



*Frontispiece*



*Photo by]*

THE REV. AUGUSTIN LEY, M.A.

*[F. Bromhead*

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
WOOLHOPE  
NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

[ESTABLISHED 1851.]

1908, 1909, 1910, 1911.



"HOPE ON."

"HOPE EVER."

HEREFORD:  
PRINTED BY JAKEMAN AND CARVER.

ISSUED DECEMBER, 1914.

## PREFACE.

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This Volume includes the Transactions for the years 1908-1911, a period of prosperity and peace. But it is issued to members in a year overshadowed by the dark cloud of war, and at a time when sorrow has visited many homes in the county and diocese.

In the course of these four years the Club lost by death the invaluable services of Mr. H. C. Moore and the Rev. Augustin Ley, both of the Editorial Committee, and of whom sympathetic memoirs will be found in the following pages (p. 50 and 195).

While the Volume has been passing through the Press the Club has lost other valuable members, notably our Treasurer, Mr. H. C. Beddoe, who always took such an interest in our Field Meetings and shewed such wonderful vitality to the last.

There has been some delay in the issue of this Volume, mainly owing to the difficulty of arranging for a complete Index of the Transactions. Considerable progress has been made with the preparation of this Index, and it is hoped to publish it shortly in a separate volume.

Before the publication of another Volume it is devoutly to be hoped that the sword of war will have been sheathed to be drawn no more, and that the Club may study in peace "the fairy tales of science and the long results of time."

EDITOR.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEARS 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911.

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\* The Gaer Bannium Meeting for July, 1908, was given up owing to the lamented death of the President, Mr. H. C. Moore.



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- 1851 Club formed in the winter months.  
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 1854 Symonds, Rev. Wm. S., F.G.S.  
 1855 Crouch, Rev. J. F., B.D.  
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 1857 Lingen, Mr. Charles.  
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 1860 Banks, Mr. R. W.  
 1861 Lightbody, Mr. Robert.  
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 1874 Davies, Rev. James, M.A.  
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 1893 Lambert, Rev. Preb. William H., M.A.  
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 1911 Phillips, Mr. E. Cambridge.



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 Lambert, Rev. Preb. W. H., Stoke Edith Rectory, Hereford.  
 Lamont, A. H., Castle Street, Hereford.  
 Lansdell, Rev. F. J., St. James' Vicarage, Hereford.  
 Lea, Judge G. Harris, Broadlands, Hereford.  
 Leather, F. H., Castle House, Weobley.  
 Le Brocq, W. P. J., B.A., F.S.A., Brecon.  
 Leigh, The Very Rev. The Hon. J. W., D.D., The Deanery, Hereford.  
 Ley, Rev. Augustin, Sellack Vicarage, Ross.  
 Lighton, Rev. Claud, Mordiford Rectory, Hereford.  
 Lilley, C. E., Bodenham Road, Hereford.  
 Lilwall, C. J., Llydyadway, Cusop, Hay.  
 Littledale, F., St. Laurence, Clehonger, Hereford.  
 Littledale, T. A. R., Wilton Dale, Ross.  
 Lloyd, W. G., Bodenham Road, Hereford.  
 MacCormick, Rev. F., Wrockwardine Wood Rectory, Wellington, Salop.  
 Martin, C. H. G., The Hill, Abergavenny.  
 Marshall, Rev. H. B. D., Norton Canon Vicarage, Weobley.  
 Marshall, George, The Batch, Weobley.  
 Marshall, Rev. W., Sarnesfield Vicarage, Weobley.  
 Marshall, Isaac, Sarnesfield Court, Weobley.  
 McLaughlin, Rev. A. H., Much Birch, Hereford.  
 Merrick, F. H., Goodrich House, Hereford.  
 Money-Kyrle, Rev. C. L., Much Marcle, Dymock, Glos.  
 Money-Kyrle, Rev. R. T. A., Kentish Town Vicarage, London.  
 Moore, C. E. A., Fairlawn, Leominster.  
 Morgan, Rev. W. E. T., Llanigon, Hay, R.S.O.  
 Morgan, Capt. T. L., The Poole, Hereford.

# XVI.

Morgan, T. Cyrus, Lion Street, Hay.  
Morrison, C. S., Firbank, Burghill, Hereford.  
Monro, Rev. J. G., Ocle Pychard, Hereford.  
Neild, Theodore, Grange Court, Leominster.  
Oldham, Capt. C. D., Bellamour Lodge, Rugeley, Staffs.  
Onslow, Rev. M. R. S., Stoke Edith Rectory, Hereford.  
Parker, Alfred, Kington.  
Parker, John, Nelson Street, Hereford.  
Parker, R. T. Leyland, West View, Bodenham Road, Hereford.  
Passey, Arthur, Ackhill, Presteigne.  
Phillott, G. H., Plas Trevor, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.  
Phillips, W. J., St. James' Road, Hereford.  
Pille, J. B., 2, High Town, Hereford, (*Assistant Secretary*).  
Pille, W., Barton Villas, Hereford.  
Pitt, John T., Home Cottage, White Cross Road.  
Probert, E. P., Ryelands Street, Hereford.  
Powell, Dr. Scudamore, Cagedale, Clehonger, Hereford.  
Prescot, C. Warre, King's Pyon House, Weobley.  
Pumphrey, H. H., Highwell, Bromyard.  
Purchas, Rev. A. B., Stockingham, Pelham, Buntingford, Herts.  
Purser, Colonel, Birds Eye, Bromyard.  
Quilter, H. H.  
Ragg, Rev. W. H. Murray, Cathedral School, Hereford.  
Rankin, Sir James, Bart., Bryngwyn, Hereford.  
Richings, Rev. L. W., The Rectory, Whitney-on-Wye, Hereford.  
Riley, John, Putley Court, Ledbury.  
Robinson, Stephen, Lynhales, Kington.  
Robinson, W. V., King Street, Hereford.  
Ronalds, Basil, The Bungalow, Woonton, Herefordshire.  
Rootes, Charles, St. Owen's Street, Hereford.  
Shepherd, Rev. W. R., Swinmore, Eaton Bishop.  
Simpson, Albert, Burghill Grange, Hereford.  
Sinclair, Dr. G. R., Mus. Doc., The Close, Hereford.  
Slack, Rev. O. R., Bredwardine Vicarage, Hereford.  
Small, A. P., St. Mary Street, Ross.  
Southall, Henry, The Graig, Ross.  
Stanhope, Ven. and Hon. B. L. S., Byford (Archdeacon of Hereford).  
Steed, Dr. John, Staunton-on-Wye, Hereford.  
Stephens, J. W., Westbourne, Kington.  
Stoker, Rev. C. H., Brinsop Rectory, Hereford.  
Stooke, Edwin, Aylestone Hill, Hereford.  
Stooke, J. E. H., 2, Palace Yard, Hereford.  
Stooke Vaughan, Rev. F. S., Wellington Heath, Ledbury.  
Symonds, Dr. G. H. H., Drybridge House, Hereford.  
Symonds, J. F., Broomy Hill, Hereford.  
Symonds, J. R., 15, Bridge Street, Hereford.

# XVII.

Symonds-Taylor, Captain, Beechwood, Hereford.  
Taylor, S. R., 9, Broad Street, Leominster.  
Thomas, Lieut.-Col. Evan, Over Ross, Ross.  
Trafford, Guy R., Hill Court, Ross.  
Treherne, Rev. C. A., All Saints' Vicarage, Hereford.  
Tuke, Rev. F. H., Holmer Vicarage, Hereford.  
Turner, Thomas, F.R.C.S., St. Owen Street, Hereford.  
Vaughan, J. Williams, Penmaes, Hay.  
Wadworth, H. A., Breinton Court, Hereford.  
Wait, Rev. W. Oswald, Titley Vicarage, Herefordshire.  
Wale, J. H., Silia, Presteigne.  
Wallis, E. L., Hampton Park, Hereford.  
Warner, Rev. R. Hyett, Almeley, Eardisley, R.S.O.  
Watkins, Alfred, Vineyard Croft, Hampton Park, Hereford.  
Watkins, Rev. S. Cornish, Staunton-on-Arrow, near Hereford.  
Weare, Edwin, Hampton Bishop, Hereford.  
Weyman, A. W., Broad Street, Ludlow.  
Williams, Theodore E., Brobury House, Letton, Hereford.  
Williamson, Rev. Preb. H. T., Bredwardine, Hereford.  
Wilmot, Rev. R. F. E. W., Monnington-on-Wye, Hereford.  
Wilmot, Rev. R. H., Bishopstone, Hereford.  
Wilson, W. W., Ingestre House, Hereford.  
Winnington-Ingram, Rev. Preb., Ross.  
Wood, Dr. John, Tarrington, Ledbury.

## MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1908.

Berrow, H. J., Withington, Hereford.  
Brumwell, C. E., Broad Street, Hereford.  
Clarke, Dr. J., Stevenson, Sunnyside, Weobley.  
Stooke Vaughan, J. S., 3, Gt. James Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C.

## MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1909.

Carver, F. T., Carlton Villas, White Cross Road, Hereford.  
Davies, Henry, Wyelan Villa, Putson, Hereford.  
Dickinson, Dr. H. S., Grey Friars, Hereford.  
Gethen, W. Cecil, St. Nicholas Street, Hereford.  
Gibbon, Rev. H. H., Glasbury Vicarage, near Hay.  
Griffiths, Robert, Trewern, Hay.  
Mathews, T. A., 6, King Street, Hereford.  
Williams, Arthur S., Pontywall, Talgarth, Brecon.

## MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1910.

Kerr, Walter T., Broomy Hill, Hereford.  
Griffiths, Rev. Canon, Clyro Rectory, Hay.  
Weaver, Alfred, Colaba Lodge, Leominster.

## MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1911.

Gwynne-Vaughan, A., Builth.  
 Mackay, J. C., Hatterell, Hereford.  
 Powell, Rev. G. H., Dorstone, Hereford.  
 Day, Dr. Hermitage, Newton House, Hereford.  
 Mavrojani, Spyro, Clyro Court, Clyro, Hay.  
 Harvey, Rev. T. W., Bosbury Vicarage, Ledbury.  
 Hewitt, J. B., Newbold-on-Avon Vicarage, Rugby.

## OBITUARY.

## 1908.

Cornwall, Rev. Sir G. H. Doughty, Major Chester  
 Moore, Mr. H. Cecil

## 1909.

Carless, Mr. Joseph Paris, Mr. T. C.

## 1910.

Caldicott, Mr. J. U. Hadfield, Mr. G. H.

## 1911.

Symonds, Mr. J. F. Harington, Sir Richard, Bart.  
 Ley, Rev. Augustin Ballard, Mr. J. E.

## RULES

OF THE

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

I.—That a Society be formed under the name of the "WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB," for the practical study, in all its branches, of the Natural History and Archæology of Herefordshire, and the districts immediately adjacent.

II.—That the Club consist of Ordinary Members with such Honorary Members as may be admitted from time to time; from whom a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Central Committee, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary be appointed at the Annual Meeting to be held at Hereford in the early part of each year. The President and Vice-Presidents to change annually.

III.—The Central Committee shall consist of Five Members, resident in the city or its immediate vicinity, with the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Auditor, and Honorary Secretary, *ex-officio*. It shall be empowered to appoint an Assistant Secretary; and its duties shall be to make all the necessary arrangements for the meetings of the year, and take the management of the Club during the intervals of the meetings.

IV.—That the Members of the Club shall hold not less than three Field Meetings during the year, in the most interesting localities for investigating the Natural History and Archæology of the district. That the days and places of such regular meetings be selected at the Annual Meeting, and that ten clear days' notice of each be communicated to the Members by a circular from the Secretary; but that the Central Committee be empowered, upon urgent occasions, to alter the days of such regular Field Meetings, and also to fix special or extra Field Meetings during the year.

V.—That an Entrance Fee of Ten Shillings shall be paid by all Members on election, and that the Annual Subscription be Ten Shillings, payable on the 1st January in each year to the Treasurer, or Assistant Secretary. Each Member may have the privilege of introducing a friend on any of the Field Days of the Club.



VI.—That the Reports of the several meetings and the papers read to the Club during the year, be forwarded, at the discretion of the Central Committee, to the *Hereford Times* newspaper for publication as ordinary news, in preparation for the *Transactions* of the Club.

VII.—That the cost of any lithographic or other illustrations be defrayed by the author of the paper for which they may be required, unless the subject has been taken up at the request of the Club, and in that case, the cost of such illustration to be paid for from the Club funds, must be specially sanctioned at one of the general meetings.

VIII.—That the President for the year arrange for an address to be given in the field for each meeting, and for papers to be read after dinner; and that he be requested to favour the Club with an address at the Annual Meeting on the proceedings of the year, together with such observations as he may deem conducive to the welfare of the Club, and the promotion of its objects.

IX.—That all candidates for Membership shall be proposed and seconded by existing Members, either verbally or in writing, at any meeting of the Club, and shall be eligible to be balloted for at the next meeting, provided there be FIVE Members present; one black ball in three to exclude.

X.—That Members finding rare or interesting specimens, or observing any remarkable phenomenon relating to any branch of Natural History, shall immediately forward a statement thereof to the Hon. Secretary, or to any Member of the Central Committee.

XI.—That the Club undertake the formation and publication of correct lists of the various natural productions of the County of Hereford, with such observations as their respective authors may deem necessary.

XII.—That any Member, whose Annual Subscription is twelve months in arrear, shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of membership, and that any member whose Annual Subscription is *two* years in arrear, may be removed from the Club by the Central Committee.

XIII.—That the Assistant Secretary do send out circulars, ten days at least before the Annual Meeting, to all Members who have not paid their subscriptions, and draw their particular attention to Rule XII.

XIV.—That these Rules be printed annually with the *Transactions*, for general distribution to the Members.

# THE WOOLHOPE CLUB.

*The Account of HENRY CHILD BEDDOE, Hon. Treasurer, for the Year ended 31st December, 1908.*

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
1908.	£ s. d.	1908.	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand brought forward from last Account	203 15 7	By paid Jakeman & Carver for Printing	123 17 9
" Entrance Fees received	3 10 0	Transactions and Stationery	.. ..
" Subscriptions received for 1908	104 0 0	Ralph Nevill, Esq., one year's Subscription to Congress of Archaeological Societies	1 0 0
" Excess of Subscriptions	0 1 0	J. Wilson, Nurseyman, for Wreath for Dr. Moore's Funeral	1 1 0
" Assistant Secretary, for 56 Volumes of Transactions, 1852 to 1865, sold	14 0 0	Stanford for British Rainfall in 1907, and Postages	0 10 4
" Arrears of Subscriptions received	9 10 0	T. Hutchinson, Esq., for Postages	0 12 6
		Executors of Dr. H. C. Moore, Sundry Disbursements made by him	3 6 2
		Dec. 17th.—, Executors of Dr. H. C. Moore, for Second-hand Volumes of Transactions and for Editorial Expenses, &c.	13 12 6
		Dec. 31st.—, Mr. J. B. Pilley, Assistant Secretary, for one year's Salary	10 0 0
		" Postages and Sundry Expenses	6 19 0
		" Balance in hands of Treasurer	173 17 4
	£334 16 7		£334 16 7

To balance in hand brought down, £173 17s. 4d.

*Audited and found correct,*

May 13th, 1909.

JAMES DAVIES, HONORARY AUDITOR.

# THE WOOLHOPE CLUB.

*The Account of HENRY CHILD BEDDOE, Hon. Treasurer, for the Year ended 31st December, 1909.*

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
1909.	£ s. d.	1909.	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand brought from last Account	.. 173 17 4	By Paid Jakeman & Carver, Printing in 1908 ..	.. 12 10 0
" Entrance Fees received	.. .. 8 10 0	" Free Library, for providing six new Book Cases	.. .. 1 16 0
" Arrears of Subscriptions received	.. .. 7 0 0	" Subscription to Congress of Archaeological Societies	.. .. 1 0 0
" Subscriptions received for 1909	.. .. 94 10 0	" Subscription to Caerwent Exploration Fund	.. .. 2 2 0
" Excess of Subscriptions	.. .. 0 0 6	" Dr. Moore's Tablet	.. .. 0 5 0
" Assistant Secretary, for 24 Volumes of Transactions sold	.. .. 6 0 0	" E. Stanford, for British Rainfall in 1908, and Postage	.. .. 10 0 4
		" Mr. J. B. Pilley, 1 Year's Salary	.. .. 7 11 0
		" Cheque Book	.. .. 0 2 0
		" Jakeman & Carver, general, for Printing	.. .. 9 16 3
		" Mr. I. Hutchinson, Postages and other Disbursements	.. .. 5 7 8
		" Balance in hands of Treasurer	.. .. 238 17 7
	<u>£289 17 10</u>		<u>£289 17 10</u>
		Balance in Bank	£ s. d.
		Unpresented Cheque	.. .. 244 15 3
		paid in advance	.. .. 5 17 8
			<u>£238 17 7</u>

XXII.

*Audited and found correct,*

14th April, 1910.

JOHN LAMBE, HONORARY AUDITOR.

# THE WOOLHOPE CLUB.

*The Account of HENRY CHILD BEDDOE, Hon. Treasurer, for the Year ended 31st December, 1910.*

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
1910.	£ s. d.	1910.	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand brought from last Account	.. 238 17 7	Jan. 19.—By Subscription to British Mycological Society for 1909	.. .. 0 10 0
" Entrance Fees received	.. .. 6 10 0	Feb. 16.—" Ditto to Congress of Archaeological Societies for 1910	.. .. 1 0 0
" Arrears of Subscriptions received	.. .. 11 0 0	" Ditto for Earthworks Report, 1910	.. .. 0 7 6
" Subscriptions received for 1910	.. .. 95 0 0	" Paid Jakeman & Carver, Printing, 1910	.. .. 6 19 0
" Assistant Secretary for 3 Volumes of Transactions sold	.. .. 0 15 0	Sept. 14.—" E. Stanford, for British Rainfall in 1909	.. .. 0 10 4
		Dec. 17.—" Mr. J. B. Pilley, one year's salary	.. .. 10 0 0
		" " Ditto for Postage and Incidental Expenses	.. .. 6 10 6
		" " T. Hutchinson, Esq., for Postages and other Disbursements	.. .. 2 18 8
		Dec. 19.—" Paid Jakeman & Carver, Printing, &c.	.. .. 4 9 7
		" " Balance in hands of Hon. Treasurer	.. .. 318 17 0
	<u>£352 2 7</u>		<u>£352 2 7</u>
		Balance in Bank	.. .. 319 10 0
		Less Subscription paid in advance, 1909.	.. .. 1 0 0
		Amount overpaid by Assistant Sec., 1909.	.. .. 1 0 0
			<u>£318 17 0</u>

XXIII.

*Audited and found correct,*

April 19th, 1911.

JOHN LAMBE, HONORARY AUDITOR.

# THE WOOLHOPE CLUB.

*The Account of HENRY CHILD BEDDOE, Hon. Treasurer, for the Year ended 31st December, 1911.*

1911 RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
1911	£ s. d.	1911	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand brought forward from last Account	318 17 0	Jan. 6.—By Hon. Treasurer for Postages	0 5 0
" Entrance Fees received	.. .. 9 0 0	" 7.—" Subscriptions to British Mycological Society for 1910	0 10 0
" Arrears of Subscription received	.. .. 5 0 0	" 30.—" Subscription to Congress of Archaeological Societies for 1911	1 0 0
" Subscriptions received for 1911	.. .. 91 0 0	" Ditto for Earthworks Reports, 1911	0 7 6
" Assistant Secretary for Volumes of Transactions and Reports sold	.. .. 1 10 6	Feb. 15.—" Repaid Subscriptions inadvertently paid after Resignation of Members—Sir Edward Elgar (2 years), Mr. J. T. Hereford (1 year)	1 10 0
		April.—" Paid Mr. E. Sledmere for making Index to Transactions	2 2 0
		May 31.—" Paid Jakeman & Carver for Printing Transactions	167 5 6
		Aug. 21.—" Ditto for General Printing and Stationery	4 18 4
		Sep. 11.—" Paid Edward Stanford, for British Rain-fall	0 10 4
		Dec. 13.—" Paid Jakeman & Carver, General Bill	3 2 6
		" 13.—" Hon. Secretary's out-of-pocket Expenses	4 7 9
		" 14.—" Subscription to British Mycological Society for 1911	0 10 0
		" Assistant Secretary (1 year's salary)	10 0 0
		" Ditto, out-of-pocket Expenses	9 13 9
		" Balance in hands of Hon. Treasurer	219 4 10
			£425 7 6
			£ s. d.
		Balance in Bank on 31st December, 1911	.. 224 4 10
		Deduct—Due to Assist. Sec.	4 10 0
		One Subscription paid in Advance	0 10 0
			5 0 0
			£219 4 10

*Audited and found correct,*

JOHN LAMBE, HONORARY AUDITOR.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

WIGMORE AND THE WEST BORDER.

By R. H. GEORGE.

Until the settlement of the Saxons in Britain the history of our country is very confusing, and most of the accounts we possess of events prior to that date have been coloured by the poetical imaginations of the British Bards and the Norman-French troubadours, through whom they have been handed down to us. But if the Romans, the British, and the early Saxon periods can only be viewed by us through the glamour of romance and legend, the accounts which have reached us may contain more truth than some of the history which was written a thousand years later, generally by partisans, with the intention of glorifying their own particular faction. Only recently have some of the truths of history been discovered through the researches of antiquaries, and a new light shed on many of the important events of the past.

Amongst the contradictions and mazes of history, it is certain that the country lying between the two natural boundaries in the west—the river Severn and the mountains of Wales—has always been the scene of armed conflicts between the different invaders of Britain and the aboriginal races.

The British tribe, the Silures, who inhabited this locality, were defeated by the Romans, but never really conquered by force of arms. What the Romans failed to do on the field of battle, the mild and just conduct of the Emperor Claudius and the generals Plautius, Vespasian, and Ostorius Scapula succeeded in doing by the arts of peace.

Claudius, to the surprise of the defeated Britons, left them in possession of their goods, and placed them and their belongings under his protection. This had such an effect upon the impulsive Britons, that they not only acknowledged his rule, but also raised a temple to him and paid him divine honours.

The first Roman invasion of B.C. 55, only reached the maritime parts of the country, but, when Claudius commenced the real conquest of Britain in A.D. 43, the west borderland was soon the scene of the struggle between the Roman legions and the Silurian chief Caractacus.

Whether the last stand of this hero, who had been elected general of the whole of the British forces, was at Coxall Knoll,

Caer Caradoc at Clun, or Caer Caradoc at Church Stretton, no one can now say positively, but it was in our own borderland that his last battles were fought before his final defeat and betrayal to his enemies, by his step-mother the Queen of the Brigantes. When Caractacus, who had successfully resisted the power of Rome for nine years, was led captive through the streets of the Imperial city with his wife and family to the presence of the Emperor Claudius, he expressed his surprise that men possessed of such magnificence at home should envy him his humble cottage in Britain. Claudius received him graciously, restored him to liberty; and is even said to have sent him back home to rule as chief over a portion of Britain, but subject to the Roman authority.

When the great Roman Empire fell to pieces, and its legions were withdrawn from Britain, our borderland was again the scene of many battles between the various British factions, and afterwards between the Britons and Saxons.

After some 450 years of Roman rule the Britons, from a rude race who clothed themselves with skins, and painted their bodies blue, had developed into a cultured people, but this civilization was destined to be arrested and partially destroyed by the Saxons and the Picts and Scots, in the same manner as the Roman civilization on the continent was wrecked by the Goths, Visigoths, Huns and Vandals.

The barbarian hordes had sacked Rome in A.D. 410, under Alaric, King of the Visigoths, and about the same time Britain was invaded by the Picts and Scots. A Roman legion was sent to their assistance under Aetius in 411, but it was soon withdrawn; and the Roman sway in Britain ended about 426. For the next 40 years the British were engaged in trying to keep back the Picts and Scots, and in wars between their own factions. There is much uncertainty in the history of this period, but it appears that about A.D. 445, Vortigern was elected Over-King of Britain, and being opposed to the Roman British party, he called in the Saxons to assist his faction, and to drive back the invading Picts and Scots.

The Saxons soon tried to become masters of the British; and Vortigern, who had married the Saxon princess Rowena, became obnoxious to his people, who turned their eyes towards the chief of the rival party, Ambrosius Aurelianus. He was probably of Roman extraction, and was first heard of at the court of Aldroen, King of Armorica (Brittany), from whence he returned to help his countrymen to drive out the Saxons and depose Vortigern.

In A.D. 466, both parties joined together for a short time to oppose the Saxons, and the Roman road from Chester to Caerleon,

which passes near Wigmore, and along the valley below Croft Ambury, was agreed between them as the boundary of their respective territories. The camp on Croft Ambury is believed to have derived its name from Ambrosius, and to have been constructed by him about this date as an outpost overlooking his frontier—the Roman road below.

Camden says King Vortigern retired into the mountains around Builth and "there also by the permission of Aurelius Ambrosius his son Pascentius governed." Camden also says that near Rhayader is a "vast wilderness rendered very dismal by many crooked ways and high mountains, into which that bane of his country King Vortigern (whose very memory the Britons curse) withdrew himself when he had at last repented of his abominable conduct in calling in the Anglo-Saxons. But God's vengeance pursuing him he was consumed by lightning, together with his City of Caer Gwortigern, which he had built for his refuge."

Prince Arthur is said to have been with the army of Ambrosius, and to have succeeded his father as King of Damnonia (Cornwall). In A.D. 476 Ambrosius was acknowledged sole monarch of Britain, and in the same year he was acclaimed Emperor of the West and assumed the purple. Odoacer, King of the Heruli was then in possession of the city of the seven hills, which had so long been mistress of the world, but there does not appear to have been any rival Emperor to the British King Ambrosius. In the same year he created Prince Arthur a Patrician, and the wars with the Saxons and renegade Britons were continued, but in 508, Cerdic defeated the British and Ambrosius was slain.

Arthur was then elected monarch, and the wonderful deeds of the Knights of the Round Table began. Arthur was slain in 542, and the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia founded in 584. The date of the founding of the fortress of Wigmore is lost in the mists of antiquity. The Anglo Saxon Chronicles state that it was repaired by Edward the Elder in 941, after the Danes had been repulsed and driven from the neighbourhood. Its ancient names of Wicinga-mere seems to belong to this period. Even before the Kingdom of Mercia was established, bands of roving Saxons from the neighbouring Kingdom of Wessex infested the Roman roads across the border, and as Wigmore is close to the Roman road from Chester to Caerleon, these Saxon invaders may have erected a fortified place there before Credda finally defeated the British, and formed Mercia into a Kingdom.

One account states it was built by Ethelfleda daughter of Alfred the Great, who married Etheldred, Earl of Mercia, and that



it was repaired by Fitz-Osbern, one of the Confessor's Normans; but it was undoubtedly repaired by Edward the Elder in 921.

The early Saxon Mote Castles were, it should be remembered, nothing like castles as we now think of them. These fortresses were merely mounds protected with earthworks and stockades of timber, and, even after the Norman Conquest, castles were described as being *dug* and not as being *built*. These stockaded defences were very common on the borders, and the numerous places still called "Stocking," Stoke and Stockton probably mark the sites of early stockaded camps.

The first attempt at *building* a castle was in the form of the Norman Keep with very thick walls, a narrow entrance some distance from the ground, to which access was obtained by means of a draw-bridge or steps, removable at will. The various floors were approached by a winding staircase, which could easily be defended by a few men-at-arms, while the top of the tower and the small loopholes on the floors below were manned by the defenders, whose advantage over the besiegers was so great, that a tower of the kind could hardly be taken except through treachery or famine. In later times "Curtains" were added from tower to tower, and the Edwardian castle was the result.

In the days of the Confessor, Wigmore was held by Edric Sylvaticus, the Saxon Earl of Shrewsbury, and, at the Conquest, Edric allied himself with the Welsh, and opposed the Norman invaders. He was defeated by Ranulph or Ralph de Mortimer, or de Mortuo Mari, and Wigmore and the adjacent country were given to the latter by King William.

The history of Wigmore for the next two or three centuries is practically a history of the noble family of Mortimer. Roger de Mortuo Mari who fought at Hastings was descended from the niece of Gonora, wife of Richard, Duke of Normandy. Ralph de Mortimer, his son, was the first Lord of Wigmore, and possessed 130 Manors, and the castles of Wigmore, Cleobury, and Bridgnorth.

William Rufus resided at Wigmore Castle for a considerable time when he was endeavouring to reduce the Welsh to obedience. A small college of canons was founded at Wigmore by Ralph de Mortimer about 1100, and a little later Sir Oliver de Merlimond, Chief Steward to the Lord of Wigmore, founded a cell at Shobdon for two or three monks from the Abbey of St. Victor at Paris.

This may be considered the first step towards the foundation of the great Abbey of Wigmore, for after moving from place to place the monks at length settled at Wigmore, and commenced building

the Abbey about 1179. These religious Cells of the Lugg Valley call for more than a passing notice. It seems almost certain that there were other small communities of monks and nuns in this valley. Leland describes Limebrook as "a place of nunnes within two miles of Wigmore." A monastery or cell is said to have existed at or near Limebrook, which was subject to Aveny in Normandy, but it does not appear in the list of religious houses compiled in the reign of Henry III, which we shall presently notice, and the only traces left of these places are the ruins at Limebrook, which are probably those of the Priory of Nuns, unless they are those of the Priory of White Canons, described below as Prioratus Wyggemor. In Henry III's list the following appear under the head of Hereford

Abbatia, Wiggemore, S. Jacobi Canonici nigri  
Prioratus, Lingebrake, S.—— Moniales Abbae.\*

Under Salopessyre appears also :—

Prioratus, Wyggemor, Canonici albi.

The last named seems to shew that there was a priory at or near Wigmore, composed of *white* canons of the same order as the Ladies of Limebrook, while the order founded by Sir Oliver de Merlimond, and who subsequently built Wigmore Abbey were Augustinian or *black* canons.

Hugh de Mortimer quarrelled with Oliver de Merlimond, and the monks suffered. They were deprived of Shobdon, and other of their possessions, and although Shobdon was restored to them they decided to move nearer to the river and settled at "Eye," near Aymestrey. This was undoubtedly the place we now call Lye, the Norman-French form of which is L'Eye, and the place has no connection whatever with Eye, near Berrington, which has erroneously been supposed by some to be the case, and has puzzled many people.

Hugh de Lacy advised Hugh de Mortimer not to allow the monks to finish the Church of Aymestrey, which they had commenced to build, because they might, at some time, give an entrance to his lands to his enemies; so they were compelled to move to Wigmore; but before they migrated, their Prior was consecrated Abbot at the Church of Aymestrey. The cells of the monks were probably in or near the present Church of Wigmore, and indeed, even now there are some traces of this on the outside North wall of the Church.

\* I have ascertained that Limebrook Priory was dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr.—R.H.G.

Finding they were too far from water, and that the ascent to the Church was laborious, they looked about for a more suitable place; and at last fixed upon a site about a mile distant, on which they commenced building the Abbey.

An interesting question which I am quite unable to solve is: What became of the white friars who seem to have had a priory at or near Wigmore before the Augustinians arrived on the scene? It seems from the records that the Augustinians who came to Wigmore from Shobdon, Lye, and Aymestrey, and who afterwards built the Abbey, came to Wigmore Church in the first place. If so, did the white friars serve a chapel in the castle, and were they the small college of canons first founded by Ralph de Mortimer in 1100, or did the "Prioratus Wyggemor" of Henry III's record refer to a priory somewhere in the Lugg Valley, and may it not have been that which is said to have been subject to Aveny in Normandy?

Hugh de Mortimer, 2nd Lord of Wigmore, son of Ralph, was the founder of Wigmore Abbey. He refused to obey King Henry's summons, was besieged in his castle of Bridgnorth, and deprived for a time of the castles of Wigmore, Cleobury, and Bridgnorth. He died at Cleobury in 1185, after professing himself a monk, and was buried in Wigmore Abbey.

Roger, 3rd Lord of Wigmore, had several wars with the Welsh and supported the King in the Baronial wars. He died in 1215.

Hugh, 4th Lord of Wigmore, his son, also supported John and Henry III against the Barons. Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, attended a conference at Wigmore. Hugh died in 1237 from wounds received at a tournament at Wigmore.

Ralph, 5th Lord of Wigmore, brother of Hugh, built Knucklas and Cefnlys Castles. He married the daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and widow of Reginald de Braose, Lord of Brecknock, and died in 1246.

Roger, 6th Lord of Wigmore. Llewellyn ap Gryffyd took his castles of Radnor, Builth, Melenydd, and Cefnlys. He was a partisan of Henry III, fought for him at Northampton and Lewes, and aided Prince Edward, with the assistance of the Lord of Croft, to escape from Hereford to Wigmore. He fought at Evesham under Prince Edward, when Simon de Montfort was defeated and slain; and had the estates of the Earl of Hereford, who was attainted for treason, assigned to him as a reward. In all these battles our marchmen proved themselves to be stout men-at-arms, and especially distinguished themselves as archers. Roger died in 1282, and was buried at Wigmore Abbey.

Edmund, 7th Lord of Wigmore, his son, slew Llewellyn ap Gryffyd, and sent his head to the King. He died in 1304, from a wound received at Builth in another Welsh skirmish, and was buried at Wigmore Abbey. He was the builder of Kingsland Church, and his burial at Wigmore Abbey effectually disposes of the theory that the Volka Chamber at Kingsland Church was the burial place of the founder.

Roger, 8th Lord of Wigmore, created Earl of March in 1328, married Johannah de Genneville, by which means he became possessed of Ludlow Castle, which had descended from the Dinans and de Lacies. He was appointed Governor of Ireland, but rebelled against Edward II. At the battle of Boroughbridge in 1322 many of the Lords Marchers were slain or taken prisoners, and Roger de Mortimer was committed to the Tower of London in close custody. By drugging the constable of the Tower, Stephen de Segrave, he managed to escape to France, where he was met by the queen Isabella. His intimacy with the queen, and their return to England, belong more to general than to local history. One of his principal adherents was Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Hereford, the author of the famous (or infamous) message:—

"Edwardum occidere nolite timere bonum est,"

the sense of which is completely altered by the punctuation. The king was soon a prisoner in the hands of Mortimer and the queen, and within a short time deposed and finally murdered at Berkeley castle in 1327. Mortimer was created Earl of March by Edward III. (or his mother under whose influence he was) about 1328. His ambition was now unbounded and his conduct was so outrageous that his own son Geoffrey called him "the King of Folly." In the castle of Nottingham however he was surprised by King Edward III., and in 1331 was hanged in London as a traitor.

The Earldom of March was attainted, but the succession devolved upon Edmund his son, who was a minor. If he is considered to have succeeded to the family honours, which were in abeyance, he would be the ninth Lord of Wigmore and second Earl of March, but as he died a minor, soon after his father's execution, his name is usually passed over.

Roger 9th Lord of Wigmore, and 2nd Earl of March, was only 3 years old at the death of Edmund, when he was placed in ward of the Earl of Northampton. Edward III reversed the attainder when Roger was in his 23rd year, in 1352, and he was one of the original 26 Knights of the Garter. He was also created Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle. He commanded the English in Burgundy, where he died in 1360.

Edmund, 10th Lord of Wigmore, and 3rd Earl of March, his son, was made Lieutenant of Ireland, although a minor. He died at Cork in 1381, and was buried at Wigmore Abbey. He had married Philippa, the heiress of Clarence, and so gave to his descendants a right to the throne of England, which was ultimately to be fought out in the Wars of the Roses.

Lionel, Duke of Clarence, whose heiress his wife was, had married the heiress of Ulster, so the son of Edmund de Mortimer and Philippa of Clarence was heir of Plantagenet, Mortimer, and De Burgh. The following will shew the succession to the Earldom of Ulster :—

Walter de Burgh m. a daughter of Hugh de Lacy, and had a son Richard, Earl of Ulster. Richard left : 1 : Richard (died without issue) : 2 : William m. Elizabeth de Clare, and their daughter Elizabeth m. Lionel, Duke of Clarence. Their daughter Philippa m. Edmund de Mortimer.

The offspring of the marriage of Edmund and Philippa was :—

1. Roger de Mortimer.
2. Sir Edmund de Mortimer, m. a daughter of Owen Glendower.
3. John de Mortimer, executed 1402.
4. Elizabeth, m. Hotspur.
5. Philippa, m. (1) The Earl of Pembroke. (2) The Earl of Arundel.

Roger, 11th Lord of Wigmore, and 4th Earl of March, was legitimate heir to the Crown, and was so recognised by Richard II, and by Parliament. He was slain in Ireland in 1398, and buried at Wigmore Abbey.

There should now, by right of blood, have been a Royal House of Mortimer.

Edmund, the 12th Lord of Wigmore, and 5th Earl of March, was the rightful King of England, but the crown was usurped by Henry IV. Edmund and his brother Roger were kept prisoners at Windsor, but they managed to escape, and started towards the Marches of Wales, doubtless intending to try to reach Wigmore. They were soon captured, and again confined in prison, but on the death of Henry IV, his more generous son Henry V employed Edmund in Normandy; and Henry VI made him Lieutenant of Ireland. He died in 1425, being the last male representative of the Mortimers of Wigmore, who was descended from Philippa, heiress of Clarence.

During the imprisonment of the young Earl of March his uncle, Sir Edmund Mortimer, held the castle of Wigmore and his other domains, and when Owen Glendower invaded the Marches in 1402 Sir Edmund Mortimer was his chief opponent. After a series of battles between Knighton and Leominster, notably at Pilleth and at Eardisland, Sir Edmund was defeated and taken prisoner and confined in a dungeon at Leominster, which town had been captured by Owen Glendower. Shakespeare refers to the personal combat between Mortimer and Glendower in Henry IV. Part 1, Act 1, Scene III, but whether this final combat was at Pilleth or Eardisland is uncertain.

It was the refusal of Henry IV. to allow Mortimer to be ransomed which was the cause of the combination of the Mortimers, the Percies, and Glendower, which ended in the battle of Shrewsbury.

Historians have almost hopelessly mixed up the identity of Sir Edmund Mortimer with that of his nephew the young Edmund, Earl of March, who was kept in captivity by Henry IV., and who was rightful King of England.

Edmund, Earl of March, who would have been King Edmund I. of England if Henry IV. had not usurped the throne, and who would have been the first monarch of the House of Mortimer, died as Lieutenant of Ireland in 1425. The battle of Shrewsbury was really an attempt to restore the rightful king, the Earl of March, to the throne, and so was Bardolph's conspiracy, which was formed soon after, and which resulted in the execution of Scrope, Archbishop of York, Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marshal, the Lords Hastings and Faulconbridge and others.

Very little is known of Sir Edmund Mortimer after the battle of Shrewsbury, from which he seems to have escaped, but it is recorded that in 1405 he was with Glendower in the neighbourhood of Leominster, when Henry, Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V. defeated the Welsh and their allies.

Sir Edmund Mortimer died at Harlech in 1409. Probably for the greater part of the preceding 7 years he was, like his ally Owen Glendower, a homeless fugitive.

Anne, the sister of Edmund the last Earl of March, had married Richard, Earl of Cambridge, 2nd son of Edmund Langley, Duke of York, who was executed for conspiracy not long before the battle of Agincourt. This conspiracy had for its object the dethronement of Henry V., and the placing of the Earl of March on the throne. Whether the latter was privy to it is uncertain, but his name is on the list of judges who tried the conspirators.



