a member of Council.

Passbooks were produced and cheques drawn.

Obituary.

We regret to have to record the death, on the 13th of March last, of Mr. W. Essington Hughes, the senior partner of the firm of Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, the publishers and printers of *Archæologia Cantiana*. Mr. Hughes, who was 83 years of age, joined the above firm in 1856, and since 1874, when his firm took over the printing and publishing of *Archæologia Cantiana*, has taken the keenest interest in the affairs of the Kent Archæological Society. For the past thirty-three years he had acted as Hon. Local Secretary for the London District, and was a regular attendant at the Summer Excursions of the Society.

Mr. Hughes was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Member of the Council of the British Archæological Association.