The son of Anne and Richard, Earl of Cambridge, was Richard, who became Duke of York on the death of his late father's elder brother, the Duke of York and Earl of Rutland, at Agincourt in 1415. Anne is by most authorities called the heiress of Mortimer, and, if she survived her brother Edmund, she would have been *de jure* Queen of England, but it is stated in *Archæologia* XLVI., p. 318—that, when the Earl of Cambridge was executed in 1415, he was married to Maud Clifford, and if that is correct, Anne must have died before her brother, and the White Rose succession would have passed to her son Richard, who was afterwards killed at Wakefield, and who was the father of Edward IV.

Roger Mortimer, 11th Lord of Wigmore and 4th Earl of March, the *de jure* heir to the throne and the houses of Plantagenet. Clarence, De Burgh and Mortimer died in 1398 before Richard II., or, having been declared heir by King and Parliament, he would have succeeded to the throne. He married Eleanor, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Kent, and left:—(1) Edmund Mortimer born 1392 and died in 1424-5 leaving no issue. (2) Anne, heiress of Plantagenet, Clarence, De Burgh and Mortimer, who married Richard, Earl of Cambridge.

After the death of the Duke of York at Agincourt, the lines of Clarence and York were united, and the son of the Earl of Cambridge and Anne de Mortimer was White Rose heir to the crown. He was killed at Wakefield in 1460. His son Edward Plantagenet, the victor of the battle of Mortimer's Cross, became King under the title of Edward IV.

After many futile attempts to reconcile the Lancastrians and Yorkists, the first battle of St. Albans was fought on the 22nd May, 1455, in which the Duke of York was victorious, and Henry VI. was captured. This was followed by a temporary reconciliation, both parties proceeding publicly to St. Paul's Cathedral; the Duke of York escorting Queen Margaret, and the Earl of Salisbury walking hand in hand with the Duke of Somerset. This patched-up truce did not last long, and hostilities soon broke out again, the battle of Bloreheath being fought on September 23rd, 1459, in which the Yorkists under the Earl of Salisbury were victorious; and this was followed on Oct. 13th by the fiasco at Ludlow; when, owing to the desertion during the night of Sir Andrew Trollop, the marshal of the Yorkist army, who took with him all the veteran soldiers, the Duke of York and the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick had to secure their safety by a hasty flight, most of them finding their way to Calais, where the Duke of York's influence was supreme. Then came the battle of Northampton on July 10th, 1460—in which the Lancastrians were defeated by the Earl of Warwick and Edward

Earl of March, and Henry VI. was again taken prisoner—and Wakefield, on the last day of December, 1460, where the Yorkists were defeated, the Duke of York slain, and his son the Earl of Rutland murdered by the Lord Clifford after the battle was over. Anything like a full account of the battle of Mortimer's Cross is not possible within the limits of this paper, but a little consideration will prove that the position of the contending forces as stated by many writers must be wrong.

Edward Plantagenet—not Edward Mortimer—as he is described on the pedestal commemorating the battle, was Earl of March, and, after his father's death at Wakefield, Duke of York, and also heir of Plantagenet, Clarence, De Burgh and Mortimer. The male line of this branch of the family of Mortimer became extinct on the death of Edmund in 1425, and the succession devolved upon Anne de Mortimer\* who married Richard, Earl of Cambridge, whose son Richard Plantagenet, the father of Edward IV. was killed at Wakefield.

Edward was at Gloucester when he heard of his father's defeat and death at Wakefield, and his brother's murder, from whence he marched northwards, intending to check Queen Margaret's victorious army, and prevent her marching on London. He also hoped to join forces with his adherent the Earl of Warwick, but hearing that an army of Irish and North Welshmen under the Earl of Ormonde and the Earl of Pembroke was executing a flanking movement with the object of overwhelming his castles of Ludlow and Wigmore, breaking up the gathering of his followers in the Marches, and cutting him off from London, he faced about, and keeping in touch with Ludlow and Wigmore, the latter being held by his widowed mother, determined to give battle to Ormonde and Pembroke in his own March-land. It is this change of front which has caused so many errors in the description of the positions of the forces. When he turned to meet the Lancastrians his line of battle must have faced the South-west, his left wing on the Lugg, his front facing the Kington and Presteigne trackways from which the Lancastrians came down to the plain, and his right wing stretching from Mortimer's Rock, protecting Aymestrey, Wigmore, and the ford over the Lugg at Mortimer's Cross. The principal field of battle was between the Lugg and the Pinsley. The Lancastrians broke the wing of the Yorkists on the Shobdon side, and pursued them through Aymestrey almost as far as the walls of Wigmore Castle; but on their return they found that Edward's centre and left wing had been victorious, and another battle ensued, ending in the hopeless defeat of the Lancastrians, who were driven over

\* Or her son, if she predeceased her brother.



the Pinsley, and many of whom escaped into the mountains of Wales. Sir Owen Tudor and many others were taken prisoners and executed after the battle, in revenge for the Lancastrian excesses at Wakefield. Edward's victorious army marched to London, augmented by the troops of the Earl of Warwick, who had fled from the battle of St. Albans. The capital opened its gates to him, and he was immediately proclaimed King.

The old battle oak and Bluemantle cottages must have been well within the *Yorkist* lines. It is stated that before the battle, Edward sent a herald to the Earl of Pembroke, challenging him to decide the battle by single combat, and on his refusal, to bid him defiance. It is generally thought that "Bluemantle" is a great official, but in heraldry he belongs to the third class only, the first being the three Kings-at-arms, Garter, Clarencieux, and Norroy, the second the six heralds; and the third the four Pursuivants, Bluemantle, Rouge-dragon, Rouge-croix, and Portcullis. If Edward sent his Pursuivant Bluemantle to the Earl of Pembroke with the challenge from his pavilion near the battle oak, the origin of the unusual name of Bluemantle given to the old cottages is probably explained.

Heraldry was reduced to its present order under the Tudor sovereigns; but as early as 1425 the heralds were a body corporate, and it is unlikely that at any time Bluemantle was anything more than the title of an official below the rank of herald.

The battle of Mortimer's Cross, which was fought on Candlemas day 1461, was the first step towards the restoration of the elder branch of Plantagenet to the throne, and the accession of a king descended from the Herefordshire family of Mortimer.

Wigmore was from this time a royal barony, and is so still. When the Harley family was raised to the peerage, it is interesting to note that the title was Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, and Baron Harley of Wigmore Castle, not Baron Wigmore. Although the male line of the Mortimers became extinct at the death of Edmund in 1424, there were several collateral branches in the borderland and elsewhere in Tudor times, but without the Plantagenet blood, through which the throne of England was claimed, or doubtless they would have been relieved of their heads. Camden mentions a family of Mortimer in Norfolk whose arms differed from those of the Mortimers of Wigmore. In 1477 the honour, castle, and lordship of Wigmore were granted to Edward, Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward V. and they were held for a brief period in 1483 by Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, but as Buckingham was executed by order of Richard III. in the same year as this grant, Wigmore again reverted to the crown.

In early Tudor days the old border castles still flourished, but their end was drawing near.

Henry VIII suppressed the ancient Abbey of Wigmore, confiscated its endowments, and sold the church plate and jewels. Of this once magnificent Abbey, which ranked in size and wealth with Gloucester, Dore, Wenlock, Buildwas, and Shrewsbury, only the Grange barn remains. It was surrendered to the King's Commissioners on the 18th November, 1538, and recklessly destroyed. Amongst its possessions were the Churches of Meole Brace, Bucknell, Caynham, Kinlet, Leintwardine, Aymestrey and Cheilmers, the manor of Caynham; the town of Snyttton; the chapels of Downton Boriton, Elton and Leinthall; the mills of Leintwardine and Boriton the rents of Elton and Brinsop; the land of Newton; and the land at Wigmore called the Treasure of Mortimer. Its revenues would have been now as great as those of the See of Hereford, but not only was the income of the Abbey appropriated, but the church plate was sold; and many priceless records destroyed or lost. Dr. Dee in the year 1574 found the records of the Abbey lying in a heap in Wigmore Castle "rotting, spoyled and tossed in an old decayed chappell, not committed to any man's special charge, but three quarters of them I understand to have byn taken by diverse (eyther taylors or others) in tymes past." He petitioned Lord Burghley that he would send a letter to Mr. Harley, the Keeper of Wigmore Castle, giving him authority to examine and collect these records; but nothing further was heard of them, and they have been irretrievably lost.

Queen Elizabeth made a grant of Wigmore to two subjects named Meyrick and Lindley in 1595; and it was purchased by the family of Harley or Harlowe in 1601.

Sir Robert Harley the Parliamentary leader and iconoclast, the destroyer of stained glass windows, statuary and preaching crosses, (including St. Paul's Cross, London), was born at Wigmore Castle. When the civil war between King and Parliament broke out, Herefordshire was overwhelmingly Royalist; and Sir Robert Harley, finding he had not sufficient force to garrison Brampton Bryan and Wigmore Castles, caused the latter to be dismantled, so that it should not become a Cavalier fortress. In the latter stages of the war, after the king's defeat at Naseby, it was repaired sufficiently to be used as a Parliamentary outpost.

King Charles I. slept at Wigmore Grange one night during his fearful march from Cardiff over the Welsh hills, via Caerphilly, Brecon, Old Radnor, Presteigne, and Ludlow, to the relief of Chester.

This was the best accommodation he could find in the neighbourhood.

What was left of Brampton Bryan castle was held for the Parliament. Croft castle had been almost destroyed by the Royalists (after the death of Sir William Croft in 1645) "lest the Parliament should garrison it," as the Harleian MSS. State; and Wigmore Castle had been dismantled in 1643, so that the Royalists should not have it. Wigmore Castle was for a time used as a prison, and later still as a *quarry*, where stone for building could be more easily obtained than from the limestone quarries of the neighbourhood.

What was once the home of one of the most powerful of the nobles of the March-land, and which had been for centuries the domain of a family which should, by right of blood, have given England a Royal House of Mortimer, and a Herefordshire King at the death of Richard II., is fast disappearing from the face of the earth; and if something is not speedily done to prevent it there will soon be no more trace of Wigmore Castle than there is of the grand old Augustinian Abbey of Wigmore.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1908.

The annual Spring meeting of the members of the Woolhope Field Club was held on Thursday afternoon, Sir James Rankin presiding. There were also present Captain Stuart, Revs. A. Pope, H. M. Evill, A. Ley, and C. H. Stoker, Dr. Durham, Messrs. H. C. Beddoe, T. Hutchinson, C. P. Bird, A. B. Farn, P. L. Earle, H. C. Moore, R. Clarke, W. E. H. Clarke, J. B. Pilley, and J. Cockcroft.

Mr. BEDDOE (treasurer) presented a statement of accounts, which showed that the balance in hand of £141 1s. 7d. in 1906 had been increased to £203 15s. 7d., the total receipts having been £259 12s. 1d.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Treasurer.

Mr. HUTCHINSON seconded, and this was carried.

Mr. BEDDOE said that was his 18th year as treasurer.

Mr. PILLEY (assistant secretary) said there were 246 members' names on the books, including 10 elected during the year, which was a decrease of three on the previous year. The obituary list contained the names of the Rev. Charles Burrough, who had been a member for 26 years and president in 1884, Mr. Philip Baylis, who joined the Club in 1891 and filled the presidential chair as recently as 1905, Mr. J. E. P. Davies, and Mr. Edwin Stephens. There had been 14 resignations, including that of the Rev. W. D. V. Duncombe, a member for 30 years, and the Rev. E. J. Holloway, who was elected a member in 1879.

The report was adopted.

The following dates and places were fixed for the field days:—May 26th, Mayhill; July 2nd, Brecon (for *Caer Bannium*); July 30th, Water-break-its-neck, near New Radnor; August 27th, Crasswall Priory.

The Rev. J. McCormick, of Wellington, Salop, was elected a member of the society, and the Rev. A. B. Purchase, of Penzance, and Mr. T. Leyland Parr, of West View, Bodenham Road, Hereford, were nominated as members.

## SIR JAMES RANKIN AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

Sir JAMES RANKIN, in his presidential address to the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, referred at length to the work done during the past year by the Club. He then went on to show how best to utilise the energies of the members in order to do the most useful service to the cause of knowledge. Sir James remarked: This Club is a Field Club, and although it is very far from the aim and desire of the Club to limit the aim of the individual members of the Club to observations in the field, yet as a body of workers the bulk of its corporate work will always be field work, or more or less detailed observation rather than deductive generalisations.

I have already alluded to and urged the necessity of that branch of entomology which investigates insects which attack agricultural and horticultural products. Advances have been made in this particular study of late years, yet the field is still open, and there is plenty to do in it for any number of observers. The production of fruit has of late years become so much more of a business than it used to be, that it is all important that we should possess a proper and intelligent knowledge how to combat the insect pests which so freely attack it, and not only the pests, but we should also have a competent knowledge of how Nature herself works in the way of keeping a balance between the various species. The members of the Woolhope Club can do much good by encouraging and stimulating young students of Nature to undertake this work.

Another subject of the deepest interest to all, and one that requires frequent and constant observations, is the subject of meteorology. The subject can never in all probability be brought up to the position of an exact science, but by careful organisation and arrangement of observation, a great deal can be done; also a careful record of temperatures at the different periods of the year, when the various trees and herbs come into leaf and flowers or ripen their fruit, would afford a very interesting record of the effect of climate upon the various trees, shrubs and flowers. Also the influence of local topography, shelter and sunshine and rainfall should be studied, so as to determine how far the effect of each factor goes in determining the climates, and there should be as far as possible a communication between all meteorologists, so that each one can know what is being done in various parts of the country.

Perhaps no more interesting observations can be made than those which are concerned with electricity. There can be, I imagine, little doubt that in the future of this planet, what we call electricity

is destined to play a very important part, and it seems likely that when the coal of this world is exhausted, electricity will be the force that is the most likely to be the one which will supply our needs in the direction of both light and heat. The great problem to be solved is how to turn this great force in nature to good account.

The question of scientific education now in everybody's mind and on everybody's lips, can be and should be greatly advanced by a society like the Woolhope Club, for such a society is a nucleus for persons really desirous of furthering knowledge, to gather round and promote love of scientific methods and scientific accuracy, and the wider such a society of willing workers can spread the better for the interests of education. Organisation and co-ordination are words used in every address concerned with education, and sometimes it is not very clear how these high-sounding ideas are to be brought into effective operation; but to my mind, one of the greatest uses to which the Woolhope Club can put its varied talents, so that the greatest amount of educational value can be obtained, is to develop a perfected organisation, which should make use of all educational tools which come within its grasp, and I need hardly tell the members of the Woolhope Club that these additional tools in this county, and indeed everywhere, are becoming much more numerous under the auspices of the Higher Education Committee of the County Council, which, as no doubt is well known by my hearers, is endeavouring to promote higher and more scientific teaching in a variety of ways, and although every student who may pass through the courses of the secondary schools, or the lectures of the science and art classes, may not be imbued with a love of scientific research, yet we may fairly hope that a good many will be so, and it is to these that the members of the Woolhope Society should turn their attention, and endeavour to lead them to give a portion of their time and talents to some kind of scientific work. I would venture to offer this piece of advice to my friends of the Woolhope Club, that they do not wait for the advent or manifestation of some brilliant genius on the part of their young friends, for if such is there it will pretty surely make itself known; but that they should try and induce more ordinary mortals to take up some useful line of scientific investigation or literary work, for many a student would gladly do so if he received a directing impulse and a little encouragement, whereas for the want of it he may become useless and idle.

I would venture to suggest that an enlarged committee representative of different parts of the county should be formed, whose duty it should be to keep its eye upon promising observers, and to stimulate scientific work in their respective neighbourhoods, and to report anything of interest to the Central Committee.



It had been my intention to have made a brief resumé of the advance of scientific knowledge since I had the honour of being your president in the year 1869, but unfortunately for me I have been somewhat an invalid ever since the beginning of February, now more than two months, and have only just been allowed to get about my usual avocations, and have found it impossible to carry out my intentions.

The theory of evolution, which was in 1869 taking hold of the public imagination, has now, I think, become the almost universally accepted doctrine of the method by which Nature ordinarily works out her problems. Great advances in the method of applying electricity have been made, and the discovery of wireless telegraphy has completely changed the position of the nautical world. The discovery of the substance called "radium" seems fraught with possibilities almost unlimited, and the discovery of "argon" in the atmosphere by Lord Rayleigh has shown to scientists that it is indeed rash to be too confident that they have ever found out the whole truth, and it certainly confirms me in the accuracy of the words with which I find I concluded my address in 1869, namely that "the wonders and glories of creation are unexhausted and inexhaustible."

Mr. BEDDOE thanked Sir James for acting as president, and also for his extremely interesting paper.

Mr. MOORE seconded, and said it was Sir James who provided the club with their habitation, together with the Free Library and Museum. The city owed a great deal to the Woolhope Club, for it was really owing to the club's want of rooms that led to the initiation of the Free Library scheme.

The proposition was carried, and in reply Sir JAMES paid a compliment to the officers of the club for the assistance rendered to him. He said he had enjoyed his year of office, and congratulated the club on having elected Mr. Moore as the president for the coming season.

#### ON THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE OLD RED SANDSTONE OF HEREFORDSHIRE.

BY H. C. SORBY, LL.D., F.R.S.

Some few years ago I devoted a portion of the autumn of several seasons to the study of the Old Red Sandstone in the Counties of Hereford, Monmouth and Brecon, my chief object being to as-

certain the character and directions of the currents which existed when the rock was formed. To anyone familiar with the rocks in the neighbourhood of Sheffield, some of the results were disappointing; since, instead of good exposures, often less than a mile apart, with well-developed structures, the exposures are few and far between, and the current structures often obscure. Altered circumstances made it impossible for me to continue this work, but I had been able to learn enough to give some idea of what might be the result of more complete study. Some of the most promising districts are difficult of access.

In my numerous published papers I have pointed out how the direction of the currents can be learned from different structures of the rocks, and that in some cases they ran only from one side, and in others, first from one side and then from the other, like tidal currents.

The districts studied in more or less detail are those of Leominster, Hereford, Ross, Abergavenny, Hay and Brecon. In a number of cases the current structures are so few and badly developed that the results can be looked upon as only imperfect, but by combining together those in nearly the same district, the mean may not be far wrong. In the majority of cases there seems to be fairly good evidence of oscillating currents, though not in equal amounts from each side; but it is doubtful whether they were due to genuine tidal action or to that of wind. If the open water extended much farther in one direction than perpendicular to it, variation in the winds would cause the current to move from one quarter or the opposite much more than from any other. Such an action would agree fairly well with the badly developed current structures in the district under consideration.

Judging from the structure of the rocks in the places examined, the water was often of considerable depth, and the current sufficiently strong near the surface to carry along sand of moderate sized grains, but not sufficiently rapid at the bottom to materially sort it, or to give rise to current structures, *i.e.*, at the bottom was seldom so much as half a foot per second, deposition taking place from above with little drifting along the bottom. This is well shown at the excellent section at Cwm Yoy in the Llanthony Valley. In some other localities the evidence is defective.

In considering the direction of the currents I will for simplicity give in each case that from only one side, but it must be remembered that, as a general rule, this was mixed up with one from the opposite quarter. My results are as follows:—



In the north west district from N. 22 W.  
 " north east " " S. 56 W.  
 " south " " N. 61 E.  
 " west " " N. 20 E.

Laying these directions down on paper, it was seen that they indicate a sort of curve, pointing to N. 39 W. on the north side, and to S. 40 W. on the south-west, as though the more open water extended to the N.W. and S.W., but how far it is impossible to say. If so, the boundaries probably in some way or other trended on the northern part of the east side to north-west, and on the southern part to the west; and on the west side from north-east to south-west; these results being only approximate. They however agree fairly well with some leading features of the district, corresponding on the east side with the curve of the Severn valley, and on the west side with the direction of the Welsh mountains. It would however require much more study to learn where the actual boundaries were. These conclusions must however be looked upon as only an attempt to make the best of imperfect data. Their imperfection is, however, an important fact, since it shows that the current at the bottom was seldom more than half a foot per second.

It is interesting to compare the general structure of the Old Red Sandstone with that of the New Red, the difference apparently depending to a large extent on the amount of sorting and drifting by bottom current. I find that the mean percentage of empty spaces in the New Red Sandstone from Maer in Staffordshire is about 25, which corresponds closely with the theoretical Minimum for closely packed grains of sand of nearly equal size. On the contrary, the mean for a number of the best building stones from the Old Red in Herefordshire is 18½ per cent., which agrees with greater variation in the size of the grains, and with deeper water and less sorting by a bottom current; thus confirming the conclusion drawn from the current structures.

#### A NOTE ON AN OBSCURE EPISODE IN THE HISTORY OF ST. GUTHLAC'S PRIORY, HEREFORD.

BY THE REV. A. T. BANNISTER, M.A.

"To the Sheriff of Hereford. Order to take into the king's hands without delay the priory of Hereford, and all its possessions and appurtenances, moveable and immoveable, as the king understands that contention has arisen between brother William de

Irby, prior of the aforesaid priory, acknowledging the priory to be of the foundation of the alms of the king's progenitors, and that he holds the priory of the king's advowson, and brother Thomas de Burghill, who has intruded himself into the priory, which he claims to hold of the advowson and foundation of others than the king's progenitors, by which contention the priory is so much destroyed and impoverished that its goods are insufficient to maintain the charges and works of piety ordained for the souls of the king's Ancestors, for which purpose the priory was founded and annexed to the Abbey of Gloucester, which is of the foundation of the king's ancestors. Worcester, Jan. 6th, 1322."

The above quotation from the Calendar of the Close Rolls is well known and has often been referred to. But no account has hitherto appeared in print of the course of events which led up to the issuing of the writ, and it is only recently that I have come across sufficient manuscript material to enable me to make clear to myself the grounds of the dispute, the details of its course, and its ending.

William de Irby had been cellarer of the Abbey of St. Peter's, Gloucester, of which house St. Guthlac's was a "cell." He would seem, even at Gloucester, to have got into difficulties over his accounts. (See Glouc. Cart. [Rolls Series] I. 152). But shortly after September, 1316 (when he was still at Gloucester) he secured the appointment of Prior of St. Guthlac's. It would almost seem that the moral state of the Priory was already not what it should have been, when Irby came to be Prior. But, in any case, by his dissolute life he soon brought St. Guthlac's into very evil repute indeed, while at the same time his mismanagement of the temporalities caused serious financial embarrassment. Adam de Orleton, who had been appointed Bishop of Hereford in 1317, and was already taking in hand a vigorous reform of all that was wrong in the Diocese, announced, early in 1318, his intention of paying an official visitation to the Priory. But the Prior, pleading that St. Guthlac's was "exempt," refused to admit the Bishop. Orleton was not a man to be turned back from his purpose, and, while staying at the Papal Court in Avignon next year, he obtained from the Pope a faculty "to exercise his authority as Ordinary over the religious of St. Guthlac's and other Priories under St. Peter's, Gloucester, exempt and non-exempt."

Armed with this faculty, the Bishop determined to take in hand a thorough reformation of the house. On Sept. 26, 1321, he writes to the Archdeacon of Hereford as follows:—(I translate with a little freedom, but with substantial accuracy) "Constant reports are reaching our ears that the Priory of St. Guthlac's (by

the fault and insolence of brother William de Irby, the Prior of the same, who, altogether casting aside the duties of a monk, and treading under foot the observance of the rule, leads a dissolute life outside the Priory with secular persons, and, negligent and careless in the governance of the Priory, wickedly squanders and consumes its goods) is so reduced in things spiritual and temporal alike that, unless sound and speedy help is brought, it will scarcely be able to rise again. Wherefore we, not only in the discharge of our duty as Bishop, but also by direct mandate of the Pope, intend personally to visit the said Priory on Oct. 5th next, to correct and reform therein all that we see to need correction and reform, alike in head and members. We therefore Commission you peremptorily to cite the said Prior and the monks of the said Priory, that they present themselves on the above-mentioned day in full chapter of the same, to do and receive what justice shall advise."

Strangely enough, the Orleton Register, which contains very full accounts of the visitation and reform of Wigmore, Abergavenny, Chirbury, and other monastic houses, says nothing more concerning the visitation of St. Guthlac's. As we shall see, the Register and other papers of the Bishop some three years later fell into the hands of Irby and his friends. A circumstance which very possibly explains the facts that folio 69 of the Register is missing, and that there is no mention of the reform of St. Guthlac's. It is clear, however, that the Bishop, on his own authority, without consulting the parent house at Gloucester, deposed William de Irby from his office, and appointed brother Thomas de Burghill as Prior.

This Visitation of St. Guthlac's, as is mentioned above, was made on Oct. 25th, 1321. Before the following Christmas, the Mortimers were in arms against the King, or rather against his hated favourites, the Despensers, and Bishop Orleton, rightly or wrongly, supported them in their struggle to throw off the Despenser rule. The New Year found King Edward at Worcester, trying to force the passage of the Severn, which was defended by the Mortimers and John Giffard. To Worcester the deposed Prior betook himself, confident of a ready hearing for any complaint against the rebel Bishop. Hence the issue, on Jan 6th, 1322, of the writ which is quoted at the head of this paper.

After the rebellion had been crushed out at Boroughbridge on March 16th, a hollow peace was patched up between the Bishop and the King: but things at St. Guthlac's were left in a very unsettled state. The temporalities were in the sheriff's hands and the Bishop professed to recognise Thomas de Burghill as Prior, and, in his letters, always refers to Irby as pretender "*qui se gerit pro priore Sancti Guthlaci*." But, relying on the King's

protection, Irby still clung to his office. A bitter quarrel followed, in which, as was usual in those days, violent measures were resorted to. The Prior had relatives as reckless and unscrupulous as himself: and in the following May, while the Bishop was absent for the meeting of Parliament at York, John, Richard, and Thomas Irby made a raid upon the episcopal Manors of Ross and Upton (Bishop), driving away 2 horses, 120 oxen, 240 sheep, and many other animals, carrying off quantities of wheat, oats, and other produce, and for 15 days charcoal-burning in the Bishop's woods, the total damage being assessed at £240. Orleton, on his return, promptly excommunicated the offenders, and they were summoned to appear before the Justices of the King at York, in July. But, though I have had the *Coram Rege* and other likely Rolls carefully searched, no account of the trial can be found.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs continued for the next two years, relations between the Bishop and the Prior becoming still more strained, if that were possible. In February, 1323, the Bishop, passing through Gloucester, tried to induce the Abbot of St Peter's to settle the matter by recalling Irby to the parent house and appointing a new Prior, whom he offered to recognise at once. But the Abbot, resenting probably Orleton's appointment of Burghill two years before, took no action in the matter; and at length in March, 1324, came the Bishop's trial for his share in the rebellion, and the confiscation of his temporalities by the King. Stringent orders were issued that all the Bishop's castles, manors, and lands were to be siezed into the king's hands within 15 days from Easter. Grasping his opportunity, Prior Irby secured from the King his own appointment as sequestrator.

But, though the Bishop had enemies at Court, he had a host of zealous friends in his own Diocese. And Irby found the work of taking possession of his enemy's *temporalia* to be no light one. Everywhere the Bishop's friends, organized by his brothers, John and Thomas de Orleton, stole for him his own goods, systematically visiting the various manors, and driving off the horses, oxen, cows, sheep, and other animals. At Ross, in April, the Prior came upon the raiders, and was very roughly handled by them, narrowly escaping with his life. For this assault eleven of the ringleaders were put upon their trial.

For the next two years the Bishop was all but an outlaw. Yet he steadily went on with the work of his diocese, and at once commenced a new visitation. In the summer of 1324 he was in the church at Ross, celebrating mass, when Irby, enraged at the Bishop's daring to enter one of his sequestered manors, burst into the church,

and before the congregation "blasphemously reviled the Bishop, though clad in his pontifical robes to the grave scandal of Christian people." For this outrage the Bishop at once pronounced against him the sentence of major excommunication. Irby appealed to the Court of Canterbury, and the case was tried before the Dean of Arches, who decided in the Bishop's favour. Thereupon he once again excommunicated Irby, who was driven at length humbly to sue for absolution, which the Bishop, with some reluctance, was compelled to give.

Everyone knows how, in Nov., 1326, Bishop Orleton returned in triumph to Hereford, with the Queen and the young Prince Edward, who stayed a month with him at the palace, while the King was sent as a prisoner to Kenilworth. We may perhaps regret that the Bishop did not show a lofty magnanimity towards his old enemy; but truth compels us to state that Orleton seized and threw Prior Irby into the episcopal prison, and we hear no more of the dispute concerning St. Guthlac's. Whether the unfortunate ex-Prior ever came out of his prison I have not been able to discover. But next year Bishop Orleton was translated to Worcester, and we may hope that on that occasion, the prisoner was allowed to "purge himself," and so recover his liberty. He never, in any case, returned to St Guthlac's.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FIRST FIELD MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 1908.

LONGHOPE, MAY HILL, AND NEWENT.

An enjoyable outing, and a profitable one, both from a health giving and a students' point of view, was experienced by the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club on Tuesday, the occasion being the first field meeting of the present season, and the ground covered the Longhope, May Hill, and Newent districts. The day was principally confined to geology, although botany came in for a little attention, whilst the walk was a glorious one, the hot rays of the sun being tempered by clouds which conduced to free action. Longhope was reached at 10.43 a.m., and en route the conversation centred on the enforced absence of the President, Mr. H. Cecil Moore, who was detained at Weston-super-Mare in consequence of heart trouble. Needless to say expressions of regret were general, it being unanimously conceded that a field meeting with Mr. Moore, and one without him, are entirely different things. For years Mr. Moore has been the backbone of the club, having been responsible for the major portion of the "spade work," especially in connection with the books of transactions, whilst on the occasion of a field meeting his genial presence is practically indispensable. The excellence of his arrangements, and the familiarity of his voice, as "guide, philosopher, and friend," have long endeared him to the hearts of the members. That he will have a speedy recovery is the sincere wish of all.

On alighting from the train it was seen that the company was made up as follows: Preb. W. H. Lambert (who took the President's place for the day), the Rev. Walter Butt (President of the Cotswold Club), Mr. L. Richardson, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., F.G.S., Cheltenham (a geologist who is destined to make a great name for himself), Mr. E. Talbot Paris, (Cheltenham), Mr. T. Hutchinson, (Hon. Sec.), Mr. C. P. Bird, Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. P. Leighton Earle, Captain Stuart Kilbee, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Rev. A. Ley, Rev. C. Lighton, Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, Dr. C. S. Morrison, Captain Morgan, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Rev. Dr. Harris, Mr. G. Child, Count Bodenham-Lubienski, Mr. J. J. Jackson, Rev. M. R. Onslow, Mr.



F. J. Bolton, Mr. E. T. Daw, Mr. T. Southall, Dr. Durham, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. Y. C. Brown, Mr. A. H. Bolton, Mr. C. S. Caldicott, Mr. E. C. Dowse, Mr. Bargreave Wyborn, Mr. A. P. Small, Rev. A. Pope, Mr. C. Rootes, Mr. W. Brocklehurst, and Mr. C. G. Child (Montreal).

The programme comprised a walk from Longhope over May Hill, about 1,000 feet high, to Clifford's Mesne, with a study of geology under the guidance of Mr. Richardson. The party were previously made aware that in the traverse they would pass over the Downton Sandstone, Ludlow Series, Wenlock Limestone and Shales, Woolhope Limestone, and May Hill Sandstone—the last-named forming the core of the dome-shaped May Hill. In the neighbourhood of Clifford's Mesne are the Wenlock and Ludlow Beds again, but they are much faulted. Once they were continuous over the summit of May Hill, but since they have been eroded down to the May Hill Sandstone. Were it not for faulting, these Wenlock and Ludlow Beds would encircle the core of May Hill Sandstone. At Clifford's Mesne, in the Downton Sandstone (Silurian), specimens of *Pachytheca sphaerica* (Hooker), the seed of the earliest definitely-known plant is to be found. The party proceeded to the quarry near Longhope Station, where Mr. Richardson made a few introductory remarks. They were standing, he said, on the edge of the great May Hill dome of Silurian rocks. In their walk to the top of the hill they would pass over beds of successively older date, namely, the Downton Castle Building Stone, Upper Ludlow Shales, Aymestrey Limestone, Lower Ludlow, Wenlock Limestone, Wenlock Shales, Woolhope Limestone, and May Hill Sandstone. Beneath their feet was the Downton Castle Sandstone—the youngest Silurian sub-division present in the district. In the quarry were the Upper Ludlow beds. Mr. Richardson added that in recent years an excellent paper had been published on the highest Silurian beds of the Ludlow district. The authors of that paper had divided the topmost beds there into *Lingula-cornea* Marls and Downton Castle Sandstone. The point he wished to emphasise was that no *Lingula-cornea* Marls had yet been identified in the May Hill country; that the Sandstone was thinner at the southern end of the area than at the northern; that there was continued disappearance of beds in the Tortworth district; while in the Mendip Hills Old Red Sandstone rested directly upon Silurian beds, with contemporary volcanic rocks, which were probably of Upper Llandovery age. In other words there was a gradual disappearance of the Silurian rocks, from the top downwards, as the beds were followed from north to south. The next halt was at the shallow cutting, where the lane passes through the Aymestrey Limestone. Mr. Richardson reminded his listeners that the rock was scarcely typical here, lithically

or faunally, for as far as he knew, no specimen of *Conchidium Knighti* had been obtained from it, and as they knew that was a very characteristic fossil in the Aymestrey district. However, they would see the succession—Downton Sandstone, Upper Ludlow Shales, Aymestrey Limestone, Lower Ludlow Shales, and then Wenlock Limestone. This was the chief rock quarried in the neighbourhood, but was not worked so much now as it had been in the past. Crowds of Silurian fossils had been recorded from it, but now they required considerable searching for—except, possibly, corals. A visit was paid to one of the long line of quarries above Longhope, and some small flexures formed the subject of some interesting observations.

Getting over the stile a beautiful grassy hollow was seen. This, it was observed, was excavated out of the Wenlock Shales, which are sandwiched in between the Wenlock Limestone and Woolhope Limestone that flanked the May Hill Sandstone of the hill beyond. Before coming to Dursley Cross the Ross and Gloucester road passes through a cutting in which the Woolhope Limestone is indifferently exposed. It is more nodular here than in the locality whence it derives its name.

Here, Mr. Richardson once more pointed out, the strata were seen dipping to the south-west or thereabouts. If they went along a straight line continued to the north-east from that spot, they would find the Silurian beds coming in again, as far as the faulting would permit—in the reverse order, and dipping in the opposite direction. For once the various sub-divisions, which now encircled—as far as faulting permitted—the fir-crowned May Hill, extended right over the summit, forming a magnificent dome. But denudation had played its part, and the gorse and bracken-covered hill now rose the centre of an imperfect amphitheatre of Wenlock and Ludlow beds. A slight détour was made to visit the old Dursley Cross Inn, and the pedestal of the cross itself—a monument to the bygone glories of the old coach road. The next stop was in the lane just below Yartleton Farm, where there was a small wayside of exposure of sandy shales and a spring. Mr. Richardson said that in a general way the topmost, more shaly beds of the May Hill Sandstone, which, as they perceived, gave rise to springs, was usually paralleled with the Tarannon Shales, but no very definite evidence for the suggestion had been discovered. Still it might remain as a working hypothesis.

Climbing up the steep path, amid gorse and bracken, the top was eventually reached, and an inspiring view—in spite of some haziness—unfolded itself. Mr. Richardson commenced by reminding his listeners that he had already stated that between Longhope Station and the Carboniferous rocks of the Forest of Dean was the whole



of the Old Red Sandstone or Devonian system. It was got into such a comparatively small space because the dip was relatively high. They could guess this even from this height from a study of the ridges formed by the harder beds in the Old Red. In the narrow belt before them they were close together, and closely hugged the Carboniferous heights, but to the north-west they became more widely separated, and if the view had been better they would have seen more clearly one of these ridges running right away into the southern lowlands of Herefordshire. This increasing separation was sufficient to show a proportionate lessening of dip. Indeed, over the greater part of Herefordshire the dip was very inconsiderable, and locally inconstant, patches of Silurian rocks—as at Woolhope and Shucknall Hill—being thrust up through the Old Red as one's knuckles might be pushed up through a piece of newspaper.

The hills around Woolhope were pointed out; the position of the Black Mountains; the populous town of Cinderford on some of the highest ground in the Forest; and the great horse-shoe bend of the Severn, near Newnham. Walking round to the east side of the trees the Malvern Hills came into view. These, said Mr. Richardson, were composed of Archæan rocks: rocks which should have been hundreds if not thousands of feet below their present position if they had remained in their original place. But they had not, they had been thrust to the surface in a wedge shaped mass, by the violent crust-pressure of bygone ages. If it had been sufficiently clear, somewhat west-of-north they would have seen the Cleve Hills, crowned with basalt—it is thought—of Tertiary age, which preserves beneath its hard body a small patch of Coal Measures. But that feature was obscured. Anyhow, the limbs of the broad V-shaped synclinal of Old Red converge to the north of those hills and diverge to the south—the Old Red beds dipping down at the southern end under the great South Wales coalfield. The eastern side of May Hill is bounded by a great fault, which—with some interruptions—runs far north and south. On the west side of the fault are Archæan and Palæozoic rocks; on the east, Neozoic. Roughly speaking, from the foot of the hill almost to the line of the Severn, the valeland is floored with the rich red rocks of the Keuper; then come the Liassic limestones and clays; followed by the Inferior Oolite which caps the Cotteswold escarpment, and certain others situated in advance of the main hill-mass, such as Robin's Wood and Bredon Hills. Once, continued Mr. Richardson, the Vale of Gloucester was non-existent; the Lias of the lower portion of the hill slopes and the Oolite which caps it formerly extended right across it to, if not beyond, the line of Palæozoic rocks. The valley has been mainly excavated by the River Severn and its tributaries.

Mr. Richardson had here to leave the party, having to attend a meeting at 5 p.m. in Cheltenham. The Rev. Preb. Lambert, in offering the thanks of the club to him, remarked on the lucid manner in which he had explained the geographical and geological features. Mr. Richardson, in replying, said how pleased he was to be of some service to them, and always had pleasant recollections of his days out with them. There was only one thing to mar his pleasure, and he was sure theirs also, and that was the absence of their President and former hon. secretary, Mr. Moore, through, he was afraid it was only too true, serious illness.

After an al fresco meal on the summit, the party descended the hill to Clifford's Mesne, Mr. E. Talbot Paris, hon. assistant secretary of the Cotteswold Club, undertaking the explanation of the geological features of interest during the remainder of the excursion. Owing to the extraordinary amount of faulting that has taken place in the neighbourhood of Clifford's Mesne, the regular environing by the Wenlock and Ludlow of the May Hill Sandstone has been greatly interfered with. This was obvious from the fact that the first section visited showed the basal Old Red Marls and the underlying Downton Sandstone—the latter belonging to the highest series of the Silurian system. The Old Red marls are extremely red here, and have been worked in the past for brick-making. The next quarry visited was a large one, and showed the continuation of the downward sequence very well. At the top were the Downton Castle Sandstones, while in a deeper excavation were the Upper Ludlow Beds. With the assistance of Mr. Paris a number of specimens of the globular seed *Pachytheca spherica* (Hooker) were obtained. The walk then lay along lanes and fields to the long-abandoned "Newent Colliery," near White House. Here Mr. Paris gave a summary of what is known concerning the "Newent Coal-field."

In the Newent Coalfield the Coal Measures crop out along a narrow belt of country between the Old Red Sandstone and Keuper Sandstones, dipping down beneath the latter to the east. Searches and workings for coal have usually been prosecuted along or near the outcrop. This was likely to spell disaster to any searches, for the seams would naturally be greatly affected so near the surface. But it is very doubtful if any sinkings more to the east would meet with any better prospects of success, for judging by the boring at the waterworks, near Oxenhall (Gloucester Corporation), the Keuper and Bunter Sandstones must be of great thickness and full of water. The Bunter beds were not completely pierced at 1,190 feet. According to Murchison, at Bouldon, four seams of coal, respectively 1 foot 6 inches, 10 inches and 2 feet 6 inches, were proved by shafts from 63 to 80 yards deep, and he records that "the enterprise was

abandoned owing to the great influx of water " (" Silurian System," 1839, p. 154)—a reason that is locally still upheld.

Mr. Richardson has suggested that the Coal Measures at Oxenhall may belong to the Upper Coal Measures of the Midlands, and that the phenomenon of Coal Measures resting upon Old Red Sandstone may be the outcome of unconformable deposition subsequent upon the Hercynian movements and denudation (Proc. Cotteswold Nat. F.C., vol. xxi., pt. 2, 1908, pp. 103-108).

The total length of the walk was about eight miles, the scenery obtained over a rich expanse of country and the beautiful tints of the woods being most enchanting. Several members obtained interesting botanical specimens during the day. The pretty little town of Newent was reached shortly after four o'clock, and after a visit had been paid to the church, now undergoing restoration, dinner was partaken of at the George Hotel.

After the health of " the King " had been drunk, Preb. Lambert said they had had a very pleasant and profitable day, but there had been a shadow cast over it, and that had been occasioned by the much-regretted absence of the President. They regretted his absence more particularly on account of the reason which kept him away. They were all very grieved indeed to hear of the very unsatisfactory state of his health, and he proposed that a resolution be forwarded to him saying how much they regretted his absence and the cause, and how heartily they desired to see him speedily restored to health again (hear, hear, and applause).

Mr. Hutchinson promised to forward the resolution.

Preb. Lambert then announced that two gentlemen had been balloted for as members of the club, Mr. T. Parr, of Hereford, and the Rev. A. B. Purchas, of Penzance. Both had been unanimously elected. Two new members had also been proposed—the Rev. R. H. Wilmot, of Bishopstone, and Mr. J. T. Pitt, of Hereford.

Highly complimentary references were made to Mr. Richardson and Mr. Paris for the services they had rendered during the day, and the hostess was also thanked for the excellence of her catering.

The return journey was made to Hereford via Ledbury, and Hereford was reached at 8.30 p.m.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SECOND FIELD MEETING (LADIES' DAY), THURSDAY, JULY 30TH, 1908.

### VISIT TO NEW RADNOR.

#### THE LATE MR. H. C. MOORE.

The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club were highly favoured in regard to weather on Thursday, for the outing to Water-break-its-neck, near New Radnor. On this occasion invitations were extended to ladies, who must have been highly delighted with the many picturesque bits of nature they encountered during the day. Hereford was left by the 9.20 a.m. train, the Great Western Railway thoughtfully providing a through coach in order to avoid changing at Leominster. On arrival at New Radnor Station they passed through the village, noticing en route the memorial to Sir George Cornwall Lewis. They then ascended the Castle Hill, where the Rev. Preb. Lambert, who had been elected president for the day, read some notes on the place from the 1893 volume of " The Transactions " prepared by the late Mr. H. C. Moore.

Upon the summit of the Castle Hill (900 feet high, the town varying from a level of 750 to 780 feet) the site of its ancient walls now represented by earthen embankments, and that of the Outer Bailey, occupying an area of three acres, upon the west, were inspected. The ancient defences of the town showed conspicuously upon its western and southern sides, with only slight traces upon the eastern side, and it may be pointed out that the town occupies the same limits as in the time of Speed's Map, dated 1610. Knowl Hill, half a mile north of the Castle, is 1,270 feet high; one mile still further north is Whimble, the hill which is so conspicuous from the Herefordshire side. The Smatcher Hill, immediately south of New Radnor, rises to 1,396 feet.

Descending from Castle Hill, the church, a modern building, erected on the site of the old church, was visited by some of the members. The only relics from the old church are two recumbent effigies (coffin slabs) on the floor under the tower.

The members then left the town by its old western entrance near " The Porth," not forgetting to observe as they went by, the remnants of a quaint old house (nearly opposite the King's Arms Inn) and a slab of an Early English incised cross built into the wall.

Leaving the town by the main road for Penybont, a walk of half a mile brought the members to Haines' corn mill on the right, and immediately afterwards to a small bridge over the brooklet Cwm Nes. Entering the fields through the first gate on the right, the footpath across two fields led to a well-made ancient footpath, extending along the base of the Vron Hill. On arriving at the next stile, it was observed that the boundary was formed by a large elevated embankment, which extended right across the valley; in the Ordnance Map it is styled "Ditch Bank." Vron Farm was ultimately reached, where the business of the club was transacted.

In the course of the proceedings, the HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Thomas Hutchinson) said :—Ladies and Gentlemen,—I much regret that the first business we have to do to-day when we are welcoming our lady friends, is a melancholy one. Since the last meeting of the club on May Hill in May last we have lost our president (Mr. H. C. Moore), and it would not be proper even on this day that that sad event should be passed by without being referred to. In the first place, I wish to tell you what has already been done to place on record the great services he rendered to the club. He died on Sunday June 21st, and his funeral took place on the Thursday following. Immediately afterwards the Central Committee met and passed these resolutions :—"Owing to the lamented death of our president, Mr. Henry Cecil Moore, which took place on Sunday, the 21st instant, and out of respect for his memory, it is resolved that the Gaer Bannium meeting, fixed for Thursday next, July 2nd, be postponed *sine die*. Further, that the committee, on behalf of all the members of the club, desires at this, the earliest opportunity, to place on record the high esteem and regard in which their late president was universally held, and the great obligations they owe to him for his unflagging labour as honorary secretary, three times president and editor during the last twenty-one years. They also desire to express, on behalf of the members, their warmest sympathy with his widow and all his relatives and friends in the great loss they have sustained." A copy of them was sent to Mrs. Moore, and I received this letter from Mr. Charles Moore (a brother) in acknowledgment :—"Overdale, Shepley Hills, Bromsgrove, June 29th, 1908. Dear Mr. Hutchinson,—I am desired by the widow and family of the late Dr. Moore to acknowledge the kind expression of thoughts and feelings of the members of the Woolhope Club towards their dear departed friend. Personally knowing the deep affection he always had in the club, that it was ever a labour of love with him to advance its interests and to enhance the enjoyment of all the members, your resolutions assure us that his labours were appreciated by you, and that he was beloved by all for whom he worked so strenuously. No man could have a greater reward than

such a reciprocation. He has gone from our midst. In life he did what he could, and was never weary of striving to do his best, and he seems to have taken up the motto of your club, 'Hope on, hope ever,' as his own. Kindly convey to your members our deepest thanks for their sympathy in this our great sorrow, and believe me, yours sincerely, C. N. B. Moore. T. Hutchinson, Esq." I have also received many letters from members of the club and others, all expressing regret that absence from home or previous engagements prevented them attending the funeral, and expressing their sense of the great loss the club had sustained. Amongst others who wrote were Sir J. Rankin, Mr. Carleton Rea, Mr. Cambridge Phillips, Mr. James G. Wood, Mr. George Hay, and many others. Time will not allow me to read you all these letters, but there is just one I should like to refer to as it shows the opinion that a man who had never seen him formed of his abilities. Mr. B. Lindsay, of Aylesbury, who had been in correspondence with him *re* the Victoria County History, writes :—"Although I only knew him as a correspondent, I had formed of him in that way a very high opinion of his abilities and personal character. His letters showed in an unusual degree the qualities of promptitude, accuracy, method and clear headedness, and were in fact an admirable model of what scientific correspondence ought to be." I may also tell you that Sir James Rankin, who as senior vice-president becomes our acting president for the remainder of the year, has kindly promised to write a paper "In Memoriam," which I hope will be ready for our next meeting at Craswall on the 27th August. I will not anticipate what he will have to say, but I may tell you one or two little incidents relating to our late friend. All through his last illness he was for ever working for the club so long as he could work, and when he ceased to be able to do so he was thinking of what had to be done and putting others to do it. The last time I saw him—it was on the Thursday before his death, and he was then so ill I was only allowed to be with him for two minutes—his talk was almost entirely devoted to club matters, and his last words to me were—"You have the minute book," and when I told him I had not, he said "You know where it is, enter up the minutes of the last meeting." One other little incident I saw the other day on a large envelope found in his desk. He had printed on it the little word "Now." He used it to put letters and memoranda in, which required to be attended to at once. He never put off till to-morrow what he could attend to to-day, in fact he never put off from hour to hour what he could attend to "now." The envelope was empty; everything had been attended to. In his own humble, modest, unassuming way, Henry Cecil Moore was a great man. He was a man of many parts. It has often struck me, since his death, how appropriate are those beautiful lines of Longfellow in "The Psalm of Life," and how aptly they apply to him :—



"Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime;—  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints that perhaps another  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us then be up and doing  
With a heart for any fate,  
Still achieving, still pursuing  
Learn to labour and to wait."

(applause).

He left his mark on several places of the world's surface, but the best monument that he built up for himself will be found in "The Transactions of the Woolhope Club."

The PRESIDENT said he wished to identify himself with every word Mr. Hutchinson had said. He would remind the members that on the last occasion the club visited "Water-break-its-neck" he (Preb. Lambert) was president for the year, and that during that year Mr. Moore was presented with a testimonial in the shape of a gold watch and chain as an acknowledgment of the great services he had already rendered the club (applause).

The Rev. R. H. Wilmot and Mr. J. Pitt were elected members; and Mr. T. C. Morgan (Hay), and the Rev. D. H. G. Sargent (Cusop Rectory), Rev. J. G. Monro (Ocle Pychard), and Mr. Frederick Cooper (Ashfield, Ross), were nominated for membership.

Mr. HUTCHINSON reported that a short time ago he received a specimen of the pigmy shrew through the Rev. T. A. Ayscough, and, so far as he knew, it was the first time it had been recorded in the county.

A lady said that a specimen of the same mammal was found in 1907 near Ross in the bark of a tree, by Mr. William Blake, Ross. Another specimen was found in July, 1908, in the garden of Dadnor, near Ross, the residence of Mr. Arthur Armitage.

The members afterwards dispersed to follow their own pursuits. The celebrated falls were visited, and many climbed the heights near Warren House. In the ordnance map we find a bench mark at the ford at the waterfall, 962.8 feet. Warren House 1200.5 feet. Vron Hill, on the north-east, 1716 feet. Mynd, half a mile south (horizontal distance only), 1,568 feet. Cryn Fynydd, im-

mediately above Warren House, 1457.2 feet, and half a mile further west, Nyth Grug 1767. In the valley between these two latter elevations is collected, in the Cwm Du, the waterflow which forms the source of Water-break-its-neck Falls, emptying in the valley below, into the Summerhill Brook.

The party met again at Warren House, where tea was provided, and shortly afterwards wended their way to the railway station for the return journey. The list of those present was as follows:—Members—Mr. H. C. Beddoe, Mr. S. H. Bickham, Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Dr. H. E. Durham, Mr. W. F. Dury, Mr. Harold Easton, Mr. A. B. Farn, Mr. R. N. George, Rev. E. A. Gwring, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Mr. A. G. Hudson, Mr. J. J. Jackson, Mr. Herbert E. Jones, Rev. Preb. W. H. Lambert, Rev. Augustin Ley, Mr. T. A. R. Littleddale, Mr. R. T. L. Parr, Rev. A. Pope, Colonel T. H. Purser, Mr. G. W. Stephens, Mr. Edwin Stooke, Mr. J. E. H. Stooke, Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan, Mr. J. F. Symonds, Rev. C. A. Treherne, Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), Mr. James B. Pilley (assistant secretary). Visitors—Ladies: Miss E. Armitage, Miss C. Armitage, Miss Barneby, Miss Kate Beddoe, Miss Marion Beddoe, Mrs. Brodie, Miss Brodie, Miss Chave, Miss Mabel Chave, Miss C. Clay, Miss N. Clay, Mrs. Connolly, Miss Diamond, Miss Duncombe, Miss Durrant, Miss G. George, Miss E. M. Hatton, Miss M. Hudson, Mrs. T. Hutchinson, Miss Lang, Mrs. Leader, Mrs. C. S. Morrison, Miss Pope, Mrs. Stooke-Vaughan, Miss Stooke-Vaughan, Miss Symonds, Mrs. Treherne, Miss Whitehouse; gentlemen; Mr. G. Betts, Mr. G. Connolly, Mr. Diamond, Dr. W. S. Durrant, Mr. Claude Treherne.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

THIRD FIELD MEETING, AUGUST 27TH, 1908.

### CRASWALL PRIORY EXCAVATIONS.

On August 27th the Woolhope Club met at Barrs Court Station and proceeded by train to Hay to visit the site of Craswall Priory and Craswall Church. On arriving at Hay, the Rev. Preb. Lambert, in the absence of Sir James Rankin, was elected president for the day.

The attendance was very much larger than was expected, at least 50 members and their friends being out. The day being fine (with only a few slight showers), the country looked at its best, the heather and gorse being in perfection, and everyone was struck with the greenness and freshness of the grass and vegetation in the valleys amongst the hills.

The following is a list of the members and friends present :—  
Rev. Preb. Lambert (acting president for the day in the absence of Sir James Rankin), Mr. G. M. Brierley, Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Mr. R. Clarke, Colonel Dowse, Mr. P. L. Earle, Mr. R. H. George, Rev. E. A. Gwring, Preb. M. Hopton, Rev. C. Lighton, Mr. C. J. Lilwall, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Dr. C. S. Morrison, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Captain Kilbee Stuart, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary), Mr. J. T. Pitt, Rev. R. H. Warner, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Mr. W. Pilley, Rev. S. C. Watkins, Mr. A. Watkins, and Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson. Among the visitors were Sir Henry Howorth (president of the Archæological Institute), Rev. A. R. O. Apps (Devon), Rev. D. H. G. Sargent (Cusop), Major Ravenhill, Mr. Humphrey Howorth, Dr. E. A. Boycott (Carshalton), Mr. A. Passey, Mr. H. W. Selward (Jarrow-on-Tyne), Rev. J. Gill (South Shields), Dr. W. T. Williamson, Mr. C. A. Cuthbert, Mr. C. G. Portman (Cusop), Mr. J. C. W. Williamson, Herr Dresel, and others.

Mr. C. J. Lilwall met the members on the platform, and they proceeded to walk a distance of about one mile to his picturesque residence, Llydyadyway. There they examined a number of relics that had been found at the Priory during the excavations; amongst them was a quantity of stained glass, one piece with the head and face of a monk still in good preservation, some lead-work from the windows, tiles, coloured plaster, an ancient key belonging to the

Aumbrey, nails, bones, and teeth, and, the most interesting of all, a leaden casket found buried near the high altar, containing the bones of some saint.

After spending about twenty minutes here, the walk was resumed over Cusop and Vagar Hills, from whence was obtained one of the finest and most extensive views of the county. The Wye and Monnow valleys in the foreground, to the North the Cleve and Church Stretton Hills, to the east the Malverns and May Hill, Saddle Bow, Garway and the Graig, while immediately in front rose the Black Mountains, and to the west the Brecon Beacons and Carmarthenshire Hills.

A walk of about four miles from Llydyadyway brought the company to the Priory, and after light refreshment the members examined the further extensive excavations that had been made, which Mr. Lilwall then proceeded to describe in the following paper.

### FURTHER NOTES ON CRASWALL PRIORY.

The proof of the interest that the Woolhope Society takes in the excavations that have been and are being made at Craswall Priory is the fact that the society visited the ruins so recently as June 28th, 1904, now four years ago, and since that time until the present, excavating has been conducted here during the summer months in each year. The earlier excavations were much aided by the society. On August 24th, 1906, I wrote the following letter to the local papers :—

#### "CRASWALL PRIORY, HEREFORDSHIRE: SOME INTERESTING DISCOVERIES.

Probably the least known of all the ruined Priories of Herefordshire is that of Craswall. This is no doubt owing to its very secluded position, and the difficulty in reaching the site.

Hidden in a tiny valley or cwm, under the Black Mountain range, near to Hay, the ruins themselves are known to few outside the members of the Woolhope Society, who visited the ruins in the summer of 1904, when the apsidal east end of the Priory church was opened up, revealing the original altar, the sedilia, the piscina, with credence, and the doorway leading into the monks' day-room, and on the north side, a large aumbry, and doorway leading into the vestry.

During the summer the work of excavation has been re-commenced, and with most satisfactory results. Seventy feet of debris,

twenty feet in thickness, and thirty-five feet in width, working in a westerly direction towards the great west window of the church have been removed.

A large doorway leading from the church to the cloisters has been opened up, a quantity of ancient glass has been found, and on cutting into the cloisters, a number of encaustic tiles have been dug up, showing clearly that the cloisters themselves were paved with these.

But the most interesting discovery of all was that of a large stone coffin, lying under the pavement of the church, and at a depth of about five feet, in the middle of the church itself, and in front of the high altar.

Huge flagstones lay on the coffin, and it required a large amount of labour to remove them. When this was done a perfect skeleton was exposed, which measured six feet two inches in length.

When the coffin was first opened the skeleton was entire, but in the course of an hour it had crumbled away. This can be accounted for, from the fact that in all probability it had lain there for more than five hundred years. Fragments of the oak coffin in which the remains had been at first interred were also found. It is to be regretted that no inscription was discovered on opening up the tomb, or any other means of tracing who or what manner of man it was whom the monks of Craswall had thus honoured in burying in the middle of the nave of their church, and in front of the high altar, and it can only be surmised that the remains are those of one of the benefactors of the Priory, one probably of the many Norman Lords who conferred broad acres on the monks of Craswall, and was the means of making it the richest of the alien Priories of the county.

Crossing the garth on the east side of the enclosure, we come to the most recent find in the excavations, what I take to be the chapter house of the Priory. The entrance, doorway and windows on either side are very beautiful examples of Early English work. The groined roof of this room was supported by two pillars, the bases of which still remain, while the springs of the shafts supporting the roof can still be seen. Two windows in the outer wall also lighted this room; some remains of what were seats can still be traced. The room beyond has not yet been explored, but I take it to have been the refectory, with the domestic offices beyond. Outside the entrance to the chapter house are the remains of what was once the stairway leading up to the dormitories above. Several doorways, one from the cloisters and another from the refectory, lead to

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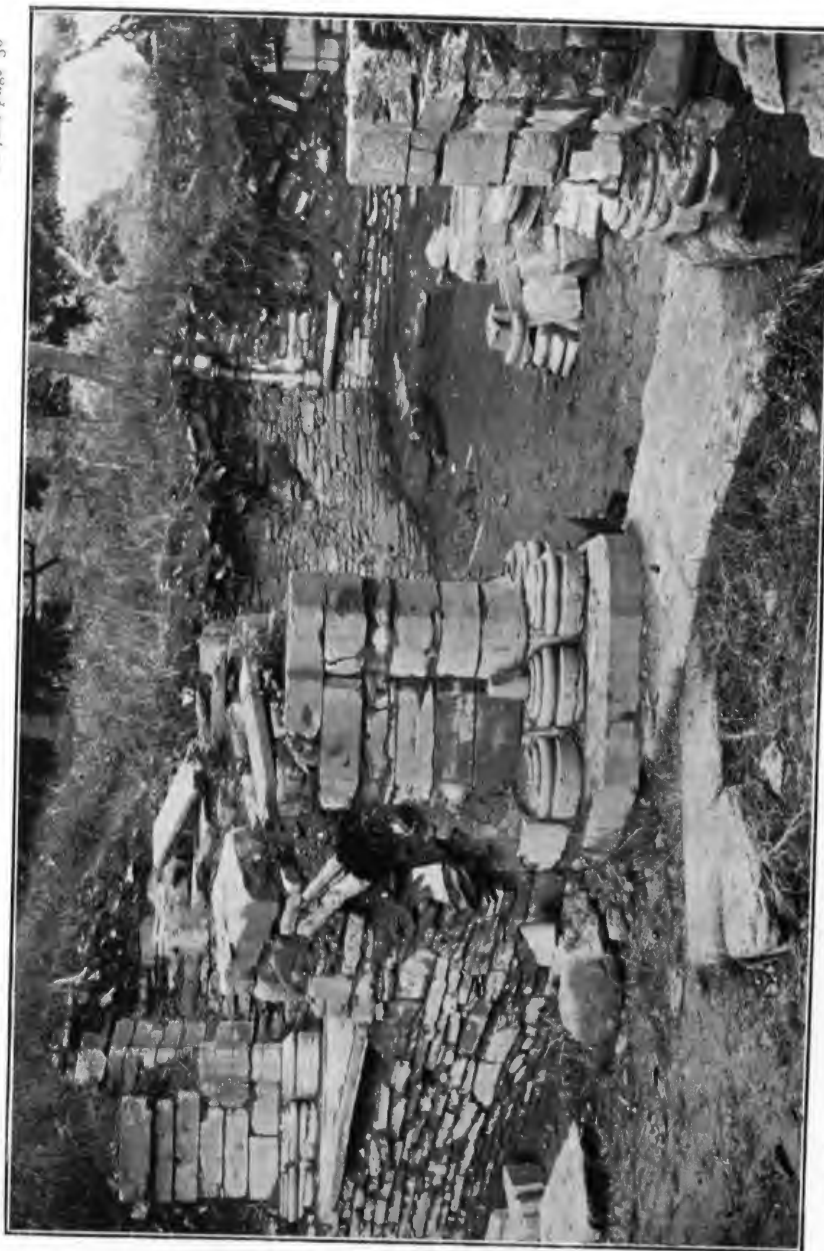


Photo by]

CRASSWALL PRIORY, DOOR OF CHAPTER HOUSE.

[A. Watkins



Photo by]

CRASSWALL PRIORY, CHAPTER HOUSE.

[A. Watkins

the farm buildings of the monks. These can still be pretty clearly traced beyond the brook, and consisted of stable, barn, &c., as the brethren farmed a considerable breadth of land on the opposite slope to the Priory, and they were also large flockmasters as well. Taking the excavations as we see them to-day, the story they have to tell us is this: the church was the first building erected, being Norman in every detail. Then some hundred years later, the present cloisters were erected, together with the whole of the conventual buildings.

In dealing with Craswall Priory we are dealing with a difficult subject, inasmuch as since the year 1462 the house has been an absolute ruin, and one generation of men after another have found in the ruins a convenient quarry for building material as occasion required. Fortunately for us, the spoilers did not require the carved stonework, that was thrown on one side as useless, and so we can as it were piece the various parts together. The cloister walk, judging from the windows found, would not be unlike the cloisters of the Vicars Choral, Hereford. Indeed it is pretty certain they were the same, though at Craswall they were much smaller.

Returning into the church, the doorway close to the piscina was at first thought to have had a through communication with the monastery, but this was found not to have been the case, and it would appear to have been a separate room connected only with the church. Moreover, in the church wall at the back of the sedilia is a recess, much like a small aumbry, probably where the elements rested before bringing them into the church itself. The enclosures on the north side of the church have probably been gardens. I referred in my paper on Craswall Priory, read to the members of the Woolhope Society in 1904, to the past history of the Priory as we know it. It is not needful to refer to that now, except to say that all the alien Priories followed in the wake of the Norman Conquest, and were the direct outcome of it, being founded by foreign lords, and granted to foreign monasteries, and were filled by foreign monks. These alien Priories were at no time popular, though there is no doubt as time went on they became as it were a part of the people amongst whom they lived; and one may be sure that the Craswall monks exercised an influence for good amongst the wild mountain farmers and shepherds, with whom their lot was cast. On their arrival here they must have found this valley a wild and desolate spot indeed, but by their usual industry, and judging of what their house must have once been, we can only conclude that when they were turned out of their home they left behind them a very garden of Eden. I am inclined to think that the monks



left their house in a hurry, from the fact that they buried hastily, and in the most sacred place in their church the very interesting box of relics that we have just seen. This casket must have been the most sacred treasure they possessed, and they buried it lightly, close to the high altar. Another instance of monks having to leave their monastery in a hurry at the dissolution was when the monks of Saint Victor left Woodspring Priory in Somersetshire. Their most precious relic was a little chalice containing "Canterbury Water," and when they left their home they built this chalice into the wall of the parish church, where it was found in 1849 during some alterations.

Quoting from "The Seaboard of Mendip" the writer says: "Of the history of this little cup nothing is known, but if it really was one of the highly prized reliquaries of a credulous age, it is quite possible that it was among the most cherished possessions of Woodspring Priory, whose gray tower shows out against the low green hill behind it, a mile and a half to the southward, an establishment, one of whose patron saints was St. Thomas à Becket himself. And when, after the dissolution of the monasteries, the little company of Woodspring friars turned their backs upon the Priory, it is likely enough that they should cherish hopes that they might one day return, and that they built this reliquary into the wall of Kewstoke Church to wait for the better times that for them were never to return." So I think it was with the monks of Craswall, for the high altar and the relics have, as far as one can judge, remained exactly as they were left by the brotherhood so long ago. Quite recently, amongst the stonework of the altar, have been discovered two squared stones cut and hollowed out by the chisel; this has no doubt formed "the tomb" for the reception of relics. An authority, writing on this subject, says "The Church of Rome stands alone, we believe, in considering the possession of relics an indispensable condition of the performance of the highest acts of public Christian worship. Every altar used for the celebration of mass must, according to Roman Catholic rule, contain some authorized relics. These are inserted into a cavity prepared for their reception, called 'the tomb,' by the Bishop of the diocese, and sealed with the episcopal seal. A collect in the Ordo Missæ assumes their presence and makes reference to the saints whose relics are thus preserved." Here then is the cavity in the altar that received the leaden casket containing the bones of the left forearm and hand of some canonised person.

At the conclusion of Mr. Lilwall's paper some discussion followed, after which Sir Henry Howorth, President of the Archaeological Institute, offered the remarks embodied in the following:—

## OBSERVATIONS AT CRASWALL PRIORY.

BY SIR HENRY H. HOWORTH, K.C.I.E., D.C.L., F.R.S.

I feel it to be an impertinence to respond to your invitation to say a few words, inasmuch as I know so little of this particular building, and have had so little time to examine its details, more especially as it has been so amply described by Mr. Lilwall on this and on a previous occasion, and I can only make a few remarks which apply to all similar remains. The critical lesson which has been pressed home upon us by the more scientific archæology of our day in examining ecclesiastical buildings is to keep in view two main facts. First, that the various Orders of so-called "Religious" differed from each other in origin, purpose, rule and ritual, and secondly that these distinctions were reflected in their buildings, and the plans of their houses. The old notion which prevails still in many places, was that all men living in community according to a Rule were monks. Against this mistake Mr. Freeman and others have consistently protested. When studying the remains of their churches and domestic buildings, we now divide such communities into several classes, each of which is again divided into subordinate sections. The original germs of all these orders were the Christian anchorites, who were directly descended from the Jewish recluses, called Essenes, who formed the well known secluded hermits of the Syrian and Egyptian deserts, living entirely solitary lives and devoting their existence to self-mortification and prayer, and also to teaching many disciples.

Presently, one of these Egyptian anchorites, St. Anthony, acquired such repute from his extravagant austerities, and his reputed holiness and powers as a miracle-worker, that his disciples insisted in spite of all his efforts in planting their little cells close to his and treating him as their superior or head. From the orderly arrangement of its cells in rows about that of their master, such a community came to be known as a Laura.

Meanwhile a further development took place, also initiated in Egypt by Pachomius, who was the first to apply a Rule to such communities. This Rule apportioned their different spheres of work to the different members of the Society, which thus formed a kind of town, united by the common purpose of religion. Under this Rule the members lived in huts with three anchorites in each. They had a common refectory, but ate in silence with their faces shrouded from each other by their hoods. When not engaged in prayer or study they were employed in various handicrafts, the products of which were sold to maintain the community and to be



dispensed in charity. Each of these sections of artificers had a so-called *aconimus* at its head, and the whole were presided over by a kind of abbot. All the abbots of the different communities acknowledged the headship of the superior of the mother house, who was called an archimandrite, and under his presidency they met twice a year for the common regulation of the affairs of the whole body. Such was very shortly the constitution of the earliest monasteries. Among the Syrian hermitages founded on similar lines there was no common refectory, but the brethren ate a common meal of bread and water sitting together, and joined in common prayer four times a day, otherwise the communities followed the rule of Pachomius.

It presently became convenient for mutual protection that these communities should be enclosed by a barrier wall, which was generally fortified, and the buildings inside, which were arranged in more orderly fashion, so as to secure easier mutual access and to facilitate the common life of the community. The main feature of the original monasteries of Pachomius, however, subsisted in that the inmates remained essentially hermits, living their lives in separate cells, and coming together only very occasionally, silence, fasting and seclusion being the over-ruling principles of their lives.

These eastern eremitical communities spread very widely over Europe. With certain modifications we find them repeated in the Columban monasteries of Ireland and Scotland, and in the similar ones in Wales. Among these Celts the whole Church was based on the notion of a number of communities of hermits presided over by abbots without parishes or sees, and in which the bishops were quite inferior officials, with the single important function of ordination. This fact must be kept constantly in view by those who wish to understand the early ruins of ecclesiastical establishments in Ireland and Wales before the Norman conquest, for their plans and purpose are otherwise enigmatical. Those who wish to study the system in full vigour must make a pilgrimage to Mount Athos in Greece and to its Lauræ, or visit the ruins of the later monasteries which abound in Egypt.

In the Latin Church a curious revival of what was essentially the same kind of community was initiated by St. Bruno when about 1180 he prepared a Rule for "the Chartreuse" the mother of the various "Charterhouses" which are found all over Western Europe, and are so different in plan and rule from all other so called monastic houses in the Latin Church. St. Bruno doubtless had in view in planning his communities the eastern Lauras which had become familiar from the reports of the Crusaders. Like them the great feature of the Charterhouses is, that each Carthusian lives in a

separate home or cell containing two or three rooms which he looks after himself, with an attached garden which he has to till. These cells are connected by an ambulatory, and are ranged round the inside face of the enclosing wall. The oblong space in the midst of the cells contains the church, which originally was of extreme simplicity, and the refectory, where the inmates sometimes have a common meal. Austerity was after eastern models reduced by these associated hermits to its extreme verge, and art and all the amenities of culture, in architecture, sculpture, stained glass, music, etc., were eschewed. Fasting, prayer, mortification and study, with virtually perpetual silence, dominated the whole life of the body.

I am describing the Carthusians as originally founded. Like other communities and under the temptations of their surroundings, they became rich and luxurious in later times as the Certosa at Pavia witnesses. In England however, austerity remained the rule with them. No lesson in the history of mediæval theories of self-mortification, can be more profitably learnt than by a pilgrimage to the ruins of one of our own English Charterhouses, such as Mount Grace Priory in Yorkshire, which is the best preserved of them all. It is well to remember that while the charterhouses abound in Italy, France, Spain and Belgium, there were only nine all told in England, where the extravagant self-effacement involved in St. Bruno's Rule was never popular, although the Order attracted to it a considerable number of gentry and learned men here and elsewhere. It must not be forgotten too, that the privations which were tolerable in warm countries like Italy and Southern France, were almost insupportable in damp, cold England. The Carthusians, it will be remembered, remained most staunch in their allegiance to the Pope in the 16th Century, and were treated with peculiar animosity by Henry the Eighth.

Let us now pass on to the monks properly so called. Mainly, but not altogether, they were the children of St. Benedict, who was born in A.D. 480, and whose rule was so sane, sensible and moderate, that it presently prevailed everywhere in the Latin Church with hardly any competition. Much has been written about the various causes, moral and material, (which I cannot now discuss), and which induced such vast numbers of men and women to adopt the monastic life in the five centuries preceding the first millenium. It may be a startling fact to recall, however, to some of you that, in the year 1005, when a great council was held at Constance, there were already 15,070 Benedictine Abbeys in existence. St. Benedict's Rule, while it avoided all the extravagances which were favoured by the more austere eastern and Celtic *cænobites*, and was planned as a practical scheme, by which monks were meant to work and not merely

to lead contemplative lives, prescribed all kinds of details framed in a sensible fashion. According to his plan a large monastery should contain all the necessary buildings for carrying on a great industrial community devoted to a religious life, and which should avoid the necessity of the monks going outside for help. The nucleus of such an establishment was the church with its cloister on the south side, on one side of which again, was the refectory with its adjoining kitchen, and the cellar and the calefactory, where the monks could warm themselves in winter, over which was the dormitory. Adjoining the chancel on either hand, were originally the scriptorium and library on one side, and the sacristy and vestry on another. Other buildings planted in their regulated places were the abbot's and prior's houses, the chapter house, the infirmary with several adjoining rooms, the apothecary's room, and that for blood-letting. The house of Novices containing an epitome of the larger monastery, a school and schoolmaster's lodgings, a guest house for the wealthy and one for the poor, and a special guest chamber for monks who were visitors. Workshops, mills, a kiln, sheds for cattle, sheep and pigs, etc., and poultry houses, a garden, cemetery, baths, a bakehouse, brewhouse, etc., etc. Such was the manifold establishment of a great Benedictine house of which we had magnificent examples in England—at Canterbury and Westminster and St. Albans, at Glastonbury, Gloucester, Peterborough and York. The Benedictines, besides being the great schoolmasters and patrons of learning in the early middle ages, were also the great teachers of practical farming, and the most successful of missionaries. As you all know, England owed its initial Christianity largely to their handiwork. They wore black habits and were known as black monks. The great feature in the administration of the original Benedictines was the fact that each monastery governed itself independently of any control from any other monastery. It is only quite in recent years that this very old privilege has been invaded by the creation of an arch-abbot at Rome.

While the abbeys were thus independent, each one had generally one or more so-called cells, which were manned by relays of monks from their mother house. These cells were generally small monasteries planted in places where the mother house had some estate which needed looking after, or were used as sanatoria and for retreats.

In the darkest days of the church, the 9th and 10th century, the Benedictines suffered like other parts of the religious world from the decay of discipline, and the spread of materialism, and presently great reforms were initiated. These partially came from within, whereby the old black monks were rejuvenated and began again

their long career of notable work and influence, in which they always maintained the first rank.

The change was also in part the result of the foundation of reformed Orders, whose main purpose was to restore the Benedictine rule to its pristine form, and to increase the discipline. The earliest movement of this kind originated in the monastery at Clugny, in France, whence its monks were called Cluniac Monks, which was founded in the beginning of the 10th century. The discipline and austerity imposed by the new rule enacted at Clugny by the abbots Berno and Odo proved very attractive, and large numbers of the older monasteries affiliated themselves to that at Clugny, which also sent out colonies in various directions to found fresh houses, all of them subject to its arch-abbot. The most notable change thus introduced which was necessitated no doubt by the laxity which had grown up in many individual houses from their having no central authority, to enforce a more reputable discipline, was the affiliation of the various Cluniac houses to their mother, and the introduction of a kind of synodical government for them, in which the abbots of all the daughter monasteries met together periodically to discuss and regulate common affairs. This led to a more rigid adherence to a common plan in disposing the buildings of the monasteries. It must also have greatly facilitated the spread of new ideas in regard to art, science and culture, in different countries. The reform initiated at Clugny did not apparently reach England till after the Conquest. In Anglo-Saxon times the discipline of the church here remained at a low ebb, and one of the most effective reforms introduced by the Normans was that of the monasteries. A certain number of Cluniac houses was founded after the Conquest in England, notably the great Abbey of Reading, but the order was never popular here, and its houses remained alien houses ruled by French priors until quite late times. Very different was the case of the Cistercians, another and much more famous order of reformed Benedictines, whose Rule was drawn up by an Englishman, Stephen Harding, in 1098. It derived its name from Cîteaux in Burgundy, where the mother house was planted. It acquired its great fame from its most renowned *alumnus* St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The Cistercians rule was a very stringent and severe one. They planted themselves in the wildest and most desolate regions, which they converted into the paradises which we associate with the surroundings of their ruined houses. They were excellent builders and architects, and studied the details of draining and of supplying fresh water to their houses, and of scientific farming, and being for the most part gentry, were better educated and more refined, and also better business men than other monks. Their rule, a typically severe one, imposed a most austere life upon them, and a round of religious

duties almost penitential. They were divided into two sections, the choir monks, who were priests, and who alone had access to the monks'-choir, who performed the services and looked after the religious part of the duties, and the lay brothers, who did the secular work of the monastery, who had a separate altar and separate services in the nave, which was separated from the quire by a solid screen or pulpitum. Silence, scanty food, and the plainest of surrounding were essentials of the religious life according to their ideal. Like the Cluniacs, they were affiliated together, held provincial synods and even more than the former they adopted a common plan for their houses, which differed a good deal from that of the older Benedictine monasteries. In their great days they were marked by Spartan plainness, "only one tower was permitted in their churches, unnecessary pinnacles and turrets were prohibited, no triforiums were allowed. The windows were to be plain and undivided, and they were not to be filled with stained glass, the crosses were made of wood and the candlesticks of iron." Nevertheless, when we wish to recall mediæval buildings in which Gothic architecture reached its culminating grace, we are constrained to think of Fountains, Tintern, Rievaulx, and Kirkstall—all Cistercian houses.

The Cistercians discarded the black dress of the older Benedictines and adopted a white one.

The Cluniacs and Cistercians were not the only reformers of the Benedictine Order, imposing greater stringency and introducing new forms of devotion. Such arose elsewhere at the instance of grandees and rich men, with a passion for associating themselves with new schemes rather than putting old ones on a sound foundation. This habit was encouraged by the Holy See. Thus arose at Grandmont in Normandy (or as some say in the Limousin), a small and very rigid Benedictine order. The monastery at Grandmont had three daughter houses or cells in England, and three only—at Adderbury in Shropshire, Grosmont in Yorkshire, and the small abbey we are now standing in the ruins of. They were all what are known as alien priories. When the great Norman grandees received their reward from William the Conqueror and his sons in the shape of grants of estates, they retained in many cases their ties with their own homes in Normandy, Anjou, Brittany, etc., where they had castles and where they and their ancestors had founded monasteries, in which they were buried. For the sake of their English tenants, they founded churches and dependent monasteries here, the latter as cells of those on the continent, and made over to the latter the income of these English monasteries, which as subordinate houses, were ruled by priors and not by abbots. Hence these latter were known as alien priories. In 1414 and 1415, when Henry V.

was fighting his fierce war in France, an Act of Parliament was passed confiscating all these alien priories and transferring their income to other establishments, and from that time the greater part of them ceased to exist as foreign priories. A few, however, seem to have continued to live in a decayed way, and did not cease to exist until 1462, when those which had not got an English domicile were finally suppressed. Among the latter was the little house where we stand, whose revenues were made over to Christ College, Cambridge. In regard to the ruins, you will notice their general simplicity. The church, a simple oblong, without choir or aisles, with an apse, filling the whole eastern end, and forming a presbytery or sacarium. The doors and windows are the simplest Norman, without a single curved moulding or ornament, and would point to the earlier part of the 12th century as their date. Originally the domestic buildings were doubtless of the same style, and the same date, unless they were made of wood, for the monks must have had places to live in. They were afterwards partly rebuilt in the simple Lancet style and partly in early Transitional, a fine specimen of the latter of which also occurs in the fragments of the sedilia, consisting of three detached tricusped recesses still surviving. There seems to be no trace of true Decorated and Perpendicular. I have no business, however, to describe these remains, which I have not had time to see properly. They really speak for themselves now that they have been so admirably disclosed by the excavations of Mr. Lilwall, whose illustrations of them in your journal are also so excellent.

I will conclude my elementary survey by a few words on regular canons and friars as distinguished from hermits and monks. The early parochial clergy, who took charge of parishes, and who lived under no common rule, were of course known as seculars. It was an early practice in large towns, where large churches had to be served, for such clergy to live together under a Dean or Primus or Warden, when they were known as canons, and the communities were known as colleges of secular canons. In these large churches served by canons, it was necessary to have large choirs to accommodate them, with appropriate seats known as choir stalls.

Presently this mode was found a convenient one for other than parochial work, and communities of canons arose, who had a rule and lived in more or less secluded places. They were popular with the gentry, who founded many canons' houses in England, and who often made them their burying places. They were known as regular canons, from living by a Rule (*regula*). They were famous preachers like the Dominican friars, and their churches generally had ample naves where large congregations could be accommodated. Their



choir services, however, like those of other regulars were secluded. The original Order was known as Augustinians, or Austin Canons, apparently from their devotion to the father of that name, whose theology was largely followed in their houses. They were dressed in black habits and were thence also known as black canons. As was usual in the Middle Ages, there was in the religious Orders, on the one hand a continual decay of discipline, and on the other, an internal demand for greater rigidity. Hence the introduction of reformed Orders who were ever trying to make the discipline more severe. The most notable reform that took place among the black canons, was by the new order founded at Premontre in the diocese of Laon in France, in 1119, by St. Norbert, whence they were called Premonstratensians. They wore white habits, whence they were also called white canons, and were remarkable for the simplicity of their ritual and of their churches. "They cared for no Processions and wanted no congregations," and their very attractive houses are generally found in retired rural districts.

To conclude my subject, I must lastly say a few words about the friars. The whole purpose and aim of the friars was entirely different from those of the monks. Their rôle was to rescue the poorest and the most destitute everywhere, and to minister to the great masses in the towns, unreached by the secular clergy, and they planted themselves accordingly, not in secluded places, far from the resort of men, but in the busiest streets where the crowd lived, and their churches were specially adapted for their work. Their special vows imposed upon them the abnegation of all wealth and the living on alms. Among them the Franciscans relied largely on attractive ceremonial, on the emotional and homely methods of reaching the poor, practised by the early Methodists and the Salvation Army, and on the cult of relics, miracles, pilgrimages, etc., etc. From the colour of their habit they were known as grey friars. They and their daughter Order, the Capuchins, are still the most numerous and popular of the religious Orders, as their founder was the most loveable of saints. Their great rivals were the Dominicans, or black friars, who wore white gowns with black tippets, and were thence known as black friars. To them the Holy See deputed the terrible weapon of the Inquisition and the fighting of heresy. It was they who steered the fearful campaigns against the Albigenses in Southern France, and against the Moors and Jews in Central and Southern Spain. They were also the chief confessors of the gentry and of influential people. But their great function was preaching, and their churches were built accordingly with huge naves either without aisles, or with aisles separated by pillars of small diameter, so as not to obstruct the sight. In addition to these two great Orders of friars, there were two more, with different rules

and organisation, but pursuing the same work of evangelising the poor, the neglected and helpless by homely method. These were the Carmelites, whose origin is obscure, but who apparently arose in Palestine about the time of the first Crusade, and whose fierce devotion to their cause and especially to the Papal chair, will be remembered by all those who have followed the fate of the Order in England in Henry VIII.'s reign, when most of them were hanged. They wore a white habit, and were known as white friars.

The fourth Order of friars was known as Augustinians, Austin Friars or Observants. They are best known to Protestant laymen from the fact that both Erasmus and Luther belonged to the Order, which in another way did much to further the Reformation, since in accordance with its name it favoured Augustinian theology against that of the Schoolmen.

I have said nothing about the famous orders of the Knights Templars and Hospitallers, whose function it was to fight for the possession of the Holy Sepulchre, and to assist the pilgrims going thither. Their houses and churches are formed on a distinct plan of their own, but they are really too remote from our present purpose, nor have I mentioned the still more remote subject of the great post-Reformation orders such as the Jesuits, the Oratorians, etc., etc., which are clearly beside the present question, but I have limited myself to a short and what many of you will deem a very elementary survey of a very big question, more to point a moral than to convey definite information. My moral has been the intricacy of the subject of the history of monasticism, and the never ending interest attaching to the problem of unravelling the original purpose and meaning of their ruined houses, and I must thank you for your patience and urbanity in listening to me.

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There was so much to see and interest the members at the ruins, that time did not permit of Craswall Church or the white-leaved oak being visited.

The return walk was commenced at 2.30, by the Birches and Dulas Dingle, and the "Crown" at Hay was reached at 4.30, where an excellent dinner was provided by Mr. Stokoe.

After the King's health had been proposed by the PRESIDENT, the ballot was taken for the election of members, and the following gentlemen were declared unanimously elected :—Mr. Thomas Cyrus Morgan, the Rev. D. H. G. Sargent, the Rev. J. G. Monro, and Mr. Frederick Cooper. The following candidates were proposed :—Mr. William Reading Bufton, Broad Street, Hereford: proposed by Mr. E. J. Hatton, seconded by Mr. J. J. Jackson. The Rev.

John Thomas, Newchurch, Hay; proposed by Mr. Alfred Parker, seconded by the Rev. S. Cornish Watkins. Mr. Arthur Passy, Kington; proposed and seconded by the same gentlemen. Mr. Fletcher Norton, Highfield, Longtown, Abergavenny; proposed by Mr. T. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. C. J. Lilwall.

#### "IN MEMORIAM."

In the absence of Sir JAMES RANKIN, the HON. SECRETARY, Mr. Hutchinson, read the following "In Memoriam," on the club's late president, Mr. Henry Cecil Moore:—

"To have lived a life of unostentatious and steady work, to have been the means of increasing the sum of human knowledge, and leaving the world better and wiser than one found it, is undoubtedly one of the most consolatory reflections which any human being can indulge in."

This reflection might honestly have been permitted to the late Dr. Moore, who throughout a long life had worked hard and conscientiously at those undertakings which his hand had found to do.

Dr. Moore's career was a remarkable one, and in everything he touched, the same characteristic appeared, namely, that of thoroughness.

He was born at Lucknow, in India, son of Brigadier General Moore, a distinguished Indian officer under the old régime, and one who spent 42 years in India without a break. When quite a boy, Henry Cecil Moore was sent to England for his education, which he received at Leamington College, and after some private tuition at Addiscombe College, where he spent the years 1853-1855, Dr. Moore joined the Bengal Army, having received a nomination from Mr. W. Butterworth-Bayley, an East Indian director, and after two years' study at Brompton and Chatham, proceeded to Bombay in 1857, and was at once employed in Sir Hugh Rose's Field Force in the Mutiny.

Here he evidently distinguished himself, as, early in 1858, he was sent as one of the leaders of a force to Aden, where he, after subduing the enemy, was appointed Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department, and took part in the construction of the water tanks and other works at Aden for more than a year. He evidently gave great satisfaction to his superior officers in this work, for early in 1859 he was appointed Chief Engineer and Governor of Perim Island, where he was engaged for two years in constructing tanks and in building a lighthouse.

After a strenuous two years upon this desolate spot, where there is no trace of vegetation, his health gave way and he was sent back to England.

He then served in Alderney and at Chatham, and served on the Military Pontoon Commission.

In 1865 he was sent to Ireland, and received thanks from Sir Hugh Rose, who was then in command of the forces in Ireland, for his plans for defence in the neighbourhood of Templemore.

In 1866 Dr. Moore's health again gave way, and he retired from the Army, much to the regret of many of his friends, but, as subsequent events proved, greatly to the advantage and benefit of the people of Hereford.

He turned his attention to the medical profession, and acquired his first experience at the Birmingham General Hospital, where he filled, with great credit to himself, the position of assistant house physician and assistant house surgeon.

In 1872 Dr. Moore was appointed as house surgeon to the Hereford Infirmary, and continued to hold that office until 1879.

Dr. Moore was appointed as medical officer of health for the combined rural districts of Herefordshire in 1898, and in 1899 was elected as medical officer of health for the city of Hereford, which office he held until his death in 1908. In the reports presented to the Town Council upon the question of public health, the greatest pains and thoroughness were shown by Dr. Moore.

It is, however, to his unwearied and unstinted exertions in the conduct of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, that we of that society are so greatly indebted to Dr. Moore. Few persons coming out upon the Woolhope excursions have any idea how much thought and trouble have been expended upon the arrangements and preparations for those meetings.

No doubt the actual choice of the place for the excursion rests with the committee, but in order to facilitate that choice, Dr. Moore has had to make minute inquiries as to the scientific or archaeological objects of interest in the neighbourhood; he has had to obtain papers either upon the objects of interest in the locality or upon some general subject; and he has had carefully to consider the means of transit and the possibilities of refreshments, and to obtain the papers either upon the objects of interest in the locality or upon some general subject; and to obtain the services of efficient guides.

All this on numberless occasions had been quietly done by Dr. Moore for years, and in addition to all this he had edited the Volume of Transactions, and in these Volumes had gathered together a mass of most interesting detail, connected with the county and city of Hereford and surrounding counties.

It is not too much to say that ever since the time when Dr. Bull led the Woolhope Society, Dr. Moore has been its guide, director, and right hand, and his death will cause a terrible blank to the members of that society.

No one who has not carefully perused the volumes of the Woolhope Transactions up to the present date, can have any idea of the variety and comprehensiveness of Dr. Moore's learning and attainments, and when he has not been engaged in producing original observations, he has applied his methodical mind to the arrangement and tabulation of valuable knowledge. This is notably the case with the meteorological statistics of the county, the churches and the camps.

We have to thank Dr. Moore especially for publishing the Volume of Transactions, which embodies the earliest records of the Woolhope Club, and which covers a period from 1852-1865. No one but the editor can ever know the labour of producing this first volume, collected together from scattered papers and newspaper reports, but his energy and patience have enabled us to obtain a complete record of the club from its inception in 1851 until the present day.

It is to be hoped that those volumes, so largely contributed to by Dr. Moore, will be more extensively read by dwellers in this county, and that the patient and never resting labour bestowed upon them by the honorary secretary will be duly appreciated.

Although undoubtedly the driving wheel or motor power of the Woolhope Club ever since Dr. Bull's death in 1885, the quiet unostentatious manner of Dr. Moore was such, that he had to be known before he could be fully appreciated at his real value, but amongst his fellow citizens and his colleagues of the Woolhope Club his death has caused a blank which will be long felt and most difficult to fill.

Dr. Moore achieved that most enviable position in life, namely, that he was regarded by all who knew him as thoroughly trustworthy, and whatever his hand found to do, that he did with all his might."

At the conclusion of the foregoing paper, Mr. J. B. Pilley, the assistant secretary, made some appropriate remarks on the great loss the club had sustained by Mr. Moore's death, and testified to the unfailing courtesy and assistance that he had always received from him, during the 21 years that they had been associated together.

Mr. HUTCHINSON then read the following notes supplied to him by his daughter:—In the month of May last I was walking with a lady in a country lane about four miles from Honiton, in the afternoon, when she made an exclamation, and I looked and saw a thrush pecking at the back of her bonnet. It flew away down the road, returned, pecked at her bonnet, and again flew back down the road. This happened a third time, and on that occasion my friend followed the bird to where it fled, and there saw a common grass snake on the bank. On looking closer she found a thrush's nest with young birds in it. She got a stick and killed the snake.—At the house at which I was staying, I was in the garden and saw a cat ascend a small conifer tree, in which I knew there was a black-bird's nest with four young birds just hatched. I watched, and saw the cat deliberately, from a branch above the nest, stretch down its paw and scoop the birds out of the nest and throw them to the ground. It then set to work with both paws and tore the nest to pieces. Having done so, it descended and proceeded to pay attention to the young birds, until I drove it off. On another occasion I saw the same cat sitting close to the edge of a pond in which there were innumerable tadpoles just emerging into frogs and leaving the water. The cat amused himself for a considerable time by throwing them, with its paw, back into the water.—D. W. Hutchinson.

The PRESIDENT then read a paper by Mr. E. W. Bowell, entitled, "On the Uses of the Study of Natural History."

#### ON THE USES OF THE STUDY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

In the days when the Woolhope Club was yet a young thing, the opinions commonly held about the utility of natural history studies were not always flattering to its students. Some typical notions of the period may be found embodied in a celebrated work entitled, "The Papers of the Pickwick Club." The glory (for such it seems to be) of having been the original Pickwick Club, can hardly belong to our Society, but there is little doubt that Dickens has given a faithful picture of the estimation in which naturalist and antiquarian corporations were held in his time. Perhaps we cannot yet say that we have changed all that; but we have changed some of it. The study of Nature is no longer regarded as a mild kind of insanity; and antiquaries have succeeded in impressing upon the public mind the



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fact, that the past is worth studying at first hand—that it is not from the pages of histories that we get the freshest and most true presentment of ancient times and ancient manners.

Perhaps we might say without injustice that the antiquaries of fifty or a hundred years ago, were in the habit of regarding the past as a rudimentary and embryonic thing, comparing it with the present, greatly to the advantage of the latter. At any rate many of the books and papers published during the latter half of the nineteenth century show this tendency. The improvements effected in political and domestic arrangements, and the general excellency of the age of machinery, seem to be very much in mind. It was the work of antiquaries to provide the materials for this view of things; and antiquaries held this philosophy before it reached the mind of the general public. But further study of ancient things raises the doubt whether the first comparisons were just; whether we have in reality advanced so far as people thought in the days when we were at school. This antiquity deserves further study; it has much more to tell us about itself; it has more hints to give. In time it will be recognised that a generation that takes for granted that all its own works are the best that ever have been, and scorns to consider the meaning of the past, is a blind and witless generation. Our work as antiquaries is therefore of great benefit to the community at large; it may, if systematically carried on, save the nation from those false developments which are the worst of all mistakes to correct.

The newer form of antiquarianism does not content itself with the mere sentiment of antiquity; for example, the true book-collector does not value a book simply because it is one or four hundred years old. The experience of age like that has become quite an ordinary thing; after all, the fifteenth century is not a very distant period. And we can judge of old things the better when some of the artificial glamour is gone. We realise that the men of five hundred years ago were really men, and not shadowy ghosts or demons, or heroes of colossal stature. We are much more at home with them when we have become accustomed to turn over the pages they penned, to examine critically the finish of their swords and armour, to note the devices of their architecture and the disposition of their finances. We have made antiquarianism a branch of natural history; it is the study of the bionomics of a species, or perhaps a genus, with which we are on other accounts very well acquainted. And this species or genus of mankind has made many noteworthy bionomic experiments in its time; noteworthy, because so many of them, like many experiments made in the laboratory, have been forgotten when half accomplished;

our anthropology is to raise the curtain on these mysteries, to clear up the picture and see by what partly rational processes things came to be as they are at this day.

This human species is one of many; and we ought not to neglect the less because we know, or think we know, something about the greater. The world is full of life, both animal and vegetable, which awaits our investigations. The facts are curious; but it is not that that constitutes their claim on our attention. They are worth study because they are there, and they have as yet been only very partially understood. The practical value of an understanding of the principles of organic nature, could we obtain it, would be very great indeed, but the philosophical or moral value would be very much greater. It may be asked, do we expect through our natural history studies to obtain such a comprehension of the working of nature, as will enable us to explain all that we see? And the answer must certainly still be that we do not expect it. Why then persist in an impossible attempt? We persist because of the value of the attempt itself, and because the semi-final results are worth possessing. To explain nature is a term involving infinity; it is not conceivable that we could finish the task, because it is a task which has no end. We cannot by individual effort even enumerate the objects of our study; it may be safely said that the insects of Herefordshire alone, could not be worked and enumerated by one man in his lifetime. And the insects form only a section of a section of that material which is before us. It is very likely true that for biological purposes, it is not necessary to be acquainted with all the forms that exist, but for the adequate estimating of the value of any theory of descent, it is absolutely essential that the examiner should thoroughly understand the amount of material that is before him. That amount is far greater than is generally supposed. The actual number of existing species is a factor apparently not taken into account by most of those writers who have discoursed on evolution. And the wide differences that exist between these many organisms, have met with a correspondingly small measure of attention. It may be proved that the horse is the developed and evolved descendant of hipparion, but after all the differences between the horse and hipparion are not greater than those between two limnaeas belonging to the same genus. The demonstrated proof of evolution, using the word in the sense of fifty years ago—has therefore proceeded a very small step indeed. It is perhaps generally felt that some modification of that theory, more true to observed facts, is required. Already the views of our great English naturalists of fifty years ago have been received and assimilated into the public mind, and are applied to explain the problems that arise in many different departments of thought, with a variety of results. It is certainly time for necess-

ary amendments to be made, for the sake of the thought and morals of the next generation. And herein we may see one great advantage of the first-hand study of natural history, for whereas the public impression is that all the facts of nature have already been catalogued and explained by savants, no one can indulge in even a superficial study of entomology (for example), without finding out very soon that this is far from true.

I have ventured to expatiate upon the philosophical and moral advantages of the study of natural history, because I am deeply sensible that we are in a world strewn with facts of nature, which we leave for the most part unread. The study of natural history must no longer be considered a hobby; it is certainly one of the most serious undertakings that are to tax our intellect. It is a larger, containing study, into which most other subjects of education are to be fitted. The science of language, for example, is best regarded as a branch of anthropology, which is itself a department of natural history. We hear a great deal of the education of the body, by games and justly ordered diet and clothing, and so forth; and this branch of education ought to be directed simply and solely by the science of natural history; it needs to be co-ordinated by scientific method, which requires the elimination of all prejudices and all nostrums; experiments need to be made, fairly and truthfully, and fairly and truthfully recorded, and fairly and truthfully criticised, with reference to our knowledge of nature in general. For to do a thing scientifically means to do it fairly and truthfully, and without counting the cost; and science that is conducted on other principles, is always a sorry, and sometimes a hideous thing.

And the practical uses of natural history study are not confined to the whiling away of weary hours (for those who have them to dispose of), nor to the providing of an occasional entertaining holiday. The world requires to know more than it knows at present about those forces of nature on which it depends for its bread and cheese. Thus, if a single grain of wheat can be made to yield many thousands of grains in one season and the plant can be converted into a perennial, the fact is one of enormous importance to the world, and if these things are practicable, it should be science that should tell us how they are to be done, and why; things of such consequence cannot justly be left to the guidance of rule of thumb and tradition.

Natural history being then so important a thing, is it not possible that an institution like the Woolhope Club may play an important part in preparing the way for the science of the future? Much has indeed been done already, but much remains to be done. To initiate such things belongs to the club increased by the adoption of some such plan as this. Let each large division of scientific

research, including anthropology, be taken in hand by a group of members of the club; let each group appoint its own secretary, whose duty it may be to receive reports from the members of the group, and to embody these in a report to be presented annually to the Committee, and included in the transactions. I submit this suggestion with all deference to the consideration of the club, believing that the time is coming, when the special work of the club, if its quality is maintained and its volume increased, will be recognised as having a greater value than may seem to belong to it now.

The HON. SECRETARY announced, amidst applause, that the Rev. R. Hyett Warner had kindly undertaken to complete the editing of the Volume of the Transactions now in the press.—Some discussion also took place as to whom papers and other communications were to be sent, and it was resolved that they should be forwarded to the secretary and not to the editor.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 10TH, 1908.

The annual meeting for the election of president and officers for the year 1909, was held at the Woolhope Club Room, Free Library, Hereford, on Thursday afternoon. Sir James Rankin presided, and there were also present Prebs. H. T. Williamson and W. H. Lambert, Revs. W. E. T. Morgan, R. Hyett Warner, C. H. Stoker, H. B. D. Marshall, A. Ley, Miss Maude E. Bull, Captain T. L. Morgan, Dr. G. H. H. Symonds, Messrs. C. P. Bird, F. S. Hovil, T. Hutchinson (secretary), J. Cockcroft, J. T. Pitt, R. Clarke, W. E. H. Clarke, and J. H. Jack, and J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said it was very sad to think that he found himself in the chair again this season. He had hoped that the arrangements made last year would have been carried out and fulfilled, and that they would have had their president (Dr. H. C. Moore) to preside over them that day, but Providence had willed it otherwise, and therefore as their retiring president it became his duty to take the active position of president again. He greatly regretted the necessity for it. The question with regard to a vote of condolence with the late Dr. Moore's family had already been arranged, so that need not be gone into. There were some matters connected with the transfer of property which had been properly arranged without any difficulty at all in the matter.

After the reading of the minutes by the SECRETARY, the CHAIRMAN said the first duty was to elect a president for 1909. He would like to propose a very suitable gentleman indeed, namely, Preb. H. T. Williamson, who had lately come into the immediate neighbourhood of Hereford, although he had been, as they all knew, resident for very long in the county of Hereford. He was sure they would all rejoice to think that Mr. Williamson would be their president (hear, hear). He was sure everyone who knew him must like him. Although perhaps he was not a man who had done very much in the higher lines of various scientific thought, yet he was a man who understood scientific thought, and was very fond of science in all its various branches (hear, hear). He proposed that Mr. Williamson be the president for the ensuing year.

Preb. LAMBERT seconded, and the proposition was carried.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Mr. Williamson would not take office until April.

Mr. WILLIAMSON said he was much obliged to Sir James Rankin, Preb. Lambert, and the members for the honour they had done him. He was not a scientific man, although he took great interest in science. He was proposed as a member of the club about 20 years ago by his old friend Preb. Eliot.

The CHAIRMAN said it was thought that a tablet to the memory of Dr. Moore, placed in the Cathedral, would be very suitable and desirable. He was quite sure they would agree with him in this respect (hear, hear). He had asked the Dean if he would permit the putting up of such a tablet, and he at once consented most readily. He said he had got a doctor's corner—not a poet's corner—and would be very glad indeed to see such a tablet erected. He thought that such a tribute of respect should be paid to Dr. Moore's memory, and proposed that the necessary steps be taken.

The REV. HYETT WARNER seconded, and this was carried, the matter being left to Sir James Rankin and Mr. Hutchinson to initiate.

At this stage Preb. Lambert took the chair, Sir James Rankin having another engagement.

The following officials were then appointed :—Vice presidents, Sir James Rankin, Mr. A. B. Farn, Rev. R. Hyett Warner, Rev. A. Ley ; central committee, Messrs. C. P. Bird, J. Carless, R. Clarke, A. Watkins and Preb. Lambert ; editorial committee, Rev. A. Ley and Rev. R. Hyett Warner ; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. C. Beddoe ; hon. auditor, Mr. James Davies ; hon. secretary, Mr. T. Hutchinson ; assistant secretary, Mr. James B. Pilley ; delegates to the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society of Antiquaries, Rev. J. O. Bevan and the Rev. James G. Wood.

The following were elected members of the club :—Mr. W. Reading Bufton, Hereford ; Mr. Arthur Passey, Kingston ; Mr. Fletcher Norton, Longtown ; Rev. John Thomas, Newchurch.

The following candidates were proposed :—Mr. Theodore Ellis Williams, Brobury House, Hereford, proposed by Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson, seconded by Rev. R. Hyett Warner ; Dr. John Steed, Staunton-on-Wye, proposed by Mr. T. Hutchinson, seconded by Rev. C. H. Stoker ; Rev. W. O. Wait, Vicar of Titley, proposed by Rev. A. Ley, seconded by Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson.

The following report was presented :—

Chillenden Rectory, Dover,

September 18th, 1908.

To the Hon. Secretary of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

Dear Sir,—

I have the honour to report that I attended, as your delegate, the Dublin meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The President, Mr. Francis Darwin, brother of our President in 1905, confined his inaugural address chiefly to subjects relating to his own branch of study, namely botanical research; but his remarks were generally interesting as bearing witness to the slow gradations observable from the inorganic to the organic, from mineral to vegetable, from vegetable to animal, *e.g.*, in respect of the mathematical curves wrought out by the growing point of a leguminous plant, or of the processes employed by certain carnivorous plants for catching and digesting their prey, it seems hard to deny to these the possession of a purposeful energy.

Mr. Darwin treated largely of his views of the transmission of "acquired characters" as contrasted with the theories of Weismann and others.

The addresses of the sectional Presidents were of a high order. I may particularly refer to that of Professor Ridgeway, of the Anthropological Section (H.), who touched on the possible degeneracy of the race through the breeding of the "unfit," *i.e.*, the failure to apply the teachings of science and of selection in all classes of society in the rearing of its various elements.

Some of the sectional papers had reference to such important subjects as the constitution of the atom, radio-active substances, and inferences therefrom touching on a possible transmutation of elements.

The Agricultural Sub-Section, presided over by a distinguished Irishman, Sir Horace Plunkett, was largely attended, and most successful in attracting valuable papers.

I was present at the two conferences of delegates. At the first, our chairman, Professor Mears, the new Principal of London University, opened the proceedings by an appropriate address, entitled "The Educational Opportunities of Local Scientific Societies," a copy of which I enclose.

Next, Mrs. Hobson dealt with the provision of "Sanctuaries for our Native Fauna and Flora." In connection with this, I was successful in passing a resolution to the following effect:—

"That this conference of delegates of corresponding societies affirms the desirability of bringing under the notice of local societies, the necessity for preserving the Fauna and Flora of their respective districts, as against wanton destruction and heedless or careless collecting."

The promulgation of this resolution is commended to the notice of members of local societies as a means of ventilating the subject in local newspapers, in schools, and in other ways.

Following Mrs. Hobson's contribution, Mr. Davey gave his opinion as to "The Advisableness of Restocking Haunts whence Fauna and Flora have disappeared."

In a speech of considerable interest Professor Carpenter brought before us an account of "Detailed Natural History Surveys of Restricted Areas, and important work suitable for local societies."

Lastly, Mr. Bellamy afforded us the results of his experience as touching the maintenance of "Permanent Records of Natural History, or other observations by means of the card catalogue system."

I think it will be seen that the proceedings of the Conference were of exceptional and lasting value—indeed, the Association meeting generally was a distinct success. Everyone, from the Lord Lieutenant downwards, did his best to further the interests of the scientists, and to maintain the reputation so well deserved of true Irish hospitality and kindliness.

I am, dear sir, faithfully yours,

J. O. BEVAN,  
M.A., F.G.S., F.S.A.,  
Assoc. Inst. C.E.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SPRING MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1909.

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Woolhope Club was held in the Woolhope Room, Free Library, Hereford, on Thursday afternoon, when there were present Sir James Rankin (retiring president), Preb. Williamson (president elect), Revs. R. H. Warner, H. B. D. Marshall, E. King King, A. Ley, R. H. Wilmot, Capt. Morgan, Messrs. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), H. C. Beddoe (hon treasurer), A. Simpson, A. B. Farn, C. P. Bird, R. Clarke, W. E. H. Clarke, P. L. Earle, G. M. Brierley, J. Cockroft, and J. P. Pilley (assistant secretary).

The RETIRING PRESIDENT said he was in that position owing to the death of the late President (Mr. H. C. Moore) before the termination of his year of office. They all regretted the sad event. Mr. Moore was one of the best workers they had for the club, and one of the most assiduous men who ever walked the face of the earth. Subject to the approval of the meeting, it had been decided to erect a tablet to the memory of Mr. Moore in the Hereford Cathedral, the Dean having given his consent. The proposed inscription was as follows:—"In memory of Henry Cecil Moore, M.R.C.S.E., Medical Officer of Health for this city, and formerly a lieutenant, R.E., Bombay, who died June 21st, 1908, aged 72. Upright, unselfish, humble minded, conscientious in the discharge of every duty undertaken by him he worthily followed in the footsteps of a distinguished ancestor, Sir Thomas Moore. This tablet is erected by many friends in gratitude for his long and devoted service to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, of which he was Hon. Secretary, Editor of the Transactions and three times the elected President."

On the motion of the RETIRING PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. Beddoe, it was unanimously resolved that such a tablet be erected to the memory of Mr. Moore.

Mr. BEDDOE said Mr. Moore had been extensively connected with the city of Hereford as medical officer and in other ways, and

many of his friends who did not belong to the club would like to subscribe to the memorial. He moved that subscriptions be not confined to members of the club.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. BEDDOE presented the financial statement, which showed receipts amounting to £334 16s. 7d. and a balance in hand of £173 17s. 4d.

The RETIRING PRESIDENT thought the balance sheet was an encouraging one. He moved its adoption, which motion was unanimously agreed to.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY presented his annual report, in which he said: "Although the income is only a little less than that of the previous year, there is a considerable diminution in the list of members, many having left the county. The number of members on the books during the year was 239, including 13 elected during the same period, against 246 in 1907. The resignations are much above the average, numbering 17. The Revs. C. H. Binstead and H. E. Grindley had much assisted the late hon. secretary, the former with the mosses of the county, the latter with the geology of certain districts. The obituary list is short, but comprises two names who filled prominent positions in the club. The Rev. Sir George H. Cornwall was honorary secretary for several years, and filled the presidential chair in 1881 and 1902; he had been a member for 45 years. The loss the club has sustained by the death of the late Mr. H. Cecil Moore requires no comment here: that has been previously alluded to at length by the President and others. The assistant secretary was officially associated with him for 22 years, and invariably received the greatest courtesy and assistance from him, and found him ever ready to oblige. Major Chester Doughty joined the club in 1873; he had been absent from the county for several years. The receipts from subscriptions, entrance and arrears, amounted to £117, against £118 10s. in 1907. The arrears carried forward are less than in the previous year; they are still high in proportion to the income. The attendance at the field meetings was less than usual (the June one not being held), numbering only 142. The ladies' day proved very attractive, 64 members and their friends supporting the president."

The field meetings for the year were decided on as follows:—Thursday, May 27th, Bircher and Croft Ambrey; Thursday, July 1st, Capel-y-fynn, near Hay; Thursday, July 29th (ladies' day), Downton Castle, Ludlow; Tuesday, August 31st, Caer Banium.



The following gentlemen were elected members :—Mr. T. Ellis Williams and Dr. John Stead. The following gentlemen were nominated for ballot at the next meeting :—Mr. Leslie Tompson (Wisteston Court), Rev. F. H. Tuke, Mr. J. H. Wale, and Mr. E. J. Bettington.

The RETIRING PRESIDENT said there had been another death of a member, namely, that of Mr. Joseph Carless, which they all regretted exceedingly. He (the retiring president) must apologise for not giving the customary address, but he had been exceedingly busy during the past year. He had now to lead to the chair the incoming president, Preb. Williamson.

Preb. WILLIAMSON then assumed the chair.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. T. Hutchinson) said Mrs. Attwood-Mathews had sent him an account (which had already appeared in the *Hereford Times*) of a flight of woodcock at Llanvihangel Court in January last, and he must say he readily accepted the statement of Mrs. Attwood-Mathews, her friend, and her housekeeper that they were woodcock.

Several of the members present thought the birds were not woodcock.

The HON. SECRETARY further mentioned that he had received a letter from members stating two buzzards had been caught in the county by traps during the year. If that were so, the persons so catching these birds had been guilty of two illegal acts. In the first place, it was illegal to take a buzzard under the Wild Birds' Protection Act, and in the second place it was illegal to use a trap. He was told that these traps were set very much about the country. People had heard the pole trap was illegal, so keepers set it in other places. He thought if more notice was directed to the matter people might stop the practice. Lovers of wild birds wanted to enlist their sympathy, and not to prosecute them. These wild birds should be encouraged instead of being destroyed wholesale, as they were now. There used to be a considerable number of goldfinches at Lugg Meadow, but through professional bird catchers they had all been caught. That sort of thing should be put a stop to. In his opinion it was a cruel thing to put a wild bird in a cage at all.

The RETIRING PRESIDENT said a similar state of things had occurred in regard to throstles at a place near Redmarley, but he had been told the practice had been put down there.

Mr. COCKROFT said a buzzard caught by a cat trap had lately been presented to the Free Library.

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT thanked the club for the honour done him, and said he would do his best to preserve its tradition. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Sir James Rankin for stepping into the breach on the death of Mr. Moore.

The motion was unanimously acceded to

Sir JAMES RANKIN, in reply, said anything he could do for the club was always a pleasure to him. He had been connected with it 43 years, and his first presidency was 40 years ago. The subjects it investigated were most interesting to him.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FIRST FIELD MEETING, MAY 27, 1909.

VISIT TO ORLETON, CROFT CASTLE, AND MORTIMER'S CROSS.

ROMAN HEREFORDSHIRE.

BY A VISITOR.

"When buds of palm do burst and spread  
Their dewy feathers in the lane;  
And orchard blossoms white and red  
Breathe spring delight and autumn gain,  
And the skylark shakes his wings in the rain."

Such a typical spring day as that sung of by the late George Meredith was Thursday, when the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club set out for their first field meeting into the land of the "Orleton cuckoo"—only there was a little too much of the rain. At the outset, the day looked none too promising, the ragged patches of blue being too few to hold out great hopes of a tearless day, but the lack of brightness in the sky was more than made up for by the vivid gold of the meadows and the silver of the hedges, which the buttercups and the hawthorn contribute to the pageant of Spring. In the carriage in which I travelled, the journey was all too short, and the arrival of the train at Woofferton cut short a most interesting comparison of notes upon the black caps, white throats, and the nightingale. From Woofferton we wended our way towards Orleton, where we were glad to take sanctuary in the delightful old church\* just as a heavy storm of rain broke upon us. Here we were met by the Vicar (the Rev. Joseph Shepherd-Munn), who very kindly gave a brief but instructive description

\* See "Notes on Herefordshire Churches" by J. C. G. (Stamp) in the Reference Library, which the Editor has permission to use for publication in the "Transactions" Orleton Church, No. 5, Hereford Times, 14 Febr., 1905.

of the various features of interest which the church has to show. Amongst them were two old chests—known as "dugouts"—one of them said to be pre-Norman and the other Norman, both of them, however, in splendid preservation. The font, he said, was Saxon, although many, he thought, would think him heretical to say so. After a very pleasant quarter of an hour spent here, the company proceeding along the village—a charming old-world haunt of half-timbered houses amidst orchards—towards Orleton Manor,\* where we were met by Mrs. Hill, under whose roof-tree another quarter of an hour was well spent in investigating this beautiful old home of quaint corners and inglenooks, where—dare I whisper it?—it is said Pope came to court Miss Blount. Some doubt this, many deny it, yet it pleases one to think of the poet visiting the spot, and his name casts another charm around it, as many legends often do.

The day now beamed upon us for a while, and those of us who made the steep ascent to Bircher Common felt the increasing heat. The view, however, from the top, compensated for our toils. From Bircher Common the party proceeded to Ambury Camp, where another extensive view was obtained. Shortly after two o'clock the party descended from the western extremity of the camp to Croft Castle,† where we received a most hospitable welcome from the genial owner, Mr. Herbert Kevill Davies, who acted as cicerone. From here we took our way to Mortimer's Cross Inn, where, after the day's ramble a substantial luncheon came far from amiss.

At the conclusion of the meal the business of the club was transacted, four new members being made. Mr. T. Hutchinson (the hon. secretary) acquainted the club with the desires of the brother of the late Mr. H. C. Moore, in regard to the inscription on the proposed memorial to him, and it was formally decided to refer the question back to the committee in regard to the wording of the same. Mr. Hutchinson read a letter from the Rev. Eustace King-King, who stated he "flushed" two young woodcock on Bircher Common on Saturday last, and saw two golden oriel near the borders of Bircher Common, on April 26th, of this year.

\* This house which formerly belonged to the Blount family is now the property of its occupier Mr. John Richard Hill, and is a curious old timbered building and contains a considerable amount of oak panelling, in removing some of which in one of the bedrooms some years ago the following inscription was found on the wall over the fireplace—"Honour Him In Heart That suffered on the crosse for Thee and Worship Him." A cannon ball was also found in one of the walls. There is a magnificently carved oak bedstead and an oak fireplace in the drawing room, the work of Mrs. Hill.

† The following trees were measured 5 feet from the ground.—Large oak in Croft Castle garden, 25 feet 8 inches. The largest chestnut in the Avenue, 24 feet 4 inches.

Mr. JACK (county surveyor) then read a most interesting paper, which was listened to with the greatest attention.

#### SOME NOTES ON ROMAN HEREFORDSHIRE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—It is with some diffidence that I address the members of the Woolhope Club on such a subject as "Roman Herefordshire." I do so in the hope that interest in the subject may be revived. As a new comer I may be pardoned for saying that I am rather astonished to find that practically no new facts have been discovered relative to the Roman occupation of this part of the country since the writing of the very excellent paper by the late Dr. H. G. Bull in the year 1882, 27 years ago, and so far as I can find no systematic investigations have been carried out since Dean Merewether made his partial exploration of the site of Magni (Kenchester) in the years 1840-1-2, 67 years ago. I think I may safely say that all the Roman sites in the county still hold the majority of their secrets. Dr Bull, in speaking of that most interesting spot "Blackwardine," near Leominster, said: "Any exploration of the site can scarcely fail to produce objects of the highest interest." This is equally true of the Romano British town of Magni (Magna Castra), the site of which has scarcely been more than proved. The location of the principal buildings is still undiscovered. Of Ariconium (Weston) less is known, likewise Circutio, supposed to be near Stretton Grandison. I have read very closely the notes of Mr. Haverfield, M.A., to be found in the *Archæological Survey of Herefordshire*, written in the year 1896. It is a somewhat bare statement of the then known facts, and does not pretend to give details. It gives us the sum total of Roman remains in Herefordshire. Two small towns (Ariconium and Bravonium), one insignificant station (Magni), five villas or inhabited spots (Bishopstone, Putley, Walterstone, Whitchurch, and Stretton Grandison), some mining industry, one certain road (the Watling and Stoney Street), a total described as scanty, and surmised as due to the unfavourable physical features of the county. The list above given is certainly discouraging, and, judging from what little fresh knowledge has been gathered in the past thirteen years, it would seem that the haze enveloping the Roman period of our County's history would never be lifted. But who can tell what subsequent research may unfold? Place names often give indication of the location of former towns and villages, and of these there are plenty in the County, such as Burcot, Coldborough, Overton, Stratford, Sandford, Walford, Stanford, Ryford, Stretton, Eastnor, Tidnor, Hennor and others. As regards roads, there may not be more than two primary roads, but I am sure there are many secondary and cross roads, from the occurrence of such place names as

*Between pages 68 and 69*



*Photo by]*

*[Wilkins, Ross*

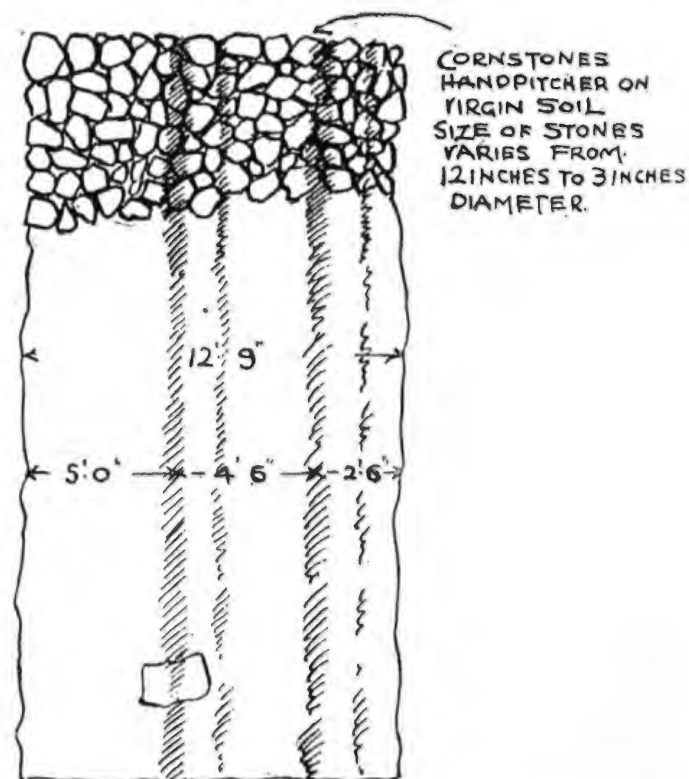
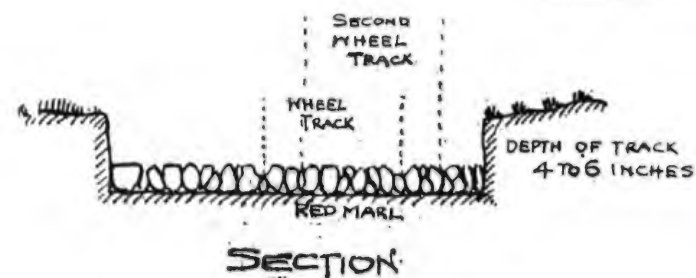
THE PRESENT-DAY ASPECT OF THE ROMAN ROAD AT ARICONIUM  
(BOLLITREE).



*Between pages 68 and 69*



THE GRASS-GROWN OUTER WALL, MAGNA (KENCHESTER).



ROMAN ROAD: ISCA SILURUM TO URICONIUM.

Original Plan—Scale, 4 feet to an inch. Reduced to  $\frac{2}{3}$  scale.

By kind permission of Archaeologia Cambrensis.

*Between pages 68 and 69*



*Photo by]*

*[Dawson, Leintwardine*

THE DITCH AND VALLUM, BRAVONIUM (LEINTWARDINE).





[A. Watkins

THE ROMAN VALLUM, LEINTWARDINE (BRAVONIUM).

Photo by]

Ridgeway, Greenway, Stanway, Garway, Streekway, Barkway, Crossway, Blackway and others, all indicating Roman roads and ways. Take one of these, Greenway. This is a road crossing the modern main road three miles south from Ledbury towards Dymock, near Donnington Hall. I have had the pleasure quite recently of proving for myself the existence of a Roman building near this road, probably a villa, the exact situation being 400 yards north of the Greenway. I cannot find that this discovery has been communicated to the Club, although I am not the first to visit the place. If this is so I am the more pleased to make the communication. I found the level of an ancient floor 2ft. to 2ft. 6in. below the present surface level, and scattered about fragments of undoubted Roman pottery, a part of a Hypocaust tile, a nail and a portion of tessaræ. The soil contains fragments of brick and ashes. I was told by the tenant that some time ago some rough masonry was unearthed in the shape of an "upright coffin" containing a shelf and a perfect urn. Unfortunately the masonry was demolished. I content myself with adding one more proven Roman site to the scanty list given by Mr. Haverfield. The remains just referred to are situate five miles as the crow flies from the villa at Putley, and not far from the questioned Roman road through Ashperton, of which I shall have something to say later. Being specially interested in the subject of roads, I ask your indulgence to hear me in some detail under this head.

We are largely indebted to the road book or Itinerary of Antoninus for the identification of very many of our Roman roads. The only road mentioned in this Itinerary which can now be clearly traced out in this county is that one from Isca Silurum (Caerleon) to Uriconium (Wroxeter). It is called the 12th journey, and is given as follows:—

- Burrium (Usk), 9.
- Gabannium (Abergavenny), 12.
- Magnam (Kenchester), 22.
- Bravonium (Leintwardine), 22.
- Viriconium (Wroxeter), 27.

The line of this road is shown on the Herefordshire Review Map as doubtful between Abergavenny and Rowstone, and thence as certain to Kenchester (Magni), and on along the Canon Pyon road over Stretford bridge to Leintwardine (Bravonium). I wish to point out here that in my view the fact of this particular route being recorded does not necessarily prove that this was the principal and only road in these parts; in fact, I shall endeavour to show later that part of it at any rate was not a primary road.

In the year 1904, Mr. J. G. Wood, M.A., read a paper before this society on the subject of Roman roads, and I am inclined to his opinions then expressed in preference to those laid down by Mr. Haverfield in 1896. Mr. Wood shows in his map the Stone Street which runs through Kenchester as far as Burghill as a secondary road. The primary road commenced at Venta Silurum (Caerwent), proceeded north to Blestium (Monmouth), thence along what is now the Ross road, past the tumulus at St. Weonard's, over the Callow Hill, crossed the Wye near the site of Wye Bridge, where the river is still fordable at times, a fact from which (according to Mr. Wood) Hereford takes its name, and thence to Burghill and along the Canon Pyon road to Bravonium (Leintwardine). I feel confirmed in my own opinion that Stone Street, although mentioned in the Itinerary, is not a primary road, from my observations of the structure of the road near Abbeydore Station.

By the courtesy of the Great Western Railway Company, I was allowed to excavate in the station yard during last summer and expose the surface of the old road for a length of about 30 feet and for its full width, and I then took very full particulars. Before I give them to the meeting I would refer to a paper read by Dr. Bull in the year 1901, and entitled "An Ancient Buried Road." The area at that time was too small to allow of details being noted, being not more than three square yards in extent, and no excavation was made in order to ascertain the mode of construction.

I found the road to consist of unworked nodular limestone handpitched on the virgin soil (a hard red marl). There was no sign of a concrete bed or any cementing material between the stones, which were of all sizes, varying from 3 to 12 inches in their longest diameter. The road was not kerbed as in the Forest of Dean. I measured the width, 12ft. 9in., and was interested to note that the tracks made by the wheels of the vehicles (4ft. 6in. gauge) were not in the centre of the road, but well to one side, viz., the right hand side when travelling between the Roman towns of Gobannium (Abergavenny) and Magni (Kenchester). There was a clear untracked way on the left hand side five feet in width, measured from the edge of the pavement to the wheel-track. This may have served the purpose of a walking way; I can think of no other purpose. The principal wheel tracks were cut into the pavement to a depth of from four to six inches; this had evidently caused uncomfortable travelling, for there is a second set of tracks noticeable still further to the right, but not nearly so deeply marked; the gauge is the same. One would have expected the new track to have taken a line to the left of the earlier tracks where the pavement was wider, but it is evident this space served an important purpose, for the outside



PORTION OF ROMAN ROAD, NEAR ABBEY DORE STATION.





PORTION OF ROMAN ROAD, NEAR ABBEY DORE STATION.

By kind permission of *Archæologia Cambrensis*.



SKETCH MAP OF HEREFORDSHIRE ROMAN ROADS.

By kind permission of *Archæologia Cambrensis*.

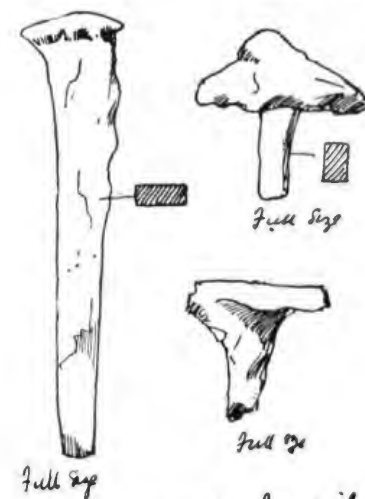


FIBULÆ AND PINS, BLACKWARDINE.



STONES AND QUERN, MAGNA (KENCHESTER).

Between pages 70 and 71



*Much rusted Iron nails*

RELICS FOUND ON ROMAN PAVEMENT, ABBEY DORE.

Reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scale.

By kind permission of Archæologia Cambrensis.



wheel when traversing the newer track would only be 2ft. from the right hand edge of the paving.

In one place on the older track a repair had been executed by placing a large irregularly shaped stone in the deepest part of the rut. The photograph and drawing will make my descriptions clearer to my hearers. There is now from 18 to 24 inches of mould lying on top of the paving, a depth which I find is usual in all the cases of Roman work which I have had the pleasure of unearthing in this County. No trace of the road can be made out by a survey of the existing surface, time has completely obliterated it. I found lying on the pavement two Roman nails, such as might be used in the construction of a vehicle, and a fragment of a Roman horseshoe. The finding of these relics suggests to me that the road was little used after the departure of the Legions in 406 A.D. Had it continued in use during Saxon times, surely the nails would in the course of time get scattered or picked up by some wayfarer and flung off the pavement. The exact age of the road must, I suppose, be always a matter of doubt. It is certainly the road mentioned in the 12th Itinerary of Antoninus, which work assumed the form in which it has reached us about the year 320 A.D., in the reign of Constantine the Great who was Emperor of Rome from 307 to 337 A.D. This construction from Isca Silurum (Caerleon) to Uriconium (Wroxeter), a distance of about 90 miles, must have been a very arduous task occupying a long time, especially when one considers that the inhabitants were hostile, and that there were no pre-existing roads for the transport of materials.

It may be assumed I think that paved roads in the difficult country of the warlike Silures would not be constructed until after the defeat of Caractacus, which took place in the year 51 A.D. Ten years later (61 A.D.) the 14th Legion left Camulodunum (Colchester) for active service in the west, and the renowned 2nd Legion was advanced to Caerleon, the starting point of the road in question, and it is fair to assume that one of the first duties of the Roman leaders would be the construction of new lines of communication through the conquered country. The road at Abbeydore was one of these, so that it is probable that parts were completed before the end of the 1st century. Commenting generally on this interesting piece of ancient workmanship, the work seems to have been hurriedly done, the sole object being to obtain a hard unyielding surface for the purposes of transport of baggage and troops. There is a lacking of that thorough and nice workmanship which is usually found in Roman work on primary roads. This leads me to think that our Stone Street as far as Burghill where Watling Street is joined, came under the category of a secondary road. Mr. J. G. Wood differs a

good deal from the views expressed by Mr. Haverfield in 1896. Whereas the latter gentleman asserts that there is only one certain road in the county (*i.e.*, the one I have referred to), and records as doubtful the possible existence of a road from the Watling Street near Leintwardine, running in a south-easterly direction through Humber, Stretton Grandison, and Ashperton to Weston. The line of part of this road is marked on the review map by dotted lines between Stretton towards Dymock, while the more northerly portion is for the most part omitted. Mr. Wood, on the other hand, considers that not only is the existence of a primary road in this vicinity possible, but very probable, and from the evidence available I am inclined to agree with him. Mr. Wood's road, however, does not pass through Ariconium (Weston).

The route of Mr. Wood's road commences at the Watling Street near Craven Arms, thence in a south-easterly direction through Stockton Cross and Stretford to the east of Leominster to Blackwardine, where there must have been a Roman settlement as large if not larger than Kenchester, thence via Saffron Cross, near Bodenham, to Burley Gate, and on to Stretton Grandison through Ashperton, where the road is singularly straight for seven miles, and so to Newent and Gloucester (Glevum). I argue that the presence of the station at Blackwardine, and such place names as Stretford and Stretton on this line, leading as it does to the important station of Glevum, is strongly in favour. There is also an additional reason. The Itinerary road, part of which I am attempting to prove, was a secondary road, passes through a Stretford on the Canon Pyon road to the west of Leominster. Mr. Haverfield directs attention to a footnote, as follows:—"Stukeley mentions this road as passing through Stretford; he adds that it went through Birton two miles north of Leominster where they dig up the pavement of it made of squarish ragstone." Mr. Haverfield adds:—"I do not know where Birton is. If it is Bury, two miles north of Leominster, it lies far out of the track of the real road."

Now, curiously enough, there is another Stretford to the east of Leominster and on the line of Mr. Wood's suggested primary road, and there is nothing to show to which Stretford Stukeley refers. It occurs to me that Birton may be Berrington, which is on the line of the same road, though more than two miles north of Leominster.

The significant part of Stukeley's statement is that the pavement was of "squarish" ragstone. Now the better class roads were often paved with polygonal blocks of stone squared at the edges so as to fit closely together, and occasionally rectangular blocks were used. Stukeley's "squarish" may mean polygonal.

It certainly cannot by any stretch of imagination apply to construction similar to that found on the itinerary road at Abbeydore, where there was not the slightest sign of any of the stones having been worked.

Now assuming squared stones were found near the Stretford on Mr. Wood's road, then I think the evidence as to its being a road of primary importance is much strengthened.

In the course of my business as a road surveyor I often think of the strong enduring "dustless" Roman pavement laid down centuries ago, now topped by the modern weak macadam road with its worn surface, annually ground into dust by the motor vehicle. In the matter of road making we have made very little advance on Roman methods 1,600 years old. Our chief troubles to-day arise from an unstable surface and lack of any solid foundation, points considered of the first importance in ancient road making, and to-day, the only satisfactory roads under all kinds of traffic are paved roads.

I have more material at my disposal relevant to my subject, but I will content myself on this occasion by saying that from what little exploration I have been able to do I am convinced that there is a rich field full of archaeological interest open to the members of the Woolhope Club. I have endeavoured, in company with my friends Mr. Garrold Lloyd and Mr. Frank Brown, to locate the site of the villa at Whitchurch, but without success. The site of the villa discovered many years ago at Walterstone is now a matter of doubt. The site of the town called Circutio I think is very doubtful, personally I do not think it was located near Stretton Grandison. The records of a few finds on a spot 60ft. by 40ft. is not sufficient to establish the existence of a station, and especially of this particular one, seeing that the anonymous geographer of Ravenna, an ancient authority, gives the locus of Circutio as between Caerleon and Kenchester. Of all the places I have visited none seem more worthy of attention from archaeologists than Blackwardine, and I should much like to see some investigations of the site carried out on systematic lines. I am afraid I have been unable to add anything entirely new save perhaps the details of the Abbeydore road and the note on the villa at Donnington. I have a few finds with me which I have made during my journeys, and now submit them for the inspection of the members.

At the conclusion Mr. HUTCHINSON proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Jack for his illuminative contribution to the Club's transactions, which was warmly accorded him.—The roll

call at luncheon included the following names:—Preb. H. T. Williamson (president), Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary), Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. J. T. Hereford, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Mr. H. C. Jack, Rev. A. G. Jones, the Rev. J. E. Grasett, Mr. J. Lambe, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Mr. H. W. Wadworth, the Rev. Augustine Ley, the Rev. Eustace King-King, Mr. G. M. Brierley, Mr. W. G. Lloyd, the Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, the Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Mr. T. C. Morgan, the Rev. M. R. S. Onslow, Dr. Scudamore Powell, the Rev. C. H. Stoker, Mr. J. E. Stooke, Mr. H. E. Jones, Mr. C. P. Bird, the Rev. W. Oswald Wait, Mr. R. H. George, the Rev. C. B. Caldicott, the Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, Dr. J. H. Wood, Mr. A. G. Hudson, and Dr. E. W. Du Buisson.

The visitors included the Rev. F. H. Tuke, Mr. W. T. Williamson, Mr. C. Cuthbert, Dr. Hughes and Mr. R. D. Hughes.

The business of the club being ended the party started to Kingsland station two miles distant. Passing the stone commemorating the battle of Mortimer's Cross, Mr. George pointed out the mistake in the inscription which states wrongly "Edward Mortimer, Earl of March." This as he showed should read Edward Plantagenet, he being a Mortimer on his grandmother's side.

[Visitors to this historical spot would do well to read the inscription on the monument with "Malvern Chase" in their hands, and follow the graphic description therein given of the memorable fight on Candlemas Day, 1461.—EDITOR.]

The following candidates were ballotted for:—Mr. A. Leslie Thompson, Rev. F. H. Tuke, Mr. J. H. Wall and Mr. E. J. Bettington. The following were proposed:—Mr. J. Williams Vaughan, Penymaes, Hay, proposed by Rev. W. E. J. Morgan, seconded by Mr. T. Hutchinson; Mr. W. M. Wilson, Hereford, proposed by Mr. J. T. Pitt, seconded by Mr. J. B. Pilley; Rev. J. Shepherd Munn, Orleton Vicarage, proposed by Rev. C. H. Stoker, seconded by Mr. J. B. Pilley.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SECOND FIELD MEETING, JULY 1, 1909.

### LLANTHONY ABBEY.

For their second field meeting of the season, which took place on July 1st, the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club were favoured with delightful weather following another fine day after the heavy rainfall. The programme included visit to Capel-y-ffin, Blaen-y-Bwch dingle, the Red Dingle, the Bwlch Valley, and Llanthony, not only the ancient ruins of Llanthony Abbey, but also the modern Llanthony Monastery of Father Ignatius. The company numbered upwards of fifty members comprising the President (Prebendary H. T. Williamson), Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Canon W. H. Capes, Mr. Herbert H. Child, Mr. Robert Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Mr. Truman J. Cook, Colonel E. C. Douse, Mr. P. Leighton Earle, Mr. A. B. Farn, Mr. R. H. George, Rev. E. A. Gowing, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Preb. Winnington Ingram, Rev. A. G. Jones, Rev. J. G. Monro, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Rev. Augustin Ley, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Mr. T. Cyrus Morgan, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Capt. T. L. Morgan, Mr. Alfred Parker, Mr. Robert T. L. Parr, Rev. Andrew Pope, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Rev. W. Oswald Wait, Rev. R. Hyett Warner, Mr. Alfred Watkins, Mr. W. M. Haywood, Judge G. Harris Lea, Judge R. W. Ingham, Mr. A. G. Hudson, Mr. Charles E. A. Moore, Mr. J. T. Pitt, Mr. H. M. Purchas, Mr. A. P. Small, Mr. Edwin Stooke, Mr. C. P. Bird, Rev. John Jones, Dr. Hamilton Symonds, Mr. J. Reginald Symonds, Mr. Thomas Hutchinson (hon. sec.), Mr. James B. Pilley (assistant sec.); visitors including the Rev. T. Walwyn Trumper (Clifford), Mr. Pope (Upton Bishop), Mr. Allen Watkins (The Croft, Hereford), Mr. James James Brash (Eign Villa), and Mr. William Harris (Hereford).

Carriages meeting them at Llanvihangel station, they were conveyed along the charming valley of the Honddu brook, which runs alongside the road most of the way though deep down in the vale. Cwmyoy church was seen across the valley at the foot of curiously-broken mountains, and Llanthony Abbey was also passed. At 10½ miles distance the club arrived at Capel-y-ffin, "the church of the boundaries" between Monmouthshire, Breconshire, and



Herefordshire, and proceeded, under the guidance of the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Vicar of Llanigon, to the entrance of the Blaen-y-bwch Dingle. Here they inspected the statue of the Virgin Mary which has been erected near the late Father Ignatius's Monastery on the site of the alleged apparition, and went on to the top of the Red Dingle. In the middle of the valley, a big detached rock of petrified moss, forming a small cave, with the rare fern *Asplenium viride* growing upon it was examined. Mr. Truman J. Cook pointed out that the rock must have broken off falling from the top of the mountain. The passage of its descent could be seen, and the stalactites in the cave were horizontal. A fine waterfall, about fifty-feet deep from the cascade, was passed, and one of the party slipped on a stone while crossing a stream and obtained an involuntary bath. Some of the party ascended the crest of the hill to the Twmpa, 2,213 feet, and others walked up the Black Mountains, from which fine views and pure air were enjoyed, and many finds made by geologists, botanists, etc. Plants of the butterwort were obtained, and the Rev. A. Ley cut some sprays of an old British rose, the *Pomyfera*. This tree he found on the Taren-r-Escob mountain. Hawthorn trees in full blossom, and March marigolds in bloom, indicated the lateness of the season. Heather was not quite out in flower.

About four o'clock the company gathered at Llanthony Abbey, where within the roofless walls of the ancient refectory they partook of a substantial luncheon, served by mine host of the inn which is situated within the picturesque abbey ruins.

The PRESIDENT gave the toast of "The King," after which Mr. HUTCHINSON, the hon. secretary, mentioned that between 60 and 70 subscriptions had been received towards the late Mr. H. C. Moore's tablet, and he should be glad if those members who wished to enter their names for this object would send in at once.

It was announced that the following new members were elected :—The Rev. J. Shepherd Munn, Orleton Vicarage ; Mr. J. Williams-Vaughan, Penymaes, Hay ; and Mr. W. M. Wilson, Hereford.

Mr. HUTCHINSON also stated that the following were proposed for ballot at the next meeting :—Mr. Basil Ronalds, Mr. W. Edward Groom, and Mr. W. Farrar Roberts.

A subscription of two guineas was voted to the Caerwent Exploration Fund.

A very interesting and instructive paper, written by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, was here read on

## THE ITINERARY OF GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS.

To-day we started from Capel-y-ffin, or "the Chapel of the boundary," where the three counties of Brecon, Monmouth, and Hereford meet, and also the three Dioceses of St. David's, Llandaff, and Hereford. Here the Honddu and the Mant-bwch brooks join. In connection with Capel-y-ffin, I heard some curious sayings the other day, which I think worth recording. "What do they do with the old moons? They are sent over to Capel-y-ffin to chop up into stars." "A tortoise-shell tom-cat is seldom seen, but there was one once in Capel-y-ffin." Soon we reached the Monastery of the late Father Ignatius, a picturesque, eloquent, though some what eccentric character, who has recently been removed from this scene of his long labours. A little further up the dingle on the left, was Taren-yr-Esgob, or "the Bishop's rock." The old legend about the rock is this. Once upon a time a Bishop, returning from St. David's, was hotly pursued by the wild Welsh, and rode to the brink of the precipice. Seeing that there was no escape, and determined not to be captured, he urged his horse forward, and both horse and rider were dashed to pieces on the rocks below. In the middle of the valley, evidently once dislodged from the heights above, lies a large mass of rock, locally known as "the honey comb rock." I notice that this rock is described in the Woolhope Transactions, recording a visit of the club to this spot on July 28th, 1891, as "Calcareous tufa," and the hollow in the rock as Twlch-y-foel-las, or "the cave of the gray stone." The Rev. W. S. Symonds tells us, in "the Record of the Rocks," that this rock is composed of travertine, which owes its origin to the percolation of water through a thick band of Cornstone, which may be seen in situ in the rocks above (p. 238). These are the highest Cornstones in the district, and are succeeded by a great mass of Brownstones in the hill to the west, called the Gadair, 2,630 feet. A little further on we arrived at a very beautiful waterfall. On the left of the waterfall, under the hill, so the "Record of the Rock" tells us, is to be found the rare fern *Asplenium viride*, and, covering the mass of travertine, a small saxifrage. Proceeding up the valley we passed a small farm, Blaen-y-bwch, or "the Mountain haunt of the buck," and on to the brow of the hill overlooking the beautiful and extensive valley of the Wye. Bearing to the left we arrived at the head of the Red dingle, where a mountain path descends into the valley below. Some distance down there is a fine echo, and near the top a recumbent stone, which I hope the members will examine, and give an opinion as to its origin and use. It has been suggested that it may have been a cross erected on the brow of the hill, where it would stand out a conspicuous object on the sky line, to direct pilgrims on their way to Llanthony

from Brecon and the west; or it may have been one of the large stones frequently found on these hills to mark the boundaries of the Manors. Retracing our steps and advancing northwards along the crest of the hill, we passed another zigzag path leading to the valley, Rhiw-wen, or "the white path." Proceeding, and enjoying all the while the glorious panorama stretching far and wide below us, we reached the Twmpath, 2,263 feet, and then bore eastward towards the Bwlch, the chief pass over these mountains, where there is a fair road leading from Hay to Capel-y-ffin. It is known as Bwlch-yr-Efengyl, "the Gospel pass," or as some interpret it, "the pass of the narrow spot," Bwlch-y-fan-cul. We followed the road back till we again reached Capel-y-ffin. Let me here say a few words about the meeting of Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus Cambrensis, who, in the year 1188 made a tour through Wales, the early portion of which can be traced from these heights. The first place mentioned in the Itinerary of Giraldus Cambrensis, describing their progress is New Radnor, where Baldwin and his suite arrived by way of Hereford, on Ash Wednesday of that year, and where Giraldus met him. Here they were hospitably entertained by Rhys ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales, who had with him many of the distinguished personages of the neighbourhood. Baldwin's object in coming to Wales was professedly to preach the Crusades, and to gain as many recruits as possible to embark with him on that noble though hazardous enterprise of winning back Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre from the hands of the conquering Saracens, who were at this time in possession of that sacred place. But there was another object in this visit, viz., to assert the authority of Canterbury over the Welsh Church. Giraldus was present when the Archbishop celebrated mass at the high altar of each of the four Welsh Cathedrals in token of his supremacy. This conduct was somewhat inconsistent with his subsequent repudiation of Canterbury and his appeal to the Pope asking for the recognition of the Metropolitanship of St. David's. From New Radnor they proceeded to Cruker Castle, supposed to have been situated at Old Radnor; and from Old Radnor to Hay, where many were signed with the sign of the cross, and joined their ranks. From Hay they advanced to Brecon, preaching en route at Llanddew, where Giraldus, who was Archdeacon of Brecon, lived. Traces of the old residence, which is said to have been one of the palaces of the Bishops of St. David's, are still to be seen in the vicarage grounds. Here let me say a word or two about Giraldus. He was the son of William de Barri, a Norman, and partly Welsh on his mother's side, she being Angharad the daughter of Gerald de Windsor, whose mother was Welsh on her mother's side, being the daughter of Nest, who was a daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales. He was born in Manorbeer Castle, in the year 1147. In the year 1175 he was appointed Arch-

deacon of Brecon. In 1188 he accompanied Archbishop Baldwin as chaplain, interpreter, and guide in his memorable journey through Wales. For many years he fought an ineffectual fight for the Bishopric of St. David's, on which he had set his heart, but after innumerable intrigues, and fruitless journeys to Rome, he at last gave up the struggle as useless, and so, in the year 1202, he resigned his Archdeaconry and Prebendal stall and withdrew into retirement some say to Lincoln, to spend the rest of his life in quiet, and in the pursuit of letters. Others say that, after a fourth and last pilgrimage to Rome, he retired to St. David's, where he died in the year 1223, in the 74th year of his age, and was buried in the cathedral. In a letter which I received a few weeks ago from the Librarian of St. David's Cathedral, he says:—"There is no historic proof that Giraldus was buried in the Cathedral, but from time immemorial his reputed tomb is a full length recumbent effigy of a priest, in local stone, situated under the easternmost arch of the south choir aisle, parallel with the high altar." Giraldus, although he took the cross, never joined the Crusades. Of Baldwin I may state that in 1190 he accompanied King Richard I. to the Holy Land, where he died on November 20th of that year. From Llanddew they proceeded to Brecon, and from Brecon returned again, through Llanddew and Talgarth to Abergavenny. What route did they take? This is a matter of some interest because I fear many mistakes have been made on the subject. Did Baldwin pay a visit to Llanthony on this occasion? On page 201 of the Woolhope Transactions for the years 1890-2 occur these words, "Llanthony was visited in A.D. 1188, by Archbishop Baldwin on his journey through Wales to preach the Crusades"; and in an account of another visit paid by the club to Llanthony on June 30th, 1898, someone, describing the events of the day, repeats the assertion, and in a footnote on page 30 I myself fell into the same error. It only shows the danger of trusting to second-hand authority, and not verifying a statement by examining the original document. The mistake seems to have arisen from reading Chapter III. of the Itinerary as though it were a part of the narrative, whereas it is simply a digression on the part of Giraldus, giving an account of the foundation of the Monastery, and of the life of the monks there. This was natural, as it was a place of considerable interest, and it is probable that Giraldus had paid frequent visits to it. But on this occasion a visit does not seem to have been paid to the Priory, perhaps for two reasons, (1) because, considering the sparse population of the district, they would not be likely to gain many recruits for the Crusades, and (2) there would be no special significance in Baldwin's displaying his authority over the Welsh Church there. Moreover, the establishment, which had been founded by Hugh de Lacy about 1108, owing to the barren and lawless state of the country around, was often reduced to the greatest privations,

and consequently was partly removed in 1136 to the newly-founded Priory at Gloucester, sometimes called "Llanthony the Second." Only thirteen Canons remained at the Old Llanthony, so that in 1188, 50 years after the removal of so many monks, a great deal of its former glory had departed. We now come to a question of the route that Baldwin and his party took on their journey from Talgarth to Abergavenny. Chapter IV. of the Itinerary begins thus:—"From thence we proceeded through the narrow woody tract called the bad pass of Coed Grono, leaving the noble Monastery of Llanthoni, inclosed by its mountains, on our left." The direct route to get into the Grwyne fawr valley would be to cross over by the Rhiw Cwmstab, or "the Constable's road." Here I must again plead guilty of having made a mistake in the note before alluded to, in placing the Rhiw Cwmstab in the Red dingle, which we have visited to-day. But it is the pass, some considerable distance to the south, on the north end of the Das, as that part of the mountain is called from, as I suggest, its rick like shape: das means "a rick." Then they would follow down the valley, over a bridge, which is called Pont Esgob, "the Bishop's bridge," so named, probably, to commemorate the fact. They would then pass Patricio and on to Abergavenny. A quaint inscription is to be found on a tombstone in Capel-y-ffin churchyard. In memory of Noah ye son of Noah Watkins who died December ye 11th 1738 Aged 8 years. "This child said he would not take a hundred pounds in money for breaking the Sabbath but keep it holy."

#### DISCOVERY OF A DOVECOTE AT LLANTHONY.

Mr. ALFRED WATKINS, who is a recognised authority on dovecotes, amongst other subjects, read a few notes in reference to a fresh discovery amongst the ruins of Llanthony Abbey. He said: Until its discovery in 1907, no one, I think, had the slightest idea of the existence of an ancient dovecote in the domestic buildings surrounding the ruined Priory. I have many times walked over the heap of stones concealing the building without a guess at there being anything buried at the spot. In October, 1907, Mr. Knight, landlord of the inn, and local agent for the owner of the Abbey, began excavating this heap for building stones, and soon found a wall forming the lower part of a circular building, lined with pigeon holes. After the first breach in the wall made by the excavation (in its south side), Mr. Knight carefully preserved the remainder, excavating the interior and also the doorway and entrance. He was not sure of the purpose of the structure until I came at Easter, 1908, and identified and photographed it. The situation is to the south of

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Photo by]

REMAINS OF A DOVECOTE AT LLANTHONY.

[A. Watkins



the Priory, beyond the church and present farm buildings, but within the chain of fishponds which partly encircle the Priory to the east and south. The dovecote is circular, 15ft. inside diameter, with stone walls about 4ft. 2ins. thick. The height cannot now be known, as the upper part had fallen in—probably centuries ago. The present height of walls is about 5 feet. It was paved with flat stones, and domed over, also with horizontal flat stones, cemented together, with each succeeding course overlapping towards the centre. The hole left in the centre of the top was finished with a large circular flat stone, 4 feet 3 inches diameter, with a 15 inch circular opening for the pigeons. A flat stone on this central opening would confine the birds to their house. The interior seems to be dry walling completely lined with shaped nesting holes, one course inclining to the right, and the next course to the left as usual in these buildings. There is an alighting string course beneath each tier of pigeon holes. The courses are about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart.

And now comes the most remarkable feature, one which makes the building unique in my experience of dovecotes. There are no signs of any external finish or face to the walls except at the doorway, where a separate face has been added. As far as can be seen by the present remains, it was built with an inner face only, and the stones earthed up with a mound of earth or débris on the outside as it was built. The sloping retaining wall radial to the circle which allowed access to the doorway by a passage cut through the mound still remains on one side of the doorway, the corresponding retaining wall on the other side of the entrance being missing.

It seems therefore that this particular dovecote was in effect a mound of earth with a wall lining it like the steining of a well. The heavy domed top must therefore have had a very weak support and abutment. Part of the domed roof remains just as it fell in probably when the interior was quite clear of débris. It was an exceedingly weak construction and probably did not last many years. The building is probably of 13th and 14th century date. I could not detect any stones previously worked for another building being used in its construction.

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#### NOTES ON THE FAUNA OF THE BLACK MOUNTAIN DISTRICT.

BY JOHN WILLIAMS VAUGHAN.

The Woolhope Club having done me the honour of asking me to write a paper on the Fauna of this district I have great pleasure

in complying with the request, and as I have for many years taken great interest in all branches of natural history of the district, I hope my notes may be of some service and interest to the members of the club, especially with regard to the Mollusca, which, so far as I am aware, have never been before studied in the neighbourhood.

#### MAMMALS.

The Badger. *Meles taxus*.—Still fairly common in the district and of late years on the increase, a matter for congratulation as it is practically harmless and of great interest to the naturalist. Sir Richard Owens regards it as the oldest form of existing Mammals. Its original home seems to have been the North of India and Persia, where some of its remains have been found in early Pliocene deposits. The Badger is so nocturnal in its habits that it may exist for many years in a neighbourhood without its presence being suspected by the inhabitants.

The Fox. *Canis vulpes*.—Plentiful all over the district. The Black Mountain Foxes are famous for their speed, strength and endurance, and for the long runs they give the foxhounds.

The Otter. *Lutra vulgaris*.—Common on the Wye and Usk and their larger tributaries.

Pine Marten or Martin Cat. *Mustela martes*.—Very rare and will soon become extinct. One was killed at Clyro about 60 years ago. Another was trapped in the Henalt Wood near Builth a few years ago and is now preserved at Glanusk in Lord Glanusk's collection. I have heard of one having been killed near Llandovery quite recently. The Martin Cat always kills its prey by cutting through the ribs down to the heart and then sucking the blood. Two hares were found killed above Rhayader a couple of winters ago exactly in this manner, probably the work of a Martin Cat. The Welsh name for the animal is Bela and I remember when a boy hearing the shepherds talk of the wonderful cunning and ferocity it displayed.

Pole Cat. *Putorius fœtidens*.—Is found occasionally, but is getting very rare owing to extensive game preserving.

The Stoat. *Putorius ermineus*, and The Weasel. *P. vulgaris*.—Are both very common. The Stoat in winter often assumes either wholly or partially the white ermine coat. I have one in my possession that is white all over, even the tail being white; this is very unusual, as even in the Arctic winter the Ermine retains the black point of the tail.

The Hare. *Lepus europæus*, and The Rabbit, *O. cuniculus*.—The Hare I am sorry to say has decreased very much since the passing of the Ground Game Act. The Rabbit on the contrary has increased, and one finds them now often in numbers in places where formerly they were never seen.

The Squirrel. *Sciurus vulgaris*.—Abundant and sometimes very destructive in the young larch plantations.

The Dormouse. *Muscardinus avellanarius*.—Occurs generally throughout the district.

The Hedgehog. *Erinaceus europæus*.—Common everywhere; now the old superstition that the Hedgehog milks cows is dying out they are much less persecuted and in consequence are becoming more plentiful.

The Mole. *Talpa europæa*.—Very abundant, the large quantity of waste land in the neighbourhood keeps up the supply in spite of the great numbers that are constantly being killed on the cultivated lands.

The Rat. *Mus decumanus*, and The Mouse. *M. musculus*.—Both are much too abundant. I once when a boy caught a white rat in a barn at Velinewydd. It was a pure Albino and had red eyes. I had it preserved locally and unfortunately it was done so badly that the moths destroyed it.

The Water Vole. *Microtus amphibius*.—Abundant on all our streams. The Water Vole is generally a very harmless creature, but last year a case came under my observation where one did considerable damage. In a garden near the Wye at Llyswen, a Water Vole destroyed a bed of parsnips and one of carrots, and gnawed the roots of several currant trees and killed them. It was caught at last and proved to be a very large one. I now have it preserved.

The Field Vole. *Microtus agrestis*, and the Bank Vole. *E. glareolus*.—Are both very common.

The Wood Mouse. *Mus sylvaticus*.—Two varieties of this little rodent exist in the district, viz., *Mus sylvaticus inter-medi-us* and *M. Sylvaticus wintoni*. I think the latter variety is the more numerous.

The Common Shrew. *Sorex vulgaris*.—Is the only member of the Shrew family I have seen in the district; it is very abundant and in the autumn one often finds them dead from no apparent

cause. The Water Shrew, *C. fodiens*, doubtless exists, but I have never met with one.

Bats.—I have only seen four species of Bat in the neighbourhood, viz., The Great Bat, *P. noctula*. The Long Eared Bat, *P. auritus*, the barbastelle, *B. barbastellus* and the Common Bat, *pipistrelus*. The Great Bat is abundant, and Sir H. Johnston is quite wrong when he says, page 89 of his Woburn Library, British Mammals, "This Bat is unknown in Wales." Bell in his British Quadrupeds, page 13, says "This Bat remains in activity for a shorter time than any other, being abroad later and retiring earlier." White says he never saw it till the end of April nor later than July. In this neighbourhood this is not the case. I have a colony in the roof of my present house. I saw the first this year on April 9th and last year they were flying on into October. The Barbastella has been found at Llanelwed Church near Builth, where the Rev. Edmund Owen found a large colony in 1904.

Wild Cat. *Felis catus*.—I believe this species has only become extinct in Wales within the last 40 or 50 years. Indeed I do not think it altogether impossible that one or two may yet survive in some of the most remote parts of the country. About 45 years ago a very large Cat was trapped at Ponty wall near Talgarth, I unfortunately did not hear of it for some days, and the cat was buried. It was dug up and I well remember its unusual size and its markings, which were exactly those of a Wild Cat. The tail also was short and thick, with black rings. I have no doubt it was either a genuine Wild Cat or at least had a strong wild cross in it. Mr. A. Gwynne-Vaughan, of Builth, tells me that about 40 years ago, near Llandoverly, a very large and ferocious cat was caught in a rabbit hole, the markings and size corresponding with those of the Wild Cat. This seems to confirm my opinion that the species has not long been extinct in Wales, if it is so even now.

#### BIRDS.

There are 105 species of birds breeding in this neighbourhood, and about 50 or 60 other species which are either winter or occasional visitors.

To give a complete list of the birds would, I think, be beyond the scope of this paper. I shall, therefore, confine myself to giving a few notes on some of the rarer species.

#### BREEDING SPECIES.

Kite. *Milvus iclinus*.—Still lingers in some of the wildest parts of the country; indeed, I can remember when it was com-

paratively numerous, and used to breed regularly in the Llangoed woods a few years ago. Miss Thomas, of Llanthomas, informs me that one was repeatedly seen near Llanthomas in 1887. Great efforts are being made for its preservation, and I have hopes that in a few years its numbers will increase, and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing it gracefully sailing over the slopes of the Black Mountains once more, and possibly breeding in some of our woods.

Common Buzzard. *Buteo vulgaris*.—This bird is a striking instance of the benefit of a little preservation. A few years ago it was very scarce, when a few large landowners began to preserve it, and now it is fairly common again. When I lived at the Skreen a Buzzard was constantly seen for two or three years. It got caught two or three times in traps, and lost several of its claws. But it did not seem to learn wisdom, and directly it saw a bait it went for it at once. It knew the sound of a gun quite well, and when we had a rabbit shoot, after the first few shots were fired it always appeared, and kept flying about behind the shooting party, evidently looking for a wounded rabbit.

Rook. *Corvus frugilegus*.—There are several large rookeries in the district. For the last nine months there has been an almost white rook constantly seen in the fields near the main road between Hay and Glasbury. I saw it on the 6th of last month (June 6th).

Great Spotted Woodpecker. *Picus major*.—Occurs wherever there are woods, and is much more numerous than *Picus minor*, the lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Wryneck. *Iynx torquilla*.—Rare. I have only seen it on two or three occasions. It bred near Builth last year. I understand it is more plentiful in the Usk Valley.

Tree Creeper. *Certhia familiaris*, and Nuthatch, *Sitta Coesia*.—Are both abundant in woods and where there are trees.

Tree Sparrow. *Passer montanus*.—Generally distributed, but rare. I often see a fine cock bird on the roadside near Fordfawr, Glasbury.

Hawfinch. *Coccothraustes vulgaris*.—Nested near Builth in 1906, and again last year.

Stone Chat. *Pratiicola rubetra*.—Common, and breeds in suitable places, but is not so abundant as its near ally, *Prubicola*, the Whinchat.

Lesser Whitethroat. *Sylvia garrula*.—A pair nests every year in the Rectory Garden at Llanelwed, near Builth.



Reed Warbler, *Calamoherpe strepera*.—Very common round Llangorse Lake and Bucklyn Pool, in both of which places it breeds.

Fire Crested Wren. *Regulus ignicapillus*.—Mr. E. C. Phillips says in his *Birds of Breconshire*: "A cock bird was killed in his garden on February 27th, 1899, and the hen secured a few days after." I have had the pleasure of seeing these birds in Mr. Phillips' collection.

Chaffinch. *Fringilla coelebs*.—One of our commonest birds. I once killed a very beautiful yellow variety near Talgarth.

Cirl Bunting. *Emberiza cirrus*.—In 1890 Capt. Swainson took a nest in a field behind the Memorial College, Brecon (Mr. E. C. Phillips' *Birds of Breconshire*), and a nest has been taken near Builth.

Wood Lark. *Alanda arborea*.—Occurs in many places in the district, but is very local. It frequents the same places year after year, and does not appear to increase or decrease in numbers.

Dipper. *Circus aquaticus*.—Occurs everywhere on our streams and rivers. It often nests in the same places year after year, and I believe pairs for life.

Woodcock. *Scolopax rusticola*.—Undoubtedly but very rarely breeds in the neighbourhood. A young bird in down was seen near Talgarth a few years ago.

Great Crested Grebe. *Podiceps cristatus*.—Breeds in fair numbers on Llangorse Lake, and occasionally on Bucklyn Pool.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. *Larus fuscus*.—Every Spring several pairs come up the river Wye, and remain all the summer. They fly about in pairs. But I have never seen or heard of a nest, and no young birds are seen afterwards flying with the old ones. It is a complete puzzle to me what these birds can be doing so far from the sea.

#### WINTER VISITORS.

Black Redstart. *Ruticilla titys*.—I once saw one of these birds on the roof of Whitney Court, Herefordshire. Miss Thomas, of Llanthomas, informs me she also saw one at Llanthomas.

Siskin. *Chrysomitris spinus*.—Often appears in small flocks, feeding on the alder bushes in winter.

Bittern. *Botaurus stellaris*.—One was killed this year at Llangorse. The bird is now protected by an order of the Breconshire

County Council. This is a good thing. I have little doubt if it could be preserved it would again breed in the county.

Brent Goose. *Bernicla brenta*.—I have one in my collection which was killed many years ago on the Wye, and one was killed on the Groe Green, Builth, and it is now in the possession of Mr. A. G. Vaughan.

Shoveller. *Spatula clypeata*.—Is sometimes shot on the Wye in winter.

Tufted Duck. *Fuligula cristata*.—Occurs on the Wye in winter, and a large flock comes to Llanbucklyn Pool most years about November and leaves about March.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator*.—I saw one killed on the Wye near Erwood some years ago by the late Mr. H. T. Gwynne Vaughan, who was then living at Erwood Hall. Another was killed on Radnor Forest, and is now stuffed at the Lion Hotel, Builth.

Pomatorhine Skua. *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*.—There are two specimens of this bird, one killed on the Epynt, and one in Radnorshire, now in the collection of Mr. A. Gwynne Vaughan, of Builth.

Manx Shearwater. *Puffinus anglorum*.—One was picked up dead near the Irfon Bridge, Builth.

Leach's Petrel. *Thalassidroma leachii*.—I picked one up dead near Erwood after a severe storm in November, 1881.

Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax carbo*.—I remember when a boy a cormorant was picked up alive near Velinewydd. It lived for some time in a large fountain in front of the house, and used to be fed on trout, which used to be turned into the fountain alive. It was very amusing seeing the way the bird dived after them and caught and swallowed them.

Shag. *Phalacrocorax graculus*.—My keeper shot one in Erwood Pool on the Wye. It is now in my collection.

Hooded Crow. *Corvus cornix*.—Very rare; I have only seen it on one occasion.

Squacco Heron. *Ardea ralloides*.—One of these very rare birds was shot on the Wye by Mr. J. Hotchkiss. The bird is preserved at Clyro Court, where I have often had the pleasure of seeing it.



Brambling. *Fringilla montifringilla*.—Comes over every winter, and flies with the flocks of chaffinches, linnets, and other small birds.

Green Sandpiper. *Totanus ochropus*.—Is generally to be seen on the Wye during the spring and autumn migration.

Redshank. *Totanus calidris*.—One was killed at Brechfa Pool, Llandfalle, by Mr. Edward Butler, in whose collection it now is.

#### LAND AND FRESHWATER MOLLUSCA.

Of the 140 species of Land and Freshwater Mollusca inhabiting these islands I have found 72 species in this neighbourhood, the complete list of which is as follows. I also add a few notes on some of the species. The nomenclature I have used is that of "The Census of British Land and Freshwater Mollusca, by Lionel E. Adams, June 11th, 1902."

List of Mollusca found in the neighbourhood:—*Arion ater*, *Arion subfuscus*, *Arion minimus*, *Arion circumscriptus*, *Arion hortensis*, *Limax maximus*, *Limax C niger*, *Limax flavus*, *Limax marginatus*, *Agriolimax agrestis*, *Agriolimax lævis*, *Vitrina pellucida*, *Hyalinia draparnaldi*, *Hyalinia cellaria*, *Hyalinia alliaria*, *Hyalinia nitidula*, *Hyalinia radiatula*, *Hyalinia pura*, *Hyalinia crystalina*, *Hyalinia fulva*, *Hyalinia nitida*, *Helix rotundata*, *Helix pygmaea*, *Helix aculeata*, *Helix pulchella*, *Helix lapicida*, *Helix aspersa*, *Helix memorialis*, *Helix hortensis*, *Helix arbustorum*, *Helix rufescens*, *Helix hispida*, *Helix fusca*, *Helix caperata*, *Buliminus obscurus*, *Pupa cylindracea*, *Balea perversa*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Azeca trideus*, *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Succinea putris*, *Carychium minimum*, *Planorbis fontanus*, *Planorbis nautilus*, *Planorbis albus*, *Planorbis parvulus*, *Planorbis spirorbis*, *Planorbis vortex*, *Planorbis carinatus*, *Planorbis umbilicatus*, *Planorbis contortus*, *Aplexa hypnorum*, *Physa fountinalis*, *Limnea peregrina*, *Limnea auricularia*, *Limnea stagnalis*, *Limnea palustris*, *Limnea truncatula*, *Ancylus flaviatilis*, *Velletia lacustris*, *Bythinia tentaculata*, *Valvata piscinalis*, *Valvata cristata*, *Unio pictorum*, *Anodonta cygnea*, *Sphaerium corneum*, *Sphaerium rivicola*, *Pisidium amnicum*, *Pisidium fontinale*, *Pisidium pusillum*, *Pisidium nitidum*, *Pisidium milium*.

#### NOTES.

*Arion ater* is abundant on the high ground. The *Van aterima* is the prevailing form.

*Limax cinereus niger* occurs sparingly.

*Limax marginatus* is very common on tree trunks and stones after rain.

*Agriolimax jævis*, I have only found on the island in Llangorse Lake, where it is plentiful in company with *Hyalinia nitida*.

*Helix pygmaea* and *H. aculeata* I have taken in moss, Cwmbach Dingle, Glasbury.

*H. lapicida* plentiful on the Aberedw Rocks.

*H. fusca* in a wood near Pontybatt, Breconshire.

*H. caperata* near Erwood Station, Radnorshire, and in an old garden near Fordfawr, Glasbury.

*Balea perversa* abundant near Erwood in company with *Pupa cylindracea* and *Clausilia bidentata*.

*Azeca tridens*, one specimen on an old wall near the mouth of the Bachwye, Radnorshire. I believe this is the only record of this shell for South Wales.

*Cochlicopa lubrica* is abundant everywhere.

*Carychium minimum*, this beautiful little shell is abundant everywhere in moss and under stones.

*Planorbis nautilus* occurs, but is rare in Llangorse Lake.

*Planorbis parvus*. In a small stream near Llangorse.

*Valletia lacustris*. On water lilies in Llangorse Lake and Bucklyn Pool.

*Limnea stagnalis*, rare in Llangorse Lake.

*Unio pictorum* abundant in Llangorse Lake and in some pools marking an old course of the river Wye near Glasbury.

*Pisidium amnicum*, the variety *læviuscula* seems to be the only form of this shell that occurs in Llangorse Lake.

#### LEPIDOPTERA.

Some years ago in conjunction with my friend the late Mr. F. W. A. Roche, of Tregunter, I did a good deal of moth collecting in this district, which I consider a good one for moths, but bad for Butterflies. The following are a few notes, which I trust may prove of interest:—

## BUTTERFLIES.

- Argynnis paphia*.—Common in woods.  
*Argynnis aglaia*.—Abundant.  
*Argynnis euphrosyne*.—Plentiful in most years.  
*Argynnis selene*.—Much rarer than the latter.  
*Militoëa antemis*.—Very rare.  
*Grapta Calbum*.—Generally common in the autumn.  
*Vanessa antiopa*.—I once saw one of these beautiful insects near Aberedw Station.  
*Satyrus semele*.—Local and not common.  
*Thecla quereus*.—Very abundant in 1887, flying about oak trees.  
*W. albus*.—Rare.  
*Lycoena arigiolus*.—Common in spring round holly trees.  
*Colias edusa*.—Abundant in years in which it is generally common in England.  
*Rhodocera rhamnina*.—Decidedly rare in this neighbourhood.  
*Hesperia tages*.—Common.  
*Hesperia sylvanus*.—Not so common as the latter.

## MOTHS.

- Acheroptia atropos*.—Sometimes in potato fields.  
*Smerinthus ocellatus* — Common.  
*Smerinthus populi* — Common.  
*Sphinx convolvuli* — Rare.  
*Sphinx ligustri* — Rare.  
*Chorocampa elephenor*.—Occasionally.  
*Macroglossa stellatarum*.—Abundant some seasons.  
*Macroglossa bombyliiformis*.—Very rare.  
*Hepialus hectus*.—Abundant in a wood near Talgarth.  
*Lithosia complana*.—Rare.

- Lithosia rubricollis*.—Rare.  
*Zygæna loniera*.—In damp meadows.  
*Bombyse rubri*.—Abundant on heaths.  
*Saturnia carpini*.—Abundant on heaths.  
*Chelonia plantaginis*.—Not common.  
*Dernas coryli*.—Rare.  
*Orgyia pudibunda*.—Rare.  
*Liparis auriflua*.—Sometimes common.  
*Arctia Mendica*.—Rare.  
*Petasia cassinea*.—Quite common in the autumns of 1895 and 1896.  
*Cymatophora ridens*.—Rare.  
*Cymatophora ocularis*.—Two specimens taken by Mr. Roche.  
*Plusia bractea*.—One specimen taken by me near Erwood at night. Mr. Roche took one at Tregunter on the same night. We never saw any others.  
*Tœniocampa lencographa*.—Not rare on shallows.  
*Dianthœcia conspersa*.—Rare.  
*Acronycta alni*.—I have taken this caterpillar and reared the moth.  
*Acronycta ligustri*.—Not common.  
*Tryphæna fimbria*.—Fairly common.  
*Apelecta herbida*.—Fairly common.  
*Cirrhœdia xeramphelina*.—Once at Tregunter to light.  
*Chareas graminis*.—Common.  
*Agrotis cinerea*.—I have taken a few to light.  
*Anarta cordigera*.—On heath.  
*Anarta myrtilli*.—On heath.

## GEOMETERS.

- Macularia maculata*.—Common in Darran Wood, Erwood.

*Cleora glabraria*.—Once to light.

*Anaitis pilagiaria*.—Common.

*Pericallia syringuria*.—Rare.

*Melanippe tristata*.—On heather.

*Geometra papilionaria*.—At light.

*Amphidasis prodomaria*.—Fairly common.

*Amphidasis betularia*.—Rare.

*Lygdia adustaria*.—Rare.

*Melanthia albicillata*.—Rare.

*Scotosia dubitata*.—Rare.

*Tanagra chærophyllaria*.—Abundant where it occurs.

The return journey by road and rail brought the party back to Hereford before eight o'clock.

#### WOOLHOPE EXPEDITION TO THE BLACK MOUNTAIN AND THE HEADS OF THE HONDDU VALLEY, JULY 1, 1909.

BY THE REV. AUGUSTINE LEY.

The season was a late one, and the visit was consequently rather too early for the mountain Flora to be at its best.

The interest of the day, for the botanist, was mainly centered upon Roses and Hawkweeds: in these the Darens in this part of the mountain range, especially Taren-r'-Esgob, are very rich.

The great botanical object of the day was the Apple Rose. (*Rosa pomifera*, Herrm) first observed as an undeniably native plant in these hills in 1876. It was found abundantly at two stations; and, although not in flower at this date, was subsequently (July 20th) gathered in beautiful flower and young fruit by the writer. *Rosa involuta* Sm. is known at a single station on Taren-r'-Esgob, and the Scotchbrier (*R. spirostylis* L.) at another single station, in a beautiful large-flowered form. Among the Villose Roses, in addition to the Apple Rose, the following were fairly abundant in the Llanthony Valley:—

*R. omissa*, Déség., var. *resinosoides*, Crép.

*R. omissa*, Déség., var. *submollis*, Ley

*R. Andrzejewiczii*, Déség., var. *pseudomollis*, Ley.

*R. Uncinata*, Ley.

Among the Sub-section *Caninae*, *R. glauca*, Vill., and *R. coriifolia*, Fr. were conspicuous.

The following rare Hawkweeds were all observed by the writer, either on the 1st July, or on his subsequent visit on the 20th.

*Hieracium rubicundum*, F.J.H.

*H. pellucidum*, Læst.

*H. serratifrons*, Almg., var. *crassiceps*, Dahlst.

*H. subulatidens*, Dahlst., var. *cuneifrons*, Ley.

*H. euprepes*, F.J.H.

*H. xanicum*, Dahlst.

*H. prænanthoides*, Vill.

The rare Green-stalked Maiden-hair fern (*Asplenium viride*, Huds.) is fine and in fair abundance in the better parts of Taren-r'-Esgob; and members of the club were gratified in noticing it still existing in the large travertine block under the cliff. Here also, or in its vicinity, the Oak and Beech ferns flourish, and the Limestone Polypody is found in the débris of more than one of the darens—the only instance known to the writer of its occurrence on sandstone.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

THIRD FIELD MEETING (LADIES' DAY), THURSDAY, JULY 29TH, 1909.

### DOWNTON CASTLE.

BY A VISITOR.

For the eighth time in the history of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, its members, and the lady visitors who take the opportunity afforded by what is known as the Ladies' day outing, made an incursion into the beautiful glamorous borderland of the Marches on Thursday, when the venue of the outing was the valley of the Teme, included in which is the Downton Gorge and mediæval Ludlow. No more appropriate spot for a ladies' day could be chosen than this, where oftentimes the Court of the Marches held merry at Ludlow—as, for instance, when Milton watched the production of his "Masque of Comus" in the days when he was more Cavalier than Roundhead—and cavalierly, as it were, the day was fine. The members and their friends entrained at Hereford by the 9-20 train, and reached Ludlow shortly after ten o'clock, where they were met by brakes in which they were conveyed along the Downton road to near Bringewood Forge.

A short walk from the highway brought the party to Bringewood Forge bridge, under which the Teme tumbles its way from weir to weir. Here, where at one time were the old works which smelted the iron ore brought from the Cleve Hills, we turned to the right and proceeded along the right bank of the Teme towards the Castle Bridge—a bridge which might well be imagined as the gate to some primeval world, the story of which is continued in the mysterious gurgling of the Teme. The Rev. R. Harward, vicar of Downton, who acted as cicerone at the kind request of Mrs. Boughton-Knight, told, as the party proceeded, of the myths and legends which envelop the gorge and clothe it with romance as its trees do with beauty. One of these was of the drowning of the devil who fell into the Teme in time of spate: the Teme seemed to laugh as we did at the story. A mile or so further on along a gorge which might have been cleft by the Titans, the party came upon Hay Mill,

a lovely spot which recalled to one some such sanctuary as, where "near the weir-falls thundering white" Richard Feverel and Lucy Desborough met.

Here the members had luncheon. Amongst the party were (members): The President (Preb. Williamson), Mr. H. W. Apperley, Mr. J. E. Ballard, Mr. J. U. Caldicott, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Dr. H. E. Durham, Mr. W. F. Dury, Mr. R. D. George, Mr. J. J. Jackson, the Rev. Eustace King-King, Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. A. H. Lamont, the Rev. Augustin Ley, the Rev. F. MacCormick, the Rev. Andrew Pope, Mr. H. Wale, the Rev. R. Hyett-Warner, the Rev. F. E. W. Wilmot, Mr. E. J. Baker, Mr. A. B. Farn, Mr. G. H. Jack, the Rev. John Jones, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), and Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary). Visitors: Mrs. Williamson, Miss C. Joyce Williamson, Mrs. Durham, Mrs. George, Miss George, Mrs. Diamond, Miss Whitehouse, Miss Durrant, Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Tunncliffe, Mrs. Arthur Lamont, Miss Hughes, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Norman Bennett, Mrs. MacCormick, Miss Pope, Mrs. Wale, Mrs. W. A. Wilmot, Miss K. J. Wilmot, Miss May Baker, Mr. Hutchinson (Bournemouth), Miss Joan Hutchinson, Miss Clay, Rev. R. C. Harward (vicar of Downton), Mr. Basil Ronalds, Mr. W. E. Groom, Mr. Grocock, Mr. Douglas Watson, Rev. Norman Bennett, Herr R. H. Goetz, Mr. Diamond, and Mr. John Ballard.

After luncheon, the members gathered together to transact the day's business.

The PRESIDENT announced that three new members had been elected, viz., Mr. Edward Groom, Hereford; Mr. W. Farrar Roberts, Llanwye, Hereford; and Mr. Basil Ronalds, Swainshill, Hereford. There were also two candidates for election, the one, Mr. Isaac Marshall, of Sarnesfield, proposed by himself and seconded by Mr. Brierley; and Mr. Robert Bayley, Birley Court, proposed by Mr. Brierley and seconded by himself. He added that he desired to propose "That the best thanks of this meeting be sent to Mrs. A. R. Boughton-Knight for her kind permission to visit the beautiful walks by the River Teme at Downton, and that the members of the Woolhope Club desire to express to her and all members of her family their sincere sympathy in the great loss they had sustained by the death of the late Mr. Andrew Rouse Boughton-Knight." He added that when the excursion was first proposed, Mr. Hutchinson wrote to Mr. Boughton-Knight for permission to go through the grounds and he very kindly acceded to their request. A very few days afterwards Mr. Boughton-Knight died. Mr. Hutchinson wrote to the steward, subsequently, to ask, if in view of the bereave-



ment the family had sustained, the arrangements could be carried out and Mrs. Boughton-Knight had agreed that they might. Under those circumstances, he thought, they owed a very special vote of thanks to Mrs. Boughton-Knight for her kindness and courtesy (hear, hear).

MR. HUTCHINSON, in seconding the resolution, said that was the eighth time that the club had been indebted to the late Mr. Boughton-Knight and his family for visiting that place. The first time they visited the Teme was on July 26th, 1853, when the Rev. T. T. Lewis, of Aymestrey, was President. In proceeding, he stated that the other dates at which they had visited Downton were July 24th, 1860, when Mr. R. W. Bankes was President; July 20th, 1869, when Mr. J. Rankin was President and 132 members attended the meeting; July 29th, 1879, when Mr. A. Armitage was President; July 15th, 1884, when the Rev. Charles Burrough was President; October 1st, 1889, when they had a fungus foray under the Presidency of Mr. Southall; and July 30th, 1896, when the late Mr. H. C. Moore was President.

The PRESIDENT then proposed "That the members of the Woolhope Club desire to express their most sincere sympathy with Mr. Henry Southall and the members of his family in their recent great trouble caused by the death of the late Mr. Thomas Southall." As a former president and a very old friend, he was sure their sincere sympathy would go out to Mr. Southall and his family under the sad circumstances.

MR. HUTCHINSON, in seconding the resolution, said he did so not only because Mr. Southall was an old member of the club, but on personal grounds as well.

Subsequently the PRESIDENT read a paper by the late Dr. Bull, which he wrote for the July meeting of 1869, which was listened to with great interest.

After the disposal of the business, the gathering broke up into various sections, some returning by the left bank of the river—from which the loveliest of sylvan views were obtained—and others by way of Bringewood Chase over Hunstay Hill. At a quarter-past three everyone foregathered at the Castle Bridge, from which they made towards the high road, beneath the walls of Downton Castle, where the brakes awaited the party to convey them back to Ludlow, where the remainder of the day was spent in visiting the Castle, overlooking the Teme, and the Church of St. Lawrence, over which they were most kindly conducted by Mr. Sweetman, one of the churchwardens.

After tea the party entrained for Hereford, arriving there after, perhaps, the most enjoyable day of the year, shortly before eight o'clock.

## WOOLHOPE EXPEDITION TO DOWNTON, JULY 29, 1909.

BY THE REV. AUGUSTINE LEY.

The botany of the Gorge of the Teme at Downton is varied and interesting; and the late season rendered the day a very favourable one for observing it.

The timber which fills the gorge consists largely of the Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*, Scop.), this tree was planted extensively in Britain before the introduction of the continental Lime (*T. vulgaris*, Hayne); and it has usually been assumed to be of planted origin at Downton. But the tree is a Native in the lower Wye valley, and has been traced northwards in various large Herefordshire woods: in the present year (1909) it has been discovered by the writer apparently native, in woods on Wenlock Edge, Salop. These discoveries alter the balance of probability, and render it most probable that the Large-leaved Lime is native also at Downton. It was in beautiful flower at the time of our visit.

Downton gorge still remains as in 1804, when the plant was recorded by Duncumb, the only Herefordshire station for Forester's Rock Stone-crop (*Sedum Forsterianum* Tru.). It is still there in abundance at one or two spots. There are two strains of the plant at Downton, a stouter and a more slender strain: but as these grow respectively on shady and exposed rocks, the question of their identity can only be tested by cultivation. The stouter form has recently been named *S. rupestre*, Huds.: but we place great reliance upon the judgement of the late Rev. W. K. Purchas on this critical question: and he named both *S. Forsterianum*. See *Herefordshire Flora*, p. 140, the plants were in perfection at the date of our visit.

Brambles were numerous and in good flower. The following were observed:—

- R. pulcherrimus*, Neum.
- R. pubescens*, Weike.
- R. macrophyllus*, W. & N. var. *macrophylloides* (Genev.).
- R. mucronatus*, Blox.
- R. \*Griffithianus*, Rogers (new County record).

*R. fuscus*, W. & N. var. *macrostachys*, P. J. Muell.  
*R. Viridis*, Kalt.

The above were all in Herefordshire : the following is a new county record for Salop :—*R. Votryeros*, Focke : Whitecliff woods.

No Roses worthy of record were observed : but the Hawkweed tribe was prominent. The following were noticed :—

*H. pellucidum*, Lœst (the sole Herefordshire station).  
*Hieracium serratifrons*, Almg. var. *cinderella*, Ley.  
*H. vulgatum*, Fr. : a very rare plant in this part of Britain.  
*H. \*irriguum*, Fr. (new County record).

The rare Grass *Festuca sylvatica*, Vill., here first found in the county, by Rev. W. H. Purchas, on the Club expedition of July, 1869 (see *Herefordshire Flora* p. 345), was still in its haunts ; also another rather rare Grass, *Bromus asper*, Murr., var. *Benekenii*.

The well known ferns also of the gorge, some of them rare in the county, were noticed abundantly, and were untouched.

A variety of the Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), L., var. *\*hians*, Druce, a new county record, was very handsome, presenting flowers of a deeper yellow than the type.



Photo by]

ROMAN TOMBSTONE NEAR GAER BANNIUM.

[A. Watkins

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FOURTH FIELD MEETING, AUGUST 31ST, 1909.

### VISITS TO GAER BANNIUM, PENOYRE, AND THE CRUG.

The neighbourhood of Brecon rich in scenery and abounding in historic associations, was chosen for the fourth field meeting of the year, held in connection with the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club on Tuesday, and apart from the temporary discomforts of a heavy shower of rain which fell about noon, the outing was a most enjoyable and profitable one. The following gentlemen made up the party:—Members: The President (Preb. H. T. Williamson), Mr. H. W. Apperley, Mr. H. C. Beddoe, Mr. C. P. Bird, Mr. G. H. Brierley, Rev. W. S. Clarke, Mr. R. Clarke, Col. E. C. Douse, Dr. Durham, Mr. A. B. Farn, Mr. P. Leighton Earle, Mr. R. H. George, Rev. E. A. Gowing, Mr. R. T. Griffiths, Mr. J. T. Hereford, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Mr. H. E. Jones, Captain R. Kilbee Stuart, Mr. J. Lambe, Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. A. L. Lamont, Rev. A. Ley, Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. R. T. A. Money-Kyrle, Mr. C. E. A. Moore, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Rev. M. R. S. Onslow, Mr. A. Parker, Rev. A. Pope, Mr. H. H. Pumphrey, Mr. Basil Ronalds, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Mr. J. W. Vaughan, Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, Mr. A. W. Watkins, Mr. G. H. Jack, Rev. C. Lighton, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon secretary), Mr. J. H. Wale, and Mr. T. C. Morgan. Visitors: Rev. P. H. Fernandez, Mr. G. Hay (Brecon), Mr. T. Hay Brown Davies, Mr. H. C. Onslow, junr., Mr. R. P. Reynolds, Mr. T. Griffiths, jun., Mr. Carlton Rea (President of the Worcester Natural History Club), Herr R. H. Goetz, Mr. G. H. Growcott, Mr. W. Watkins, Mr. G. J. Abell, Mr. J. Abell, jun., Mr. C. H. Moore, jun., Rev. D. Jones (Brecon), Mr. G. Barker, Mr. Chambers, Mr. W. H. Woodcock, and others. The greater number left Hereford by the 9.22 a.m. Midland train, and Cradoc station, just beyond Brecon, was reached shortly after 11.30.

On arriving at Cradoc station the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, vicar of Llanigon, led the way. Attention was first drawn to a large stone which occupies a position on the Neath and Brecon railway line, close to the station. Little importance however is attached to it from a

historical point of view, although its height, shape, and position, excites much speculation and wonderment. Proceeding across some meadows close by, an old Roman road leading to the Gaer Encampment was reached. The camp is only a mile and a half distant. En route is an ancient stone with damaged figures in relief and remains of a Latin inscription. Upwards of two centuries ago the inscription could be read "Alancia civis et conjunx ejus hic est" or "Alancia the citizen and his wife are here buried." It is understood that the stone was found whilst excavating to build a barn at the Gaer Farm which forms part of the Camp and removed to its present position in the year 1698. "Conjux" can still be clearly discerned also the letters "et," "u" and "h." The rest are completely obliterated. No doubt the stone was inscribed to the memory of a Roman soldier and his wife, who lived in the Roman town of Bannium. There is no record of any other similar stones being found at this spot, but then there was a great raid on such stones. H. Lloyd, translating from the "Cambria" of Caradoc, and alluding to Brecon, says that in the fifth century, it was under the jurisdiction of a petty chieftain named Brychan, from whom the county derived the name of Brycheiniog. In the reign of William Rufus, Bernard Newmarch, who conquered Bleddyn ab Maenarch, at that time Prince of Brycheiniog, demolished Caer Bannau, and employed the materials in building a castle, adjacent to which, in process of time, a town arose, called by the Welsh Aber Honddu, and becoming the capital of Brycheiniog, received from the English the name of Brecknock or Brecon. On arrival at the Camp, we were met by Mr. Jones, the tenant of Caer Farm. During the last few weeks Mr. Jones has become quite enthusiastic over archæology, and in consequence has been excavating amongst the ruins of the Camp entirely upon his own initiative. Happily the owner of the Camp, Mr. Evans, of Ffrwdgrech, Brecon, sees no objection to Mr. Jones's enterprise in this direction. The members of the Club were delighted with what Mr. Jones had done, and it is hoped that he, with the assistance of others, will proceed with the work. We first examined some of the original masonry of the northern wall of the camp. Then the south entrance gate came to view, and afterwards we saw the west gate which Mr. Jones had excavated for the benefit of the Club. Here were seen the holes or sockets in the plinths in which swung the entrance gates. Each gate must have been about 12 feet wide. Behind were the foundations of what must have been a guard house. Further back were apparently the foundations of a building traceable in dry weather owing to the brownness of the grass, consequent upon the thinness of the soil. The size of the principal portion of the Camp is about 6½ acres, but Mr. Jones has also traced an outlying portion, adding at least three or four acres. One member of the party ventured the opinion that, owing to the smallness of

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Photo by]

[A. Watkins

## GAER BANNIUM.

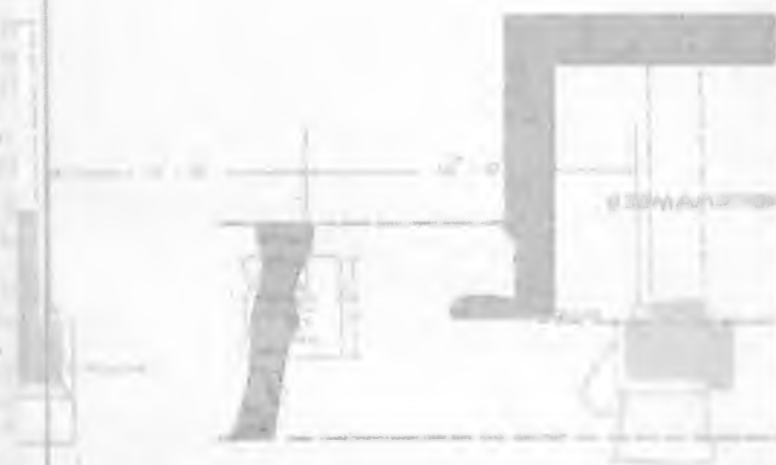
Base of W. Gateway, showing pivot hole in shadow, and central stop block with bolt holes.



To face page 100

# PLAN OF ROMAN FORT NEAR BRECON

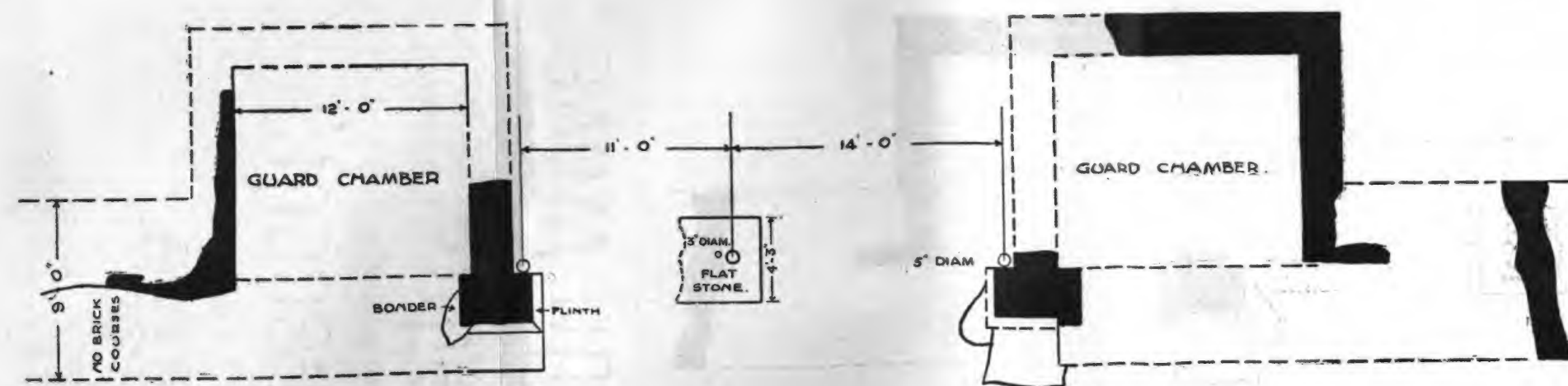
SCALE 1/4" = 10' & 1" = 100'



MEASURED BY  
S. H. JACK, M.S.A.  
COUNTY SURVEYOR  
HEREFORD  
SEPT. 12TH 1912

## WEST GATEWAY AT ROMAN FORT (GAER BANNIUM) NEAR BRECON.

SCALE: 8 FEET TO AN INCH.



MEASURED BY  
G. H. JACK, M.S.A.,  
COUNTY SURVEYOR  
HEREFORD  
SEPT. 12TH, 1912.

the area, the spot must have been a military outpost for Caerleon. Only three entrance gates have been brought to light, but there is no doubt that four existed, according to the usual formation of Roman camps. Mr. A. Watkins took photographs of the plinths of the west gate entrance. Immediately in front was the site of what was supposed to have been an amphitheatre, the general formation pointing to this. There are traces of a wall six feet wide, crescent shaped. Below is the Roman road. In his excavation, Mr. Jones has found a broken brick of Roman make bearing the letters LEG. II A showing that it belonged to the Second Legion which was stationed at Caerleon; also several specimens of broken pottery, and a coin, apparently silver, containing a figure of victory holding a star on the one side, and what seems to be Faustina, the wife of Marcus Aurelius, on the other side. The latter, however, is merely supposition, as only the letters "au-s" can be seen. This coin was only found last week near one of the pillars of the entrance gates.

Before leaving Mr. Jones's residence, the PRESIDENT said it was only right that he should propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Jones for his interest and kindness in regard to the visit of the club. Speaking, not very much as an archaeologist, he thought they might congratulate themselves that the Camp had fallen into such sympathetic and careful hands (hear, hear, and applause).

Mr. JONES said it had been a pleasure to do what he had done, and he hoped to do a great deal more.

Before leaving we saw the remains of a hypocaust of Roman baths, a Roman villa, and an oven undoubtedly of a much later date. Some members of the party visited Aberyskir Church and an old tower near the Camp. Luncheon was partaken of on this historic spot, and subsequently a start was made for Penoyre, one and a half miles distant. On the way was seen a Maenhir in a field. There are three ideas associated with this stone. Some think that it is a chieftain memorial stone, others that it was used in connection with the sun worship, and still others that it is a battle memorial stone, whereby the fate of Breconshire was decided. After leaving the Maenhir, a walk was taken through the fields by Battle Church, which is said to have derived its name from being the site of a cell belonging to the great monastery of Battle, in Sussex.

In one of the entrance halls of the beautiful house of Penoyre, the residence of Mrs. McClintock, sister of the late Mr. R. L. Cleasby who owned Penoyre and kept a beautiful herd of Herefordshire cattle, we saw another ancient style of considerable interest. Before describing the stone it is interesting to note that the Penoyre

motto is "Pen oer a chalon gynhes" ("a cool head and a warm heart"). The stone in question was ploughed up in a field at Battle Fawr about a mile away in the year 1877. It is supposed to have a connection with some high official of the Spanish legion. Unfortunately the stone is broken and the remaining portion has not been found. The lettering seen distinctly to-day is as follows :—

DIS  
CANI  
NI. FILI  
HSP VETI  
CLEMDON  
AN. xx. STIP iii.

"Dis" might probably be the beginning of Dismanibus and "cani" canidini, whilst "veti" is Spanish. The inscription is of course Latin. In all probability the stone is in memory of a Spanish Stipendarius or paymaster of 20 years' standing and was shaped and carved to denote his sepulture. The members of the club were much indebted to Mrs. McClintock for allowing the stone to be seen. From Penoyre an ascent was made to the summit of the Crug, where there is a perfect British Camp, and from whence a beautiful view of the Brecon Beacons and the Usk Valley was obtained. Proceeding to Brecon about a mile below we passed the "Maendu" (black stone) wishing well, date 1754. Brecon was reached about half-past four and dinner was provided at the Castle Hotel, business afterwards being transacted.

The PRESIDENT submitted the health of "The King" and afterwards announced that Mr. Isaac Marshall, of Sarnesfield, Weobley, and Mr. Robert Bayley, of Birley, Leominster, had been duly elected members.

Mr. HUTCHINSON announced that Mr. L. Richardson, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., F.G.S. (Cheltenham), had contributed a valuable paper on geology, entitled "Some glacial features in the Wye Valley at Aberedw, Radnorshire." He also stated that Dr. Richardson was prepared, subject to the approval of the club, to assist in the editing of the transactions. Mr. Richardson was young and enthusiastic (hear, hear) and he therefore proposed that he be appointed one of the editors in place of Mr. Morgan Watkins.

This was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. HUTCHINSON next suggested that Mr. Richardson's paper should be printed as part of the proceedings and that a reprint



*Photo by]*

*[P. B. Aber, Builth Wells*  
View of the mouth of the Aberedw Valley and its junction with that of the Wye. From left to right the features are: the wooded hill-side (Aberedw Rocks); post-Glacial gorge of the Edw; the bailey-castle-crowned tump; the level ground formed by the morainic matter filling up the pre-Glacial channel of the Edw; and the slope of the hill-side. The Wye enters the view by the valley on the right and leaves it by that on the left, the hills in the background being on the right (west) bank of the Wye.

should be sent to every member. Mr. Richardson had offered to take the members over the ground covered by the paper (hear, hear, and applause).

Mr. McLAUGHLIN seconded and this was carried.

Mr. Richardson's paper was as follows :—

# SOME GLACIAL FEATURES IN THE WYE VALLEY AT ABEREDW.

BY L. RICHARDSON, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., F.G.S.

" The third station on the line from Three Cocks Junction to Builth Wells is Aberedw. The line runs along the eastern side of the Wye Valley, which has here an almost due north and south alignment, and immediately before reaching Aberedw Station traverses the mouth of a lateral valley of the Wye, close to which is situated Aberedw village. The Aberedw valley has been excavated by the River Edw, and joins the Wye valley almost at right angles. Viewed from the hill-flank on the northern side of the Aberedw valley the mouth of that valley appears as is depicted in the photograph reproduced in Plate A. Along a line drawn horizontally through the middle of the picture the features detailed from left to right are : (1) The wood that clothes the steep valley-side that is called the 'Aberedw Rocks'; (2) the present gorge of the Edw river; (3) the bailey-castle crowned tump; (4) the comparatively level ground composed of gravel; and (5) the northern slope of the valley. The Wye enters the track depicted in the view by the valley on the extreme left; the hills in the background being on the far side or right bank of that river. Proceeding now to the bailey-castle crowned-tump, and standing on its summit, and looking up the Aberedw valley, there is a fine prospect. On the right is the deep gorge of the Edw; on the left the continuation of the tump, with the church at its end; while in the mid-distance is the winding valley of the Edw. Hard, dark-coloured Silurian flags compose the tump, the Aberedw Rocks, and are deeply cut into by the Edw. Turning and looking up the Wye valley there is seen in the foreground the lower portion of the slope of the tump; a level field with cut grass and the ruins of a castle, almost hidden by trees, at its corner, and the initial position of the slope of the hill on the northern side of the Aberedw valley. The field referred to is on gravel, which presents a steep face to the Wye valley: the conspicuousness of the face has



been rendered all the more apparent by the very level nature of the fields on the Wye alluvium that spreads out from its foot. The railway line runs along a ledge cut in the face of the gravel deposit and then negotiates the Edw gorge by an embankment and arch. The face of the gravel deposit, the alluvial flats at its foot and the southerly continuation of the Wye Valley are shown. The gravel is well exposed in a pit close to the Wye on the right-hand side of the lane that runs southwards from Aberedw Station, and only a short distance before the road crosses the Edw. The gravel is composed of well-smoothed boulders of diabase-porphyr and andesite from the craggy Carneddau, near Builth Wells, and of Gaban Conglomerate from the neighbourhood of Rhayader, which are easily recognised amid the preponderating element of flaggy and less-travelled slabs of Wenlock and Ludlow rocks. Small fragments and large are confusedly inter-mixed in a characteristically morainic fashion in a matrix of finer material. Now whilst the valley to the north of the bailey-castle crowned-tump is broad and level, being filled with gravel, that to the south is deep, craggy, and free from gravel. My view is that the valley to the north of the tump was the pre-glacial valley of the Edw, and this to the south is its post-glacial one. At some time during the Glacial Episode ice certainly overrode Aberedw Hill and passed into the Aberedw valley. When the last masses melted they left perched on the high treeless downs such erratics as that now stranded between two of the conspicuous tumuli and others in its neighbourhood. At some time, also, well-defined glaciers would appear to have passed down the Aberedw and Wye Valleys. For a time the terminal moraine matter of the Aberedw glacier coalesced with the material of the eastern lateral moraine debris of the Wye glacier, and streamed southwards. But as glacial conditions drew to a close terminal moraine debris of the Aberedw glacier, along with ice, blocked up the Aberedw Valley, and eventually that valley passed into the lake phase. Melting ice and snow augmented the supply of water to the lake, and at last the rising waters effected their escape, as they generally do under such conditions, namely, at one end of the dam between it and the hill-side. In this case one is not surprised to find that it was at the southern end of the dam. Here the blocking material was thin, and the escaping water soon commenced to cut a channel in the underlying Silurian flags. It went on cutting down, and its filing action was accelerated by the torrent-driven stones. Comparatively soon a deep cleft was cut and the river of the hanging valley graded with the Wye. Having established such a channel, it did not leave it when the Glacial Episode closed. But subaerial denudation has somewhat lowered the level of the gravel surface in the old pre-glacial valley, and its differential action is expressed in tump and level fields. All down the Wye Valley to Boughrood well defined patches of gravel

form interrupted terraces, and at Boughrood Station is a deep pit in a considerable spread. The railway traverses this accumulation of gravel and negotiates it by means of a steep gradient between the station and the Wye Bridge; while the Wye escapes between the main mass of the gravel deposit and the steep western valleyside, subsequently proceeding to describe the most noticeable horse-shoe bend that there is in many miles of its course. Probably this gravel deposit is one of several terminal moraines that mark the recession of the Wye glacier. There are many features of glacial and river development of interest in the country around Brecon, Boughrood and Builth. Those detailed in the present paper are well worth investigating, and have the advantage of being very obvious. In the combs of the Beacons there are also glacial features of no slight interest. The little tarn of Llyn-cwm-llwch, near the head of one of those curious combs that lie between the long finger-like ridges that project so far north from the principal peaks of the Beacons has been formed by morainic material making a crescent-like dam through which the water in part escapes by a narrow channel. Llyn-cwm-llwch reminds one of that fine tarn under the high cliffs of Cader Idris, near Dolgelly, which—if in a region of more complete glaciation—is not more perfect than that under the Beacons."

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Mr. G. H. Jack's paper was as follows :—

#### ROMAN ROAD BETWEEN MONMOUTH AND GLOUCESTER, WITH A NOTE ON THE ROMAN MASONRY AT DONNINGTON.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The fourteenth journey or itinerary of Antoninus briefly outlines one of the Roman roads, existing prior to the year 320 A.D. as follows :—Blestium (Monmouth) Ariconium (Bollitree), Glevum (Gloucester), and the distances in Roman miles—Moumouth to Bollitree 11 miles, Bollitree to Gloucester 15 miles. This road is much more difficult to trace than the one between Caerleon and Wroxeter which passes through Magni (Kenchester) and Bravonium (Leintwardine). The certainty of the road being once in existence makes the subject of its route of much interest, and one deserving of the attention of the members of this club. I believe very little thorough investigation has been done so far.

The only information I can find on the subject is derived from the excellent paper read by Mr. James G. Wood before the club in

the year 1903, and a short note by Mr. Haverfield in the *Archæological Survey of the County*, published in 1896. Mr. Haverfield says:—"If the identification of Ariconium with Weston, near Ross, be accepted, the itinerary road connecting Glevum (Gloucester) with Caerleon must have passed through South Herefordshire, as indeed general considerations suggest. It has been thought that it ran by Dursley Cross and Huntley, near the modern road from Gloucester to Ross, but practically its course is unknown. West of Ariconium it may have crossed the Wye at the ancient ford of Walford in Domesday, "the Welsh Ford."

The line of the road on Mr. Haverfield's map is shown in dotted lines as uncertain for the whole distance. Turning for a moment to the map attached to Mr. Wood's paper (which like Mr. Haverfield's is drawn to such a small scale as to make criticism of the exact location of the road out of the question), the map shows the road as branching off the Watling Street at Welsh Newtown, and proceeding in a north-easterly direction to Ariconium, thence to Gorsley, and from there in a south-easterly direction to Gloucester, which, measuring on the one-inch scale ordnance map is just about 15 Roman miles, that is from Ariconium to Gloucester. Mr. Wood does not give in his paper his reasons for adopting this route, and so as far as I know there have been no discoveries of a paved road surface on this line, and moreover I make the distance between Monmouth and Ariconium 14 Roman miles, as against 11 as stated in the itinerary. As there is a possibility of the road having taken another line, I venture to suggest an alternative in the hope that investigation may be encouraged.

East of Ariconium I rather favour the route hinted at by Mr. Haverfield, that is from Bollitree to Lea, and thence through Dursley Cross and Huntley to Gloucester. The first mile or so out of Ariconium is undoubtedly Roman, and in common with its continuation is so marked on the Ordnance Survey map. It would be interesting to know upon what grounds the distance to Gloucester agrees with the itinerary, viz., 15 miles, the same as that of Mr. Wood's route through Gorsley.

West of Ariconium the line is rather more difficult to trace. As I have said, Mr. Wood's route leaves the Watling Street at Welsh Newton, thence apparently to Glewstone, and on to Wilton and along a line nearly coinciding with the present Gloucester-road. Beyond Ross it takes the line of a narrow road to Bollitree and Bromsash.

The route I venture to suggest is south of Mr. Wood's line for its whole length. From Monmouth to a point near Chapel Farm,

I take the existing road as the line. Thence skirting the hill on the west to Lewstone Farm, where there is a space between hedges running straight for about three quarters of a mile, and which was referred to by Mr. J. P. Brown as "the Roman Road" in a paper read before the club in 1900, when a visit was paid to Lewstone and Whitchurch. At Whitchurch, 300 yards south of the line I am suggesting a Roman tessellated pavement was found indicating the site of a villa. This lends some colour to the probability of the road being near. Beyond Lewstone, my line makes for Goodrich Cross, and thence to the ford, where there is still I believe a ferry at Walford (a place-name said by some to be of Roman derivation), thence to Hom Green, through Ashfield to the Gloucester-road, where it takes the same line as Mr. Wood's as far as Ariconium. The points in favour, I consider are: (1) The distance is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Roman miles shorter than Mr. Wood's, making my length 13, as against Mr. Wood's  $14\frac{1}{2}$  and the itinerary 11. (2) The certain Roman road south of Ariconium. (3) The proximity of the proved Roman villa. (4) The easier ford at Walford, which I should say would be preferred to that at Wilton. I, however, repeat that in the absence of Mr. Wood's reasons, which are no doubt good, I make my suggestions for what they are worth, and hope in the future to have the pleasure of finding out whether I am right or wrong.

The road in question was no doubt one of considerable importance, passing as it did through the heart of the Roman smelting area, as proved by the plentiful evidence of metallic cinders in the neighbourhood of Whitchurch, and such place-names as Cinder Hill, Bromsash, Cinderford, and Ashfield. I have not the least doubt that the road would be of similar construction to that uncovered at Abbeydore, and it is fair to assume that for some miles of its course at any rate the paving still exists beneath the surface, probably not more than 18 inches deep.

One can hardly realise that at one time the southern part of this county for miles round was dotted over with the glowing fires of the Roman bloomeries and the general outlook made gloomy by smoke and ashes. It is not unlikely that the smelting area lying round Ariconium, Whitchurch, and Peterstow (appropriately styled the Merthyr of the Romans) had the same depressing effect upon the primitive inhabitants as the present day gloom of our Black Country has upon us. What a change Nature has wrought during a lapse of 1500 years! The beautiful verdure-clad valley of the Wye at Goodrich is surely one of the beauty spots of rural England. It may be that in 1500 years hence the sites of Merthyr, Sheffield, and Birmingham may be as beautiful. Who knows?

Since the reading of my last paper, I have made inquiries as to the masonry which was discovered at Donnington, and unfortunately demolished in the year 1906. By the courtesy of Miss Holland of Malvern, and Mr. Russell of Ledbury, I am enabled to give sufficient detail of the construction, and to arrive at its probable use. Miss Holland fortunately took a photograph of the wattle, before it was taken down, and Mr. Russell took the dimensions. In general form the structure was circular, 18 inches internal diameter, 5 feet in height inside, domed over at the top, and built of uncoursed masonry, a greenish grit stone. The walls were 9 inches in thickness, and built without mortar. The depth of the top of the doming below the surface was 3 feet. The pit contained fragments of broken Roman red tiles and pottery and bones of sheep. These with a description of the structure were submitted to Professor Windle, and he decided that the remains were those of an agrimensorial pit, the significance of which I will endeavour to explain.

The agrimensories were the Roman land surveyors. It was part of their duty on the passing of the *lex colonica* for the establishment of a colony to proceed to the territory and mark out the same as prescribed by the *lex*, and subsequently to divide it into *centuriæ*, roughly as follows: First a line of road would be marked out north and south, termed *decumanus maximus*, dividing the land into two parts, then a line of road east and west (*cardo maximus*), dividing it into two more parts. Having proceeded thus far, the four *regiones* or parts were subdivided into rectangular estates or *centuriæ* by setting out lesser roads parallel to the four principal roads, and these according to their vertical or horizontal direction were styled *decumani* or *cardines*.

The estates bounded by the limits or roads were usually 200 acres in extent, and were considered by the Roman law as indivisible, and were the units on which the taxation was based. In order, therefore, to permanently fix the bounds, the State, by means of the *lex colonica* prescribed three varieties of permanent signs: first, centurial stones, bearing the number of the roads bounding the estate, together with the name of the owner; second, wooden stakes (*pali liquei*), heaps of stones (*scorpiones*), stone walls (*attinæ*), and tops of amphoræ (jars) stuck in the ground; third, underground signs, which consisted of walled structures, in which were placed charcoal, broken pottery, gravel ashes, etc.

The walling at Donnington is undoubtedly one of those signs, and so far as I know the only one yet discovered in this county. No doubt there are many others, and some have unquestionably been destroyed without a thought as to their archæological interest.

I presume the owners of the estates would have a residence somewhere in the 200 acres, and some colour is added to this assumption by the fact that Mr. Ballard, of Ledbury, found a bronze ring near the site. I have found hypocaust tiles which seem to indicate the existence of a dwelling, unless the tiles were brought from a distance by the surveyors for the purpose of the customary deposit in the pit. I conclude by expressing the hope that the details of all such matters as the one now under consideration should be added to the very valuable archæological survey of the county, to which I believe there have not been any additions since 1896. I suggest that a revision every 10 years would be of the greatest assistance and value to all new comers to the county, and who may be like myself interested in all matters appertaining to the historic and beautiful county of Hereford.

#### THE PLACES VISITED.

The Rev. D. JONES read Mr. G. Hay's paper on "The Places Visited," as follows:—Gentlemen,—I am sorry to say that in Brecon there is no club or society in existence formed on the lines of your own, or on that of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society: such institutions are a great help to means of research, and of imparting knowledge of the past history pertaining to all local matters. A most valuable help for arriving at the Roman history of this or any other county, is a local museum (which I very much regret we do not possess), where finds from time to time could be deposited, instead of being in the possession of private persons, where in time they would either get lost, or the knowledge of the places where found, forgotten.

The history of the Roman station of Gaer Bannium which we visited to-day is very limited, and can now only be written after the use of the pick and spade; although it has been treated upon in a casual way by many, as having been that of a Roman station. The Roman march up the valley of the Usk to a great extent seems to have been left out in the cold, for want of an historian who would have given a glowing account of the Roman advance, and also of the brave deeds done on the part of the defenders. You, gentlemen, in your county are more fortunate. The battles fought there by Caeradog (Caractacus) and Ostorius have been well described by able writers, although they differ; for the movements of Caeradog have been and are still a subject of a good deal of controversy. The successive occupation of British and Roman camp is, of course, in a great measure conjectural. The Emperor Claudius visited the island in person A.D. 43, having previously sent over a considerable



army, consisting of the second, the ninth, the fourteenth, and the twentieth legions. The second continued in the island until it was finally abandoned by the Romans, having Caerleon for its head quarters. After the Romans had overrun the plains of Britain, the country west of the Severn had remained unconquered, and Ostorius was appointed by Claudius to complete the conquest of Britian. The Silures are described by the Roman historian as having been a powerful and warlike race, a fierce and warlike enemy, on account of their long resistance to Roman arms, and it was left to Ostorius to reduce the Silures with their neighbours to Roman rule.

In the early history of Britain there is perhaps no event which carries with it so much interest and importance as the battle between Caeradog and Ostorius.

I now feebly take up a position advocated by writers in the Cambrian Archæological Journal half a century ago, in which they state that a good deal of the early history of this country has yet to be written from observation. And of our British camps it has been said, who would dare to give them a date?

In this matter also I venture a little way.

Ostorius being now about to start on his hazardous campaign, the fact of which soon got to the knowledge of Caeradog, who at once set out to fortify his country, and to take command over his own people. Ostorius being now on the banks of the Usk, would naturally take his onward line of march within reasonable distance to the river, as is the custom to-day with generals on the war path, as water is, of course, most essential for a large army.

On each side of the river Usk is a Roman road leading to Gaer Bannium; on the north-east side of the Usk we have the following Roman stations, after leaving Isca Silurium: Usk (Burrium), Abergavenny (Gobarrium), Cwmdy, thence Brecon, Gaer (Bannium). On the south-west side of the river Usk, we have Bullsum Caerphilly (Silusium), and Bryn Oer; the Roman road traverses the whole length of the parish of Llangrynidr, and on to the plains of Llanfrynach (a Roman bath and several Roman coins, as well as cinders have been found at this place), where the Romans halted and pitched their summer camp.

The invading army having now reached as far as Cwmdy, and probably in a wearied condition, and with awe viewed those formidable hills on each side and in front of them, resolved on

building a camp; the material for doing so was close at hand, for on the hill in front of them stands the famous Bwlch Quarries. During the time this camp at Cwmdy was being built, a great engineer had arrived at Alltffillo, and at this place made one of the finest single Vallum camps that exists in Wales. From here he paid a flying visit to the Allt, near Talybont-on-Usk, a commanding hill which the British fell back upon. From this hill could be seen plainly the ancient British camp, now called by the name of Fenni fach wood, a place no doubt much known to ancient fame. This place was the one spot to which this mighty British military genius was anxious to draw. He now probably selected a few men from the Allt garrison to go with him. Having arrived at Fenni Camp, no time was lost in discussions, for here he found willing hands to do anything he might set before them. From here he now ascends the Crug (a name which implies to gather up in a heap). How appropriate to the bringing together of different people or contingents. Being much struck with its formidable position (as I have no doubt is the unanimous opinion of all of you to-day), he at once sets about making the Crug into one of the strongest and greatest of fortifications I believe that we have in the whole principality of Wales. After well nigh finishing this great work he became anxious to return to look after his own people.

Caeradog on his return may have followed an ancient British trackway leading to Cwmin Llanyre; this trackway at a later date having been converted into a Roman road called Sarn Helen. There is no doubt but that these grand open lawn trackways did much to facilitate the onward march of the Romans, and in these days of motor traffic it would be a blessing if they were still in existence. Yet it would seem that the most probable course Caeradog took on his return would be via Llanfillo, and from there to Hereford, where I will for the present leave him.

Ostorius being now about to make another onward move against the British troops on the Allt, near Talybont-on-Usk, would not relish a frontal attack on so formidable a position, but made a move probably in the night along the river side; for when they reached Scethrog they were perceived by the British, who now poured down upon the invaders, for here a bloody battle was fought, as the name of the place implies—Cwmygwaedlyd, or the Bloody Valley. On the side of the turnpike road at this place stands the Cromlech of Victorinus. The Roman army having been now forced across the river, formed a summer camp at Llanfrynach.

The day for the final assault on the Crug, now drew near but to attack this stronghold the Romans did not dare, but used similar tactics to those they performed on the Allt.



Eventually the Roman army became masters of the situation, and here at Gaer Bannium Ostorius commenced to build his terminus camp. The work of Ostorius was not yet accomplished, for he had to subdue the great heroic Caeradog. Having gained information, most probably by terrible pressure, of the route taken by Caeradog, Ostorius makes a move towards Alltfillo. The British and Roman camps at this place are well worth a visit, for here you will find that both armies met face to face with each other. The Roman camp on the Hillis farm is within a stone's throw of the British camp. While looking at the position of this Roman Camp in such close quarters to the British camp, it might well be termed an impudent camp.

The Roman camp is of a square form made of earth work. From here Ostorius wended his way towards Hereford, where I will leave you gentlemen to deal with him.

Having thus given a faint outline of the doings of Caeradog and Ostorius, it would be well to examine some further proofs of their presence in this locality. Among the best and most substantial evidence in these matters is the finds. The superscription of a coin is no doubt important in determining the period or date of a station. Of finds of coins at the Gaer, there have been those of Claudius and Nero. The finds in pottery and bricks bear evidence upon them of LEG. II. AUG. I may here mention that I had the great pleasure of seeing a few weeks ago one of the greatest authorities on Roman matters, and to whom I showed a specimen of Sarnian ware, found at the Gaer, and he (Professor Haverfield, of Oxford) stated that it was the earliest specimen of Roman ware found in Britain.

Professor Haverfield also stated when I mentioned to him that the Woolhope Club intended having a visit to the Gaer that he should have been delighted to have been there with them.

In an old manuscript of Hugh Thomas, the Breconshire Herald, which I have in my possession, it is stated that about the year 1698 a gentleman named Henry Williams, whilst excavating the foundations for building a barn at the Gaer, dug up a large stone with characters upon it (evidently meaning carved figures). I am inclined to believe that the stone we saw fixed in the old Roman road to-day (which is the only known specimen of a sculptured stone found at the Gaer, representing as it does a Roman soldier and his wife, with an inscription upon it which cannot now be made out) is the stone that was dug up, and that the owner of the Gaer had it placed in the old disused Roman road as being a place that was most suitable

for it. The viewing of the Maen Hir to-day must naturally arouse curiosity in the minds of all who saw it. These huge memorials seem to baffle the minds of all historians. Whatever the object might have been for erecting them, they no doubt tell us of a civilisation that existed long ages before a Roman invasion. The Roman stone at Penoyre was ploughed up in a field at Battle fawr in the year 1877, but it is lamentable that the missing portion of it has not yet been found to make it complete. An effort was made soon after the discovery by two men who were employed for about a week in digging in search of this missing part, but it is to be regretted that their efforts proved fruitless. The stone commemorates a veteran of the Spanish legion (one retired perhaps from active service), and holding the station of Stipendarius in the district. His villa is supposed to have been close by.

It is interesting to note that in the year 1878, while the interior of the camp at the Gaer was being drained, part of a pitched road was discovered near the centre and at a depth of about four feet, and during the hot summer of 1896 in the centre and part of the western half of the encampment could be seen traces of the formation of walls. This resulted from the sun drying the shallow depth of soil which covered them. It is very evident that the station at the Gaer became a place of great importance in the manufacture of pottery. A great quantity of clay of various colours was seen when excavating for the foundation of the new farmhouse, and which corresponds with the pottery which has been found about the Gaer. Several engraving tools were also unearthed, which testify to the fact that art metal work was also an important industry carried on at this station. Another evident proof of the greatness of Gaer Bannium is shown by the number of Roman roads that lead to it from the following places:—Caerleon, Cardiff, Neath, Carmarthen, and Cwmin Llanrye.

I may also quote a portion of an able paper by the late R. D. Cleasby, Esq., of Pennoyre, which was read before the Cambrian Archæological Society, when that society last visited the Gaer in the year 1902. "There are few spots in Britain that have seen more fighting than this angle where the Yscir falls into the Usk. British, Roman, Saxon, Dane, and Norman, with all their innumerable allies and auxiliaries, have each in turn shouted their war-cry along the banks of these streams; time after time has the invader pushed the Welsh up the river from Abergavenny, only to find themselves eventually brought up by this Bannium that the Romans built.

\* \* \* \*

The Welsh Princes were only too pleased to avail themselves of buildings so superior to anything that they could themselves erect, and Gaer-Bannium became the capitol of the upper waters of the Usk, the centre to which all fighting men rallied, and the bulwark against the invader. For 600 years the strife raged incessantly, and we hear of battle after battle as each side in turn crossed the border: you would hardly think that a fighting man could be left in the country. Then about A.D. 1000 there came, at least for one generation, a quiet time: the influence of the Mainarch was for peace. Then comes the final struggle with the Normans, around this spot. . . .

For many years the fight rolled backwards and forwards. Then there was treason in the camp, and we find Fitz-Hamon and his allies arrayed against the aged Prince Rhys ap Tudor. The battle was fought close by here, between the Crug and Venni Wood . . . and in which fight Prince Rhys was slain. Shortly after this there came on the scene the conspicuous form of Bernard de Newmarch, and the story of the closing fight is romantic."

Underneath the sod which you have passed over to-day lies a great hidden history which all lovers of antiquity would be proud to see opened up.

Brecon was left at 6-5 p.m. and Hereford reached about a quarter to eight, all expressing delight at the day's proceedings.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The following circular of enquiry, with the replies it elicited, is interesting from the matters to which it relates; it also illustrates the mutual help which can be given by societies and individuals engaged in similar studies:—

ULCOMBE PLACE, MAIDSTONE,

July, 1909.

Dear Sir,—The appearance of *Elodea canadensis*, Michx., some years ago in such abundance as in many cases to choke watercourses, and its subsequent almost entire disappearance in some localities where it had been very common, is such an interesting phenomenon that it appears desirable to ascertain the localities in which it has occurred. I shall therefore be obliged if you will kindly ask any Member of your Society who is able to give the required information to fill up the annexed form and return it to me before October 1st.

I venture to ask the same favour with regard to the Freshwater Crayfish, the distribution of which in this country is very little known.

ALFRED O. WALKER, F.L.S.

To this letter Mr. Hutchinson, Hon. Sec., made the following reply on behalf of the Club:—

Dear Sir,—I now send you the result of the inquiries I have made respecting your communication in July last *re Elodea canadensis* and Freshwater Crayfish.

### *Re Elodea Canadensis.*

I sent the form to the Rev. Augustin Ley, of Brampton Lodge, Ross, who is one of the ablest botanists we have in this county. You will see he filled up the form stating that "the plant was very abundant in the river Wye and canals, streams, and pools, from 1865 to 1889; since that date rapidly becoming more scarce, and that he did not know any station for it as present. It was first observed in Herefordshire about the year 1855."

At the same time I wrote to my sister, Miss Hutchinson, of Grantfield, Leominster. She unfortunately is not a botanist, but she has some knowledge and she sent me a specimen of what she had always understood to be the American Water Weed, which she says grows in quantity in the Lugg by the side of Mill Street and the

Marsh, Leominster. I forwarded this specimen to the Rev. Augustin Ley, and he pronounced it to be *Elodea canadensis*, and in his reply stated that since he filled up the form he had noticed it in two spots—(1) in a pool at Sellack, near Ross, and (2) in a mill sluice at Ross. He adds: "I expect it is still quite common, only one's attention has not been drawn to it."

This is all the information I have been able to obtain on this subject.

[To this may be added the suggestion for what it is worth that the *Elodea canadensis* came to England in Canadian vessels laden with timber. Water-wheels are largely constructed of wood brought from Canada, which may throw light upon the fact that this exotic is found in mill sluices, as reported by Mr. Ley.—EDITOR.]

Mr. Walker makes enquiry as to

#### THE RIVER CRAYFISH,

*Potamobius pallipes* (Lereboullet).

*Astacus fluviatilis*, Fabr.

- (1) Does this Crayfish occur in your Society's district? If so, give the names of the rivers or canals in which it is now found or has occurred.
- (2) Is the Crayfish now more or less abundant than it has been within living memory?

The following reply to the second part of Mr. Walker's letter of enquiry was sent by the Hon. Secretary:—

#### Re CRAYFISH.

My sister writes me that the Crayfish occurs in the tributaries of the Lugg at Eaton Hill, and Croward's Mill near Leominster. I remember about forty-five years ago seeing several that had been caught at the latter place.

Capt. J. G. Hewitt, R.N., says he caught Crayfish many years ago in a stream that flows into the Lugg near Mortimer's Cross.

Mr. J. E. H. Stooke says he has seen Crayfish in a small brook at Carey that flows into the Wye near Fawley. He has also seen them in a stream on the borders of Radnorshire and Herefordshire. He has been told that they occur in the Arrow at Pembridge, but he

adds he has never seen any in this County that will compare with the size of those in Oxfordshire.

Mr. Edwin Stooke states that about twenty years ago he caught Crayfish in a little brook that runs into the Monnow at Kentchurch.

The Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, of the Vicarage, Staunton-on-Arrow, says that when he lived at Kentchurch he noticed them in the same brook, and heard that they were found in the Dore, another tributary of the Monnow. He also says that the Crayfish are very abundant in the Arrow from Staunton up to Huntington. "On July 6th, 1898, at a picnic with some children, we caught over 100 one morning near Huntington."

Dr. Robert Williams, of Kingsland, says "Crayfish swarm in local streams—the Lugg, Arrow and Pinsley."

The Rev. P. H. Fernandez says he has good authority for stating that Crayfish occurs at Kilpeck.

Mr. Iltyd Gardner, of Abergavenny, says Crayfish occur in the Newport and Abergavenny Canal near Abergavenny, and further on towards Brecon. He adds: "In the Abergavenny district it is markedly less abundant than it was formerly within living memory."

I think therefore you may consider that in this County the Crayfish is quite as abundant as it has ever been.

This is all the information I have been able to get, and I hope it will be sufficient for your purpose.

#### IN re NIGHTINGALE.

I now send you the information that I have been able to obtain respecting the Nightingale.

In the year 1899 when I compiled a list of Herefordshire Birds, for publication in the Woolhope Club *Transactions*, I had it reported to me as having occurred at Dinmore, Fownhope, Dinedor, Ewyas Harold, Sellack, Ashperton, How Caple, Wormbridge, Haugh Wood, Kentchurch, Kimbolton, near Ledbury, on the Dowards, and at Knightwick. Since then I have had many reports of its occurring in different parts of the county, and I have no doubt that it is extending itself gradually from east to west, and that from the length of time it is stated to remain, I should say it must breed here, but I have not been able to obtain an authentic case of the nest being found in Herefordshire.



My sister, Miss Hutchinson, of Grantsfield, Leominster, writes that both last year and this, during the months of May and June, they were singing in the Ride, a wood in the parish of Kimbolton, and that a number of people from Leominster came up to listen to them.

The Rev. C. B. Caldicott, who while curate of Kimbolton lived near the Ride, has told me that he knows the bird well, and has heard three or four singing at a time in that neighbourhood.

Capt. C. D. Oldham informs me that it occurs at Kentchurch, and that his sisters, who knew the bird well, found a nest near Ludlow, just over the borders of Herefordshire, in Salop.

The Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, a good authority, says the Nightingale used to occur at Kentchurch most years, but did not stay to breed. He has a record of hearing it sing at night on April 30th, May 1st and 2nd, in 1897, and on April 28th, 1899. He has not heard it at Staunton-on-Arrow, where he is now living.

Mr. Iltyd Gardner, of Abergavenny, states that the Nightingale is distributed fairly regularly all over Monmouthshire for so irregular a bird. It is most frequent in the Wye Valley, near the river in the neighbourhood of Llanover, Llanfair, and Goystrey, five miles or so south of Abergavenny. He adds that they formerly bred in Constable Wood, in the latter parish, close to Nantyerry station, but the wood has now been cleared.

Dr. Williams, of Kingsland, who is perhaps the best authority we have in the county, says that they do not occur in his neighbourhood.

You have heard from Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips, and I think this is all the information I can give you. I wish I could have given you something more reliable as to their breeding here.

[It may not be amiss to refer here to the late Dr. Bull's interesting book on "The Birds of Herefordshire," in which he tells us that the Nightingale is almost confined to the southern half of the county. Whatever part of the shire it delights with its song, it is a beautiful idea we gather from the numerous tributes of the poets to the Nightingale, which compares its song "to the sweet voice of heavenly comfort, poured forth in the night of sorrow and distress."—EDITOR.]

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

ANNUAL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1909.

At the annual meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, which was held in the clubroom, Hereford, on Thursday afternoon, there were present the Revs. Preb. H. T. Williamson (president), W. E. T. Morgan, and R. H. Warner, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Messrs. H. C. Beddoe, R. Clarke, J. Cockcroft, F. W. Dury, P. L. Earle, A. B. Farn, E. J. Hatton, T. Hutchinson, F. S. Hovil, F. R. James, Herbert R. Jones, George Marshall, and J. B. Pilley. Letters regretting inability to attend were read from Sir James Rankin, Preb. Lambert, and Mr. G. H. Jack.

The PRESIDENT said he had great pleasure in moving the election of Mr. A. B. Farn, of Breinton, as President for the ensuing year (applause). Mr. Farn was singularly fitted to be their President, being eminent as an entomologist and ornithologist over a great deal wider area than this district.

The nomination was seconded by Mr. DURY and carried unanimously.

Mr. FARN agreeably accepted the appointment, and promised to do his best for the welfare of the club.

The Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Mr. G. H. Jack, Dr. J. H. Wood, and Preb. Williamson were elected vice-presidents; Mr. C. P. Bird, Mr. R. Clarke, Preb. Lambert, Mr. A. Watkins, and Mr. A. H. Lamont were appointed as the central committee; Mr. H. C. Beddoe was re-appointed hon. treasurer; Mr. James Davies, hon. auditor; Mr. Thomas Hutchinson, hon. secretary; and Mr. J. B. Pilley, assistant secretary for his 23rd year of office. The editorial committee re-appointed, were the Rev. R. H. Warner and Dr. L. Richardson.

The Rev. R. H. WARNER stated that the late Mr. H. C. Moore had left a great quantity of particulars relating to the navigation of the River Wye, which had to be dealt with for publication in the forthcoming volume.



Mr. CLARK reported that the slab about to be erected in Hereford Cathedral to the memory of the late Mr. Moore was of alabaster and Sicilian marble, and a photograph of it would be sent to each member.

Mr. HUTCHINSON drew attention to a chronological chart of the world which had been presented to the club by Mr. Lamont. It covered the period from 1500 B.C. to 1900 A.D.

The Rev. R. H. WARNER referred to correspondence respecting the etymology of Bredwardine.

The finding of a Purple Emperor moth at Ross was mentioned by Mr. HUTCHINSON.

New members nominated were Capt. G. R. A. Rolleston, Bridge House, Mordiford, and Mr. J. P. Cobbe, Cantilupe Street, Hereford.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SPRING MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1910.

The spring annual meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club was held in the club room at the Free Library, Hereford, on Thursday. The retiring president (the Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson) was in the chair, and there were also present, Mr. A. B. Farn (president-elect for 1910), the Dean of Hereford, the Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, the Rev. C. H. Stoker, the Rev. R. Hyett Warner, the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, the Rev. A. Ley, Dr. Durham, Dr Scudamore Powell, Messrs. G. Marshall, C. P. Bird, R. Clarke, L. Richardson, A. H. Lamont, W. F. Dury, F. S. Hovil, J. Cockcroft, W. E. H. Clarke, H. E. Jones, T. Hutchinson (hon. sec.), and J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said he did not know whether any of the members had seen the tablet erected to the memory of their late secretary, Mr. H. C. Moore, which had been placed in the south transept of the Cathedral by permission of the Dean. He thought it was a very satisfactory memorial, and they were indebted to those who had moulded and designed it.

Mr. WARNER said the subject matter of the volume of transactions for the years 1905-6 was now in type and in the hands of the printers, and it would cover, he was told, 350 pages. If they required the year 1907 to be included, it would make a very serious addition to the volume, and would involve very considerable extension of the time, so that the meeting had better decide whether the three years should be contained in the one volume. If they included the third year it would reach 100 pages more or thereabouts.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. STOKER, to include the three years in the volume.

Mr. HUTCHINSON presented the balance sheet for Mr. H. C. Beddoe, the treasurer, which showed a balance in hand of £238 17s. 7d., as compared with £173 17s. 4d. in the previous year.

Mr. PILLEY presented his report for the year 1909, which, he said, varied but little from the previous one, although he regretted to announce the loss by death and resignation of several members. Singular to say the numbers and the receipts were exactly the same as in 1904. The year following the high water mark was reached when the members stood at 267 and the receipts at £137. In the past year the number of members on the books was 236, including 16 elected during the same period, against 239 in 1908. The resignations were above the average, several had left the county, and some had retired owing to age and ill-health. Three names had been omitted through arrears of subscriptions for three years. Dr. Crespi, who much regretted to sever his connection with the club during a membership of 20 years, wrote on several occasions able criticisms on the work of the Society, for the transactions, and also for periodicals. The obituary list contained seven names, including two of the oldest members. Mr. Joseph Carless was elected in 1869, and until recent years was rarely absent from the field meetings. Several papers on historical subjects were contributed by him for the transactions. From his knowledge of the ancient history and customs of the city they were of great interest. Mr. T. C. Paris had been a member for 38 years, and was frequently to be seen at the meetings until age prevented him from attending. By the accounts which had been read it would be seen that £110 had been received during the year in subscriptions and arrears, a little less than in 1908. The arrears carried forward were still high in comparison with the income. The field meetings had been well attended, an average of 48 supporting the president, the ladies' day held at Downton attracting 67 members and their friends to that delightful locality.

The field days were fixed for the coming season as follows:—May 26th, St. Weonard's, Treago and Tretire; June 28th, Glasbury and Talgarth; July 28th (ladies' day), Church Stretton; August 30th, Brinsop, Weobley and the Leys.

The PRESIDENT announced that the following new members had been unanimously elected, viz.:—Captain Rolleston, R.A., Little Birch; Mr. G. J. Abell, Leominster; and Mr. C. P. Cobb, Hereford.

Mr. HUTCHINSON stated that Mr. Chas. Martin, the Hill, Abergavenny, proposed by Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Henry Gosling, of Ashfield, Leominster, proposed by Mr. T. C. Brown, and seconded by Mr. H. W. Apperley, were candidates for election at the next meeting.

A letter was read from Mr. H. C. Beddoe with regard to the restoration of Yarpole church belfry tower. He said this was one of the few detached belfry towers in Herefordshire, and to put it in thorough repair would cost nearly £80. Towards this sum £25 was still required, and he asked if some members of the Club could be induced to do something.

Mr. HUTCHINSON said he had received a postcard from Mr. Henry Southall of Ross, asking if there were any spare copies of the transactions of 1902-3-4 left, and if so whether they would allow him to have a copy in order to send it to the Royal Meteorological Society. He (Mr. Hutchinson) said that in view of the good work done for the club by Mr. Southall, and the many years he had been a member the least they could do would be to accede to the request. He proposed that they let Mr. Southall have the copy asked for.

The CHAIRMAN seconded, and it was carried.

A letter was received from Mr. C. G. Lloyd, of U.S.A., respecting fungi on elm trees, and at the suggestion of the Rev. A. Ley, the secretary was requested to forward it to Mr. Carleton Rea.

The PRESIDENT, as is usual, then delivered his address on retiring from his position. He said: "In obedience to that formidable rule of our Club, which as a loyal member I must needs obey, I submit to your kind consideration a few desultory remarks. That rule I notice marks out the ground to be travelled over. First of all the retiring president is to give a summary of what the Club has done during the year of his office, and, secondly, to make such observations as he may deem conducive to the welfare of the Club. I should like at the outset to express my sincere thanks for the courtesy and kindness which has been shown to me by all our members, and especially by the secretary and officials in all our business relationships. Glancing shortly at our Field excursions I am glad to say that I had the pleasure of being present at all of them. At the first meeting, May 27th, the weather was somewhat unfavourable at first but cleared in the afternoon. A short walk from Woofferton station brought us to the old church of Orleton, where the vicar met us, and kindly explained to the Club the chief objects of interest, among others the old font and the two ancient dug-out chests. From there we walked to Orleton Manor, an old timbered house of the 15th century, the ancient home of the Blount family, now the property of Mr. Hill, who purchased it from Harvard University. Leaving Orleton and passing over Bircher Common we gradually reached the encampment of Croft Ambury. From this elevated spot the outlook is wide and extensive, embracing several counties. The next halt was Croft Castle, where

Mr. Kevill-Davies, the owner, kindly welcomed the Club, and conducted us over the church and grounds, and through the noble avenue of Spanish chesnuts, some of which are of great size. We dined at Mortimer's Cross Inn, and after transacting the usual business of the Club, Mr. Jack read an excellent paper on Roman Herefordshire, dealing more especially with the roads, and pointing out how much remains to be explored. It is a subject which may well occupy the careful attention of our members. The second meeting, July 1st, was largely attended. Detraining at Llanvihangel station, a delightful drive by the Honddu river, past Llanthony Abbey, brought us to the chapel of the Boundary Capel-y-ffin. Under the guidance of the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, of Llanigon, we walked by the monastery of the late Father Ignatius, through Blaen-y-Bwlch Dingle. To the summit of the Red Dingle the day was perfect, and the walk through this most romantic spot not soon to be forgotten. After the dinner, which was laid out under the shadow of the old Llanthony Abbey, a paper prepared by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan was read describing the geological and historical associations connected with the district visited. We are also indebted to Mr. J. W. Vaughan for an interesting account of the fauna of the Black Mountains. Mr. Alfred Watkins also showed us an ancient dovecot, which had recently been discovered in the Abbey grounds, a building probably of the 13th or 14th century. For the Ladies' day, July 29th, the Downton district was chosen. Through the kindness of Mrs. Boughton Knight the members were allowed to go through the private grounds adjoining the Teme, and a pleasant day ended with a visit to Ludlow church and castle. The last field meeting, August 31st, was at Brecon to visit the Roman station of Gaer Bannium. Mr. Jones, the tenant of the farm, to whom the Club is greatly indebted for his careful work of exploration, pointed out the chief features of the station, the gateway and the socket holes in which the gates revolved, and the boundaries of the camp. On the way back a fine menhir standing in a field was examined; also a stone rather mutilated, which is preserved in the house at Penoyre. From the letters on this it was probably erected at some time to commemorate a Spanish stipendarius or paymaster, an official of high position in the Spanish Legion. At the dinner at the Castle Hotel, Brecon, time did not allow for the reading of all the papers. Mr. Jack gave us an account of the Roman road between Monmouth and Gloucester, and Mr. Hay recalled some of the historical associations connected with the places visited. A paper was promised by Mr. L. Richardson on some of the glacial features in the Wye valley at Aberedw. From this rapid sketch of our doings in the past year it will be noticed that there are no great discoveries to record in the fauna, or flora or geology of our district. Yet some progress has been made, thanks to Mr. Jack, in the work of investi-

gating the traces of the Roman occupation as it affected this part of our country. Considering the length of time that Britain was a part of the Roman empire, some 400 years, from the first conquest to the time when the pressure of the Gothic invasion compelled Rome to withdraw her legions from our island, it must be of great interest to unveil this story of the past, and discover the impress of Rome in the cities and camps and roads of our country. John Richard Green speaks of this occupation as having been mainly military. Britain lay too far from Rome to be influenced in the way that Gaul was. There was no immigrating; no material resources to attract settlers. Its cold climate deterred men from the sunny south. The care with which every villa was furnished with its system of hot air flues shows how intolerable the climate was to the Roman occupiers. The result was that this province remained a mere military department of the empire. This is shown by the fact that the bulk of the monuments which have been found relate to military life. Its inscriptions and tombs are mostly those of soldiers. Britain was to Rome what Algeria is to France. But turning away from the past and looking out on the events which have taken place in the past year, and travelling perhaps beyond the limits set for a presidential address, I will recall two. Twice within one week in September last year came the startling news that the North pole had been reached by two independent expeditions; Dr. Cook on April 21st, 1908, and Commander Peary on April 6th, 1909. Whether the former's statement is correct is much questioned, but that Peary has succeeded, where so many gallant explorers have failed, seems to be generally credited. Then again in Antarctic regions we have the satisfaction of knowing that the record of furthest South has been made by an Englishman, Sir Ernest Shackleton, January 9th, 1909; and the South magnetic Pole located by Professor David, a member of the same expedition. Or, again, look at aviation, from being a visionary scheme of a few enthusiasts, results are being almost daily attained which bring the conquest of the air by man to a matter of almost certainty. When in July, 1909, the brave Frenchman Bleriot crossed the Channel on his aeroplane and landed on the cliff of Dover, it was realised that a new power of locomotion had come into existence with possibilities which no one at present can foresee or gauge its effect and influence. From being a visionary scheme aviation is a reality, a commercial enterprise. I came across a passage this week in one of Victor Hugo's works, written in 1862, which reflects upon what progress had already done. Once the human races looked with terror upon the hydra, which blew upon the waters; the dragon, which vomited fire; and Griffin, the monster of the air. We have tamed the hydra, and he is called the steamer, we have tamed the dragon, and he is called the locomotive. We are on the point of taming the griffin. We have



him already, and he is called the balloon. The day when this Promethean work shall be finished, and when man shall have definitely humanised to his will the triple chimeras of the ancients, the hydra, the dragon, and the griffin, he will be master of the water, the fire, and the air. Prophetic words, which we in our days are seeing fulfilled. Thus as years go by the forces of nature are being gradually subdued and captured for the benefit of mankind, and her secrets slowly revealed by the patient and earnest search of our men of science. Professor Huxley in the oft quoted letter of his to the Dean of Wells, said "the mysteries of the church are child's play compared with the mysteries of nature." Much has been brought to light. How much still to be cleared up! And in this work our Club may claim to have done some little in the way of study and observation. Our transactions, so ably edited, are a mine of wealth. There the student of Nature will find data concerning the fauna, flora, ornithology, geology, conchology, the rainfall, earth tremors of our district and the antiquarian records of the cities and camps and battlefields and customs, and coins of those tribes and nations that once occupied this western portion of our island. All this when fully indexed will be of the greatest service to some historian of the future, and at the present time they are full of interest to all who wish to know something of this part of England in which it is our privilege to live.

I do not know, but I throw out the suggestion, whether it might not be advantageous for our club to have special sections or committees, one, we will say, for geology, another for archaeology, another for botany, and so on, and that members be invited to interest themselves in some particular branch of Nature study to which they have a natural bent, each section having its own president or secretary. And another thought that has come into my mind is this: Would it be possible to arrange for a few meetings to be held during the winter months, for lectures and discussion upon some subject of natural science, which it is the object of the club to promote?

And now I must bring this rambling address to an end. When you honoured me with the position of president, I told you I could lay no claim whatever to be a man of science as others who have preceded me have been. But I claim to have been a humble lover of Nature ever since I read some of the works of Darwin, Kingsley, Richard Jefferies, and others, who by their patient researches and accuracy of observation have done so much to throw light on natural science. I wonder if Richard Jefferies is now much read. He ought to be, for no one noted more accurately the life of flower, bird and insect than he did. It was his life work, carried on in the

teeth of poverty and continuous ill-health. Just before he died, in one of his very last writings, he said, "I wonder to myself how they can all get on without me, how they manage birds and flowers without me to keep the calendar for them, for I noted it so carefully and lovingly day by day. They go on without me—orchid, flower and cowslip—I cannot number them all. I hear as it were, the patter of their feet. Flower and buds and the beautiful clouds that go over with the sweet rush of rain and sun glory among the leafy trees. They go on, and I am no more than the least of the empty shells that strew the swards of the hill."

Sir Walter Besant in his life of Jefferies says: "That never any man has heretofore spoken of Nature as this man speaks. He has given new colours to the field and hedge. He has filled them with a beauty which we never thought to find there. He has taught us to look around with new eyes, he has removed our blindness; it is a new world which he has given to us."

We cannot all be Jeffries's, but we can learn from him and such writers to keep our eyes open and acquire the power of observing the varied life of Nature as it meets us, and perhaps by keeping our eyes open to observe we may be able to contribute some fact, some detail, which has come to our notice, and so help on the good work which the Woolhope Club is doing, and thus justify our position as members. Thanking you again for the kind consideration you have shown me in the office which I shall ever consider it an honour to have held, I resign the presidential chair, and I feel confident that in the able hands of my successor, who is what I am not, a scientific man, our club will pursue its career of usefulness, and worthily maintain its honourable traditions (applause).

On the motion of Mr. H. B. D. MARSHALL, seconded by Mr. HOVIL, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Preb. Williamson for his address, and the way he had discharged the duties of president of the club.

The PRESIDENT, in reply, said he was pleased to think that the conduct of the club would be in such good hands next year.

The President-Elect then took the chair amid applause.

Mr. STOKER proposed, and Mr. LAMONT seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the hon. secretary for his many services to the club, and this was carried with acclamation.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FIRST FIELD MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 1910.

### HEREFORDSHIRE AND THE ROMAN OCCUPATION.

BY A VISITOR.

If it were possible to select the weather, as it is possible for the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club to chose the venue of their outings, no more truly beautiful day could have been chosen than Thursday, when the club held its first field meeting of the season. The *locale* of the day's operations was St. Weonard's, Treago, Tretire, and Michaelchurch, names invested with the glamour of Celtic traditions, and such as to whet the appetite of even the keenest archæologist and philologist.

The members of the club assembled at the Free Library, Hereford, shortly before ten o'clock, and took their places in the brakes provided. On the stroke of ten we were cantering merrily over Wye Bridge. The road to St. Weonard's is the old Monmouth Road—an undulating, sinuous road, running like a ribbon between fields now golden with the first inrush of the buttercup, between woods green with the freshness of bursting buds, and amidst orchards seething with bloom. Travelling along to the music of the horses' hoofs, in the bright morning light, it reminded one of coaching days and coaching ways, and to help the illusion not a motor-car was to be seen for miles. Passing under Kings Thorne, from which on a clear day one of the loveliest views is to be seen, we tried to pierce the shimmering haze which hung over the Black Mountains, but the valleys were hidden—like the tales and traditions in their investiture of romance—in a veil of mist.

After the pleasant drive it came as an equally pleasant diversion to alight at the gates of St. Weonard's Church to seek the welcome cool of the building. Here the Rev. Augustin Ley read an interesting paper upon the church, which was listened to with much attention. It was noteworthy that while Mr. Ley himself was an ex-vicar of St. Weonard's, there were also in the church the present vicar (the Rev. V. A. Cresswell,) two ex-vicars in the persons of the

Rev. G. Whitehouse and the Rev. L. W. Richings, and an ex-curate in the Rev. E. A. Gowing. Subsequently the company went and inspected a tumulus close to the church. Here Mr. Herbert Jones read a paper in connection therewith which will appear in due course in the Transactions. From here the party proceeded to Treago farm, where is a fine old barn, which was viewed with considerable interest. Owing to a change of tenants it was impossible to visit Treago, one of the oldest fortified houses in the country, where is also to be seen one of the noted "hiddie holes," or secret hiding-places, to be found in some of these old buildings. Before leaving the barn, some notes on St. Weonard's were read.

The HON. SECRETARY announced that he had received the following letter and notes on the district from Mr. James G. Wood, F.S.A. Mr. Wood, after regretting his inability to attend the meeting, said: I shall be very interested to know what Mr. Jack may have to tell as to Roman occupation at that point. You will remember that in my paper on "Primary Roman Roads" I carried the Watling Street past Wormelow Tump and through St. Weonard's from Hereford to Monmouth. The origin and purposes of these "tumps" associated with Roman roads will well repay investigation. I have traced a line of such works across South Monmouthshire and West Gloucestershire from Caerleon through Caerwent into the Forest. All of these are so placed that each is in sight of the next in either direction. This suggests that they were signalling or watching stations, and several have names indicating such use. Again we find that such roads were in many cases "ranged" or laid out in line with small camps or such tumuli—being, in fact, surveying stations. For all or any of such purposes the Romans may have used, added to, or altered existing tumuli, of Celtic or earlier origin, possibly even sepulchral mounds. It is therefore impossible offhand to assign a Roman origin to them *ab initio*. South of Monmouth, on the same line of road, there is a big tumulus at Trellech, at such an elevation (over 900 feet) that I think St. Weonard's (387) would be visible from it. But I have reason to think that Wormelow (390) cannot be seen from St. Weonard's, the 400 feet line cutting the road about half-a-mile south of the latter. This seems inconsistent with a signalling theory. In fact Wormelow is in a depression from both north and south. Mr. Wright, in his *Uriconium*, says that a section of St. Weonard's tumulus showed that it was originally a bank in the ring form and was filled in afterwards. I only send these remarks as a suggestion for discussion of points which no doubt would otherwise have suggested themselves to you and other members. Trellech Church is, I am satisfied, in the site of a Roman camp with the tumulus immediately outside it on the south. Does St. Weonard's Church-

yard suggest anything of the sort? You know, of course, of the "old furnaces" at Treago. Possibly these may have originated in Roman times like the remains found along the Wye. This could be tested by the nature of the scoriæ if any are found. The road passing through Tretire is, I consider, part of a cross road from Ariconium (Weston-under-Penyard) which crossed the Wye at Brampton Abbots—passed between a camp (plainly marked on the old Ordnance, but now nearly obliterated) and a tumulus near Gillow—crossed the Watling Street at the twelfth mile from Hereford, and so on by Scenfrith to Abergavenny. The first mention I have found of St. Weonard's as a church or parish is towards the close of the "Book of Llandaff," where Lann-sant-Guainerth is included in the list of the churches in Erging (or Archenfield) claimed by the diocese of Llandaff. This is among other entries relating to the time of Herwald, who was Bishop 1056-1104. It is there mentioned next to Lann-cinauc, now Llangunnoch, on the Garran about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south. The same dedication occurs 15 miles off at Llanwenarth, one mile west of Abergavenny. I find no other instance of it in Wales or the Marches; nor do I find the name in any list or genealogy of British saints. The person here commemorated may be the "Gwengarth" who appears in a grant to St. Cadoc (*i.e.*, to the monastery of Lancarvan) in the time of Bishop Berthgwyn (Rees' *Cambro-British Saints*, pp. 90-387); and as witness to grants in the same district to Llandaff in the time of Bishop Oudoceus; and also to the similar grant of Llandago on the Wye. In all or most of these instances he is associated with Morgan, King of Wenllwg. (*Liber Llandavensis* Rees Edn. 140, 141, 148, 391, 392, 400; Evans' Edn. 148, 149, 156). In the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 and in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. the parish appears as St. Waywards. In Camden it appears as St. Wenards.

Mr. Jack said that from what he had been able to gather he should hardly think Mr. Wood's theory in regard to tumuli being used as signalling stations was the right one. The building of such a huge mound as the one at St. Weonards did seem to show that it was used for some other purpose than that of burial, but whether it was for signalling, or what, perhaps they would never know.

The HON. SECRETARY said that on both sides of the road after leaving Tretire they would find in the fields large quantities of scoriæ.

Re-entering the brakes, the members proceeded to Tretire, where they were met by the Rev. W. D. Barber, who acted as cicerone for the remainder of the day. Here and at Michaelchurch, which is a mile distant, he read two papers which were much appreciated. At 2-45 another move was made, this time on foot, to

Gillow Manor, the residence of Mr. Burton Parry—a delightful fortified manor house reflecting itself in the waters of a moat and still possessing its old manorial fish-pond, its chapel, and imposing gatehouse. The moonwort, *Botrychium lunaria*, was discovered in a meadow at Gillow, where it had previously been found by Mr. Watkins (see "Herefordshire Flora"). On arriving at the manor, the company were met by Mr. Burton Parry and his daughter, who most kindly showed them over the old and interesting house. After half-an-hour or so spent in rambling under the hospitable roof-tree of Gillow Manor, we set off, passing over Gaer Cop, towards the New Inn, where luncheon awaited us, visiting, however, prior to luncheon, Chapel Tumps, the reputed remains of tumuli in which this part of the country is so rich.

The company which sat down to lunch consisted of the President (Mr. A. B. Farn), the Rev. D. W. Abbott, Mr. H. W. Apperley, Mr. W. M. Baylis, Mr. Brierley, Mr. George Child, Mr. R. Clarke, Dr. H. E. Durham, Mr. P. L. Earle, the Rev. P. H. Fernandez, Mr. R. H. George, the Rev. E. A. Gowring, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. W. M. Haywood, Mr. T. Hutchinson, (hon. secretary), Mr. G. H. Jack (vice-president), Mr. J. J. Jackson, Mr. H. E. Jones, Captain R. Kilbee Stuart, the Rev. Eustace King-King, Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. A. H. Lamont, the Rev. A. Ley, the Rev. Claud Lighton, Mr. C. J. Lilwall, Mr. W. G. Lloyd, the Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Mr. T. C. Morgan, Mr. J. T. Pitt, Dr. Scudamore Powell, the Rev. A. B. Purchas, Mr. J. B. Pilley, (assistant secretary), the Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan, the Rev. W. O. Wait, the Rev. R. Hyett Warner, Mr. Alfred Watkins, the Rev. R. H. Wilmot, the Rev. F. E. W. Wilmot, Mr. J. H. Wood, Preb. H. T. Williamson, Mr. B. Ronalds, the following being also present as visitors: the Rev. F. J. Lansdell, the Rev. L. Richings, the Rev. W. D. Barber, Mr. S. R. Taylor, Mr. G. H. Grocock, Mr. F. Piquet (Jersey), Mr. M. Donald (Redditch), and Mr. Davies (Bullingham).

At the conclusion of an excellent luncheon,

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. H. Gosling and Mr. Charles Martin had been elected as members of the club. The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for election: the Rev. N. Hatherley, vicar of Linton, proposed by the Rev. Augustin Ley, seconded by the Rev. W. H. Murray Ragg; Mr. John Bucknill Fowler, Putson House, Hereford; proposed by the Hon. Sec. and seconded by Mr. Watkins; Mr. S. R. Taylor, proposed by Mr. R. H. George seconded by Mr. H. Easton; Dr. D. Gold, proposed by Mr. G. H. Jack and seconded by Mr. G. H. Lamont; Mr. G. H. Grocock, proposed by Mr. Jack and seconded by Mr. Lamont; the Rev. L. Richings, rector of Whitney-on-Wye, proposed by the Rev. R.



Hyett Warner and seconded by the Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, and the Rev. F. J. Lansdell, proposed by Mr. P. Leighton Earle, seconded by the Rev. E. A. Gowing. It was unanimously resolved that the Rev. P. H. Fernandez, an old member of the club, be elected as from this date.

The HON. SECRETARY mentioned the fact that he had received a letter from Mr. Stephen Watkins, who recorded a pair of crossbills having been seen at Stanton Park, and on March 31st of this year a solitary green sandpiper, at Pembridge.

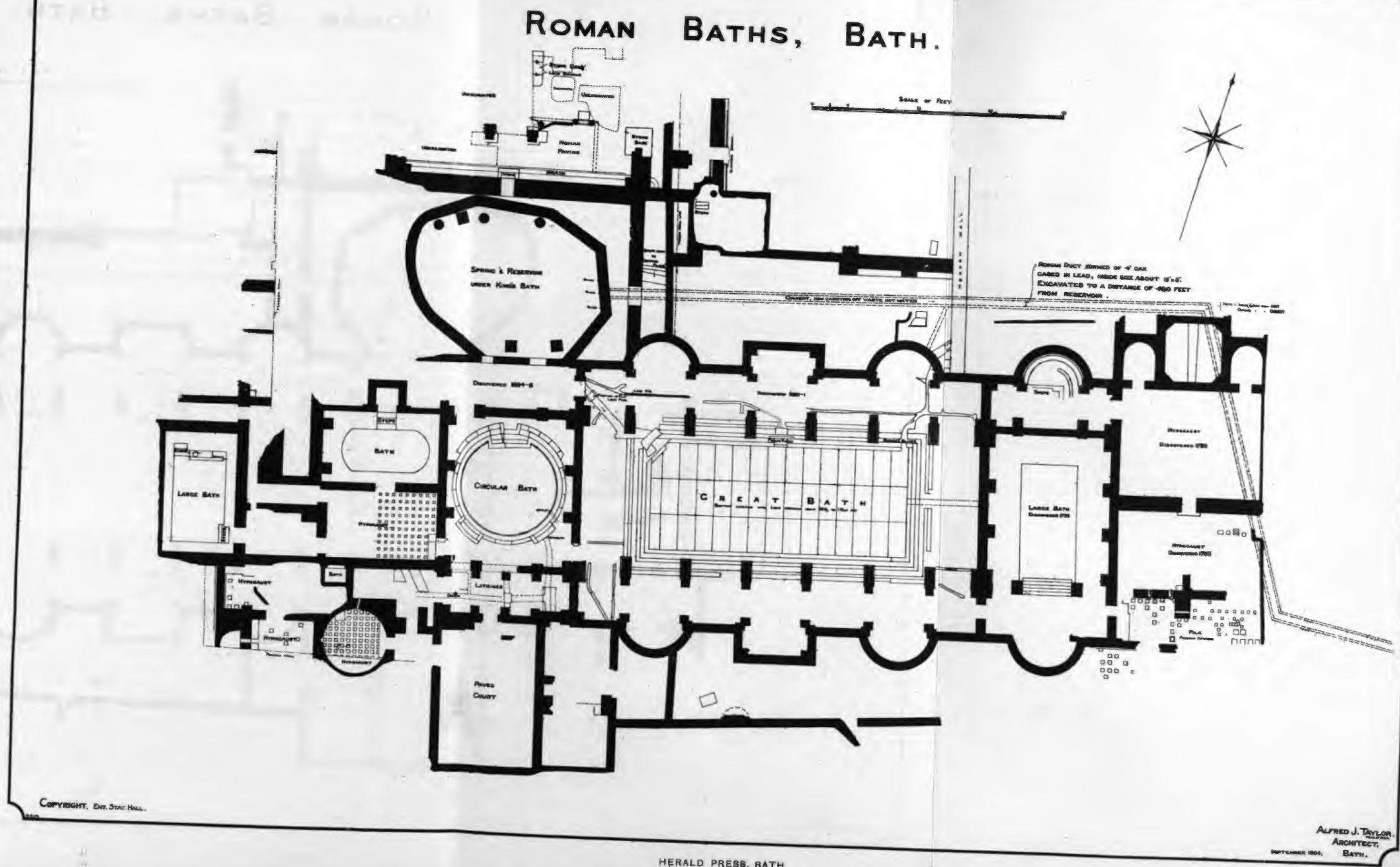
The PRESIDENT afterwards read a paper on "Migratory Birds." and Mr. Jack read the following paper, which formed a most interesting conclusion to an interesting day's activities:—

I feel that with an area so rich in archaeological interest as our county of Hereford, it is almost necessary to apologise for writing on a subject outside the history of our immediate sphere of labour. At the same time, I venture to think a brief note on the splendid remains of the Ancient Aquæ Solis or Sulis will not be altogether out of place. Some few months ago I had the privilege of being conducted over the Roman sites of Bath by Mr. Alfred J. Taylor, M.S.A., a gentleman who largely assisted in the excavation of the notable Roman baths. I found the subject of great antiquarian interest, and I must say that the character of the Roman work, both as regards design and construction much impressed me. I shall not attempt in this note to enter into any precise detail, but rather give a few of the most salient features.

The Roman walled town of Aquæ Solis lay on the road between Venta Silurum (Caerwent) and Calleva (Silchester), and is mentioned in the 14th itinerary of Antoninus. It was not a military station, but above all things noted for its luxurious medicinal baths, fed by the inexhaustible hot springs (the only such springs in this country). It is not difficult to imagine with what delight and satisfaction the sturdy Roman pioneers, fresh from sunny Italy, hailed the first sight of the steaming springs. Their keen appreciation is evidenced by the fact that in all probability the area of the bathing establishment when in its prime covered a space of, as some say, about seven acres (the area of buildings already uncovered measures 100 yards by 50.) Certain it is, however, from what is at present to be seen, the buildings were lavish and extensive. It is common knowledge that the baths formed an important part of the Roman social life. The baths were a general meeting place. The larger establishments, such as those of Rome and Pompeii, were luxuriously equipped, and there is not the least doubt that the Thermæ at Bath vied with the best, and were certainly not to be matched in Western Europe.

This Plan is taken from "Catalogue of Roman Remains, Bath," by kind permission of the Author, Alfred J. Taylor, M.S.A.

Between pages 132 and 133



The present ruins lie from 15 to 20 feet below the modern surface, and it was not until the year 1878 that the work of excavation was seriously taken in hand.

The general lay-out of the establishment, so far as can be at present ascertained, consisted of a series of large plunge baths in the centre with hypocausts or perspiration chambers at either end, capable of being heated by hot air similar to the baths at Rome and Pompeii, and indeed in similar fashion to that by which the houses at our own Roman town of Magna Castra (Magni) were heated. I have found many evidences of this method of heating in buildings adjoining the main street of this ancient Herefordshire town.

The great bath, 80 feet by 40 feet, was lined with sheets of lead 10 feet by 5 feet and weighing 40lbs. per foot (in these days we consider lead 7lbs per foot to be stout material). These sheets were carefully soldered together, and to-day retain the water within its ancient limits.

The roof over the bath was supported on beautifully proportioned pillars oblong in section, at the base spaced at intervals of about 16 feet centre to centre. The roof itself, of which only fallen fragments remain, was probably of barrel shape and composed of hollow brick blocks, wedge shaped and scored at the sides to ensure adhesion of the excellent mortar. Better construction for a strong light roof could not be imagined, and no doubt it stood intact for a very long period; I may not be far wrong when I say for a period of at least 200 years. On each side of the bath are circular and rectangular spaces, presumably dressing rooms. The water's edge was reached by a series of well-proportioned steps. The pavement, 14 feet wide, was formed of Bath stone, and shows signs in places of much wear and of considerable repair by means of thin slabs of the same stone. The original rectangular leaden pipe still conveys the water from the spring to the bath. The original culvert is large enough to admit a person standing erect, and still conveys the waste water to the river. When this culvert was cleared a large number of very beautiful relics in the form of ring stones and personal ornaments were discovered.

Immediately beyond the great bath is a circular bath, 32 feet across, with steps leading down to the water. To the right of this is encountered irregular octangular walling three feet thick, which encloses the waters of the spring, thus forming a reservoir, which to-day serves its original purpose. On the site already explored three other baths have been located, all much smaller than the ones I have noted. These remains are among the most interesting in these islands, and give some idea, although faint, of the splendour



of a far-off time. It is reasonable from reference to a fixed date, happily discovered on one of the fallen stones, 77-78 A.D., to assign these buildings to the latter part of the first century; they were famous in Britain and Gaul, and a monument then and now to the good work and skill of the Roman builders. In the work of excavation many beautiful fragments of sculptured work were recovered which give some idea of the magnificence of the buildings. Exactly what happened after the departure of the legions in 406 A.D. can only be conjectured. It is probable that the baths were kept on for a time by those Romanised Britons who were left defenceless within the walls of the once gay town. It is improbable that any repairs were executed, and consequently the buildings and apparatus got into a state of semi-decay. We may safely credit the Saxons with the destruction of the town and the demolition of the stately baths. Once the site became desolate, time would not be a great while in first softening and gradually obliterating the last vestiges of man's handiwork. The culverts and drains so carefully constructed became choked with debris and thus the whole area would assume the character of a morass. That this was so is borne out by the discovery of a teal's egg, buried deeply in the deposit, showing that after the Roman period this water bird built its nest in the marshes about the ruins. Thus for over a thousand years it was impossible to locate even the site of these solid and splendid works. This is enough to make us agree with the preacher of old when he said "All is vanity."

In the cool of the evening the brake ride from Hentland to Hereford was not the least enjoyable part of this outing, amidst the Tres, the Pens, and the Llans—names which lie like driftwood in these valleys of south-western Herefordshire upon the Celtic fringe.

### MIGRATORY BIRDS.

BY MR. A. B. FARN.

It has been suggested to me by our honorary secretary that a few words on our spring migrants would not be inappropriate on the present occasion. I have therefore brought together some observations which have been made on these interesting visitors. Many of us take notice of the arrival of the swallow and the martin, and the first notes of the cuckoo are anxiously awaited. Most of these immigrants have passed the winter in Africa, some in the Canaries, and some in India, but perhaps the largest number of them come to us from Africa; and April is the principal month

for their appearance. The chaffinch, however, comes in March, as does sometimes the willow warbler, though some of these latter winter here in mild districts. I have heard the notes of both species in March at Breinton. By the way, the notes of the willow warbler here seem to me to differ from those in Kent—I miss the regularity of the somewhat mournful falling cadence of the Kentish birds. Here other notes are interspersed, and thus make more of a song. While on this I may add that the common thrush here also differs in its song from its brothers in Kent—in these latter the notes are clearer and more distinct.

In 1907, on the 29th of March, I distinctly saw a cuckoo fly slowly past me on the lawn at the distance of but a few feet—I was hidden from it by a tree as it came. This date I should think was almost a record of its early appearance. So far as my observation goes, the common whitethroat is not as abundant this year as usual in the Breinton district. Perhaps some catastrophe has overtaken the species during migration. That accidents do happen to birds during such a period has been evidenced on more than one occasion. The late Mr. E. T. Booth, whose splendid collection of birds at Dyke-road, Brighton, is notorious, writes in his work entitled "Rough Notes" that there is little doubt but that contrary winds and prolonged storms claim their victims, and that many birds perish at sea. Indeed, once he sailed through hundreds of golden crested wrens which had been drowned during an autumn migration, and he has at other times noticed tree sparrows and chaffinches. On one occasion, whilst I was on the deck of a yacht which had been brought up at the mouth of the Thames three chaffinches flying across passed under the boom. The foresail being up the down draught at once took them into the river, and they were of course drowned—this is but one of many casualties which overtake birds on migration.

The black cap precedes the garden warbler. In April too, the only thrush which is absent from our country during winter, returns to breed in the wild and hilly districts of the country. From April 8th to 14th the nightingale comes, the males preceding the females. It is an uncommon visitor in Herefordshire. In 1907 I heard one near Breinton, but on one morning only. In 1908 a pair bred in the neighbourhood of Norton Canon, but, I understand, did not return last year. That the wood wren may occasionally and in special circumstances pass the winter in this country I had evidence, for on January 9th of last year I had a close and somewhat prolonged view of a bird of this species. It was on some gorse bushes near the river at Breinton. The wryneck I have not so far heard in my district.

In May we expect to see the swift, spotted flycatcher, and turtle dove, and to hear the nightjar and the corncrake. I first saw the swift on the 9th; I heard the corncrake and turtle dove on the 15th; and saw the spotted flycatcher on the 20th of this month.

Mr. Gätke's observations on the migrations of birds made at Heligoland—which island he tells us stands pre-eminent as an ornithological observatory in the West of Europe, and which observations extend over 50 years—are of the greatest interest to all ornithologists, embracing as they do no less than 398 species of birds. His conclusions as to the course of migration; altitude of migration; and velocity of migration flight; the meteorological conditions which influence migration, the order of migration according to age and sex; what guides birds during their migrations; and the cause of the migratory movement, are of the deepest interest, and I would recommend their perusal by all bird lovers. As regards altitude, he states: "Though observations on the extreme height of the flight of birds, so far as this can be ascertained directly by our power of sight, are naturally very limited, our experience in this direction nevertheless goes to show that birds can exist without difficulty in strata of the air, at such heights and of such low density as neither man nor any other warm-blooded creature could live in for any length of time. Birds therefore must be organised in such a manner as, on the one hand, to be uninfluenced by so considerable a diminution of air pressure as one meets with at heights from 25,000 to 30,000 feet, and, on the other hand, they must be able to exist on the considerably reduced supply of oxygen, required by the blood, obtainable in strata of such rare density. He notes the air-sacs which are on all parts of the body devoid of quill feathers, and that all these air-sacs are connected with the lungs, and are filled from the latter organs and which probably aid the flight of birds in the higher strata of the air, and enable them to apply their power of flight almost exclusively to the forward movement. As regards ringdoves and woodcocks he says they often precipitate themselves with a rushing noise in their descent. The birds may not yet be visible, but if attracted by the rushing sound and one looks in that direction, one notices a small almost irrecongnisable dot which, however, almost at the same moment shoots past in the form of a bird. As regards velocity he instances among other facts the flight of the northern bluethroat—a bird about the same size and similar in build to our familiar robin—which proved to be capable of flying during migration "at the rate of 180 geographical miles per hour." He adds "it has been shown that this species, which winters in the Nile districts and in Central Africa, accomplish under normal conditions in a single night, a distance of at least 1,600 geographical miles within the space of nine hours, so as to

reach up to 54. deg. N. latitude," and he refers to the short time for birds which breed in northern latitudes in which to build their nests, and the breeding and rearing of their young. The northern bluethroat leaves its winter quarters for its northern breeding home at the end of April or beginning of May, and Heligoland is the first point at which in the course of this journey, it is met with unfailingly every year in very large numbers under favourable conditions of weather. In all intermediate latitudes, Greece, Italy, South Germany and even in the neighbouring parts of North Germany, it is at this time so rare an occurrence that it is described by Nauman as "very isolated and rare." In Heligoland, on the other hand, they appear in very large numbers. These bluethroats travel, like most birds on migration, during the night, setting out at dusk and arriving immediately after sunrise. He instances also the Virginian plover as a most striking and incontestable proof of extremely rapid flight. Flocks consisting of thousands of these birds have been met with at a distance of 400 miles and more east of Bermuda, flying in a southerly direction on the way from their breeding places in Labrador to northern Brazil. The distance between the coasts of the two countries amounts to 3,200 miles, and since there is along the whole stretch of route not a single point on which the travellers could alight for rest, they are obliged to perform the whole length of this enormous journey in one uninterrupted flight. We may probably assume 15 hours as the longest spell during which a bird is able to remain on the wing without taking sustenance of any kind. On this assumption the velocity of flight of the above birds would amount to 212 geographical miles per hour. Young birds it would seem are the first to appear on their downward migration from the north. I had noticed this as regards wading birds on the east coast. In the space of this short paper I can only put forward one or two points of Mr Gätke's most interesting observations, but I can most earnestly recommend the perusal of his book, in which he elaborates from his prolonged observations of 50 years his theories as regards migration.

I trust I have not wearied you, and must thank you for giving such kind attention to my small paper.

#### NOTES ON TRETYRE CHURCH AND PARISH.

[By THE REV. W. D. BARBER.]

The name Tretyre is written Retyr in the Book of Llandaff. Tyr may be derived from Welsh *twr* (pl. *tyran*), a tower or fortified place. There is a Tretower in Breconshire. The remains of a

moated place lie close to the church. This is called locally "The Old Castle." The timbers in the old tithe barn taken down recently were of large size, and had been used in another building. There are also in an out building two narrow window apertures taken from an older building. A cannon ball dug up many years ago in the Rectory garden also points to a fortified place having been at Tretyre. The materials of this were probably used in building the present stone Rectory in the latter part of the 16th century. In the basement of the Rectory there are mullioned windows of about this date.

I would suggest that the prefix Re is rhydd—a ford; Rhydd tyr, the ford by the castle; or perhaps the castle by the ford as in Rhyd-y car in St. Weonards and Rhyd-helig, the old name for either Walford or Sellack.

The window opening shown to you is all that remains of the church taken down in 1856, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. No sketch of this is available, but it had a tower with a peal of bells, which were stolen by gipsies during the building of the new church. A reward of £10 was offered, without result.

The son of Mr. Webb, the well-known antiquary and author of the "Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire," writes with reference to this "It would I believe be considered by antiquaries as matter of no little interest as being of very high antiquity in the British Church." "A relic of a very curious old church, whose antiquity was quite unknown until it was revealed in the process of demolition."

Mr. Webb does not state its position in the old chancel, but as it was revealed in the process of demolition it was probably closed up and plastered over—there is no groove for a light. The remains of a churchyard cross converted into a dial need restoration. There is a small brass to the memory of Thomas Rosse, who enlarged and remodelled the Rectory in 1720, and an ancient coffin lid with an incised cross, found in the belfry of the old church. The parish registers throw some light on the place names.

Aberhall, partly in this parish, was for many years the home of the Abrahall family, who gave a succession of wardens in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Trevase, I suppose, is the homestead in the open fields. Many years home of the Shough family.

Kilbreese, probably from Coille, a wood, and possibly breese, cinders, Entick as it is the site of a smelting place.

Lovedee is written Lough Dee in 1702. It is near a depression in the ground, where there was once a pond and brook. It may mean the black mere, or pond.

Hollins Bridge is written, in 1702, Olave's Bridge, by the then Rector, Mr. Rosse. Being close to Monkton, a possession of the Knights Templars, may it have any connection with S. Olave?

Other place names in adjacent parishes are interesting. I would instance two:—

Tre pen Kennett, the abode of the chief huntsman.

Pen-blaith, on the top of Llanllowdy Hill—the Wolves Height.

Permit me to make a suggestion for an alternative derivation of the name of the parish of Sellack.

It is said to be derived from S. Teseliachus, pupil of S. Dubritius. Giraldus Cambrensis c. 1190, writes as follows:—

The breadth from Porth Mawr to Rhyd helig, which in Latin mean vadum salicis or the Ford of the Willow, and in English is called Willow Ford, is four days journey.

Where is Rhyd helig? Is it at Walford? "I imagine this place is Walford in Herefordshire near the banks of the Wye," writes Mr. Llew. Williams. But Walford is on the English side of the Wye.

Might not Rhyd Helic be found in Archenfield at Sellack, where there is an ancient ford further to the east than Walford? If from S. Teseliachus and not from helig or salicis, a pupil of S. Dubritius, why is the word "Saint" omitted as in other parishes? Saint or Llan or stow is prefixed or affixed to the names S. Weonards, Dewchurch, Bridstow, Marstow, Peterstow.

These and many other questions suggested by such names as Orcop (? a long hill or the boundary) (ora) (caput) crest); (Treaddow ? a place of instruction), the ancient name of Chapel Tumps, would be a field of research probably fruitful in results to those who have leisure, opportunity and the training to determine them.

The brook running from Tre-les-dee, which is partly in this parish, abounds in smelter-refuse. The homestead on black slag may be its meaning, tre llosg du.

Very few of the old names of families remain. Abrahall, Scudamore, Philpotts, Machin, Winston, Sternhold, Hopkins,



Parlour, Shough, Daniels (Aaron Daniels died in 1782, aged 103), Priddy or Priddaeth, Donne, Fisher, Jayne and Gwynne are names of former churchwardens.

Words peculiar to this district. In the late Mr. Havergal's "Words and Phrases" a list of words is given collected in Tretire by Mr. Webb.

Busgy, the quick are busgy, to plague, torment. "I never was so caterpillared in my life" (Tretire). Doncass, "Her was doncassing after him" (Archenfield); dother or duthering, din (Tretire); gossips (Archenfield for god parents); grip, a narrow trench (Tretire); inch-mull, all over (Archenfield); rech, to be sick (Tretire); moucher, truant (Tretire); pentis, shed; sally, willow; wanklin, weakly (Tretire), this was a surname in Tretire—Nogman, clumsy fellow. Most of these and many others collected by Mr. Webb for Sir George Cornwall Lewis are no longer in use.

Tretire, in Hone's "Book of Days," is instanced as one of the last places in England where Baal fires were lit on Midsummer Eve by the farmers. There is no local tradition of this custom.

#### MICHAELCHURCH.

I have had no access to records bearing on this chapel. It is incorporated with Tretyre and possesses no separate registers, although there is a tradition that a parish chest full of papers was in existence many years ago. The present roof and turret from warden's accounts were put up c. 1720. In 1908 it was stripped and the old tiles replaced. The walls are three feet thick at the base with a decided batter on the inside, very roughly built. The windows are of Early Pointed period. The font is early Norman. The filling in of the screen and the figures on the chancel seat ends was the work of Mr. Webb, rector from 1812 to 1870. During the repairs in 1909 several coats of wash were removed prior to colouring, and the remains of an old wall decoration disclosed under the lettering of the Ten Commandments on the north wall of nave. This is preserved. The spelling and form of the black lettering must surely be not later than Elizabeth or earlier than Edward VI. The geometrical decoration underneath the lettering enclosing the Tudor rose suggests its own date. In the north wall is an arched door head monolith, roughly pointed and curiously scored, resting on a plinth. There was a tradition in Mr. Webb's day that stones with writing on them were to be found at Geer Cop, which you will shortly visit. I have thought that this door head reshaped and the

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[A. Watkins

MICHAELCHURCH.  
(Before restoration.)

Photo by]



Photo by]

GILLOW.

[A. Watkins.

large stones beneath inside the church were brought from the remains of the ancient settlement, Roman or Romano-British, which the name Gaer seems to indicate. From or near the same place the Roman altar beneath the arch was probably brought. Of this, briefly the record is that Mr. Webb found the base in Michaelchurch and the inscribed top in a cottage which formerly stood on the edge of the churchyard near the gate. This had been used by a village doctress to pound herbs in. He removed both to Tretire vestry and they were removed to S. Michael's (last year) to which they rightly belong. The inscription has been read variously by authorities—*Deo Trivii Becucus donavit aram*, or, *Deo Trivii Belocus donavit aram*. Becucus dedicated this altar to the God of the Three Ways. It is conjectured that at an early date this altar was converted into a Christian font, but its small size and the fact that there are no inscribed crosses, and that the dedication is not obliterated, does not bear that out. May it not have been removed in later mediæval times and used in the south porch, until Mr. Rosse's work in 1720, as a holy water stoup? If not used for a Christian purpose why was it placed in the church? The narrow slit in the west wall was not glazed until last year. It appears to be of older date than the early pointed period; there are no corner stones, it is roughly formed in the rubble. What was its purpose?

Gillow, of which less than an acre is in this parish, may derive its name from its position under the Gaer or Geer, Gaer Low. It is immediately below it.

Pardon me in giving rein for a few minutes to the imagination, in contrasting the present peaceful region of Archenfield (we are near its centre) with what has been recorded of it in Romano-British and Saxon times. To-day in the whole area there is not a village large enough to boast of streets, the parishes are scantily populated and the inhabitants as peaceful as the white-faced Herefords grazing in the meadows. Patient industry with the quiet enjoyment of the fruits of the orchard, the garden and the field are the characteristics of the modern people of Erging. How different from the Saxon and Danish period! It is recorded that when the rest of England was over-run and subjugated by the Saxons, the men of Archenfield by force of arms and diplomatic skill checked the fierce barbarian inrush and preserved their laws, their lands, their customs, their freedom, and above all the continuity of the Christian Faith. For nearly 500 years they maintained their practical independence of Saxon ruler and Welsh prince, eventually succumbing to the invasion of Griffith in 1055. When the college at Llanfrowther in Hentland parish was destroyed "So great was

the mischief done by the Celtic invaders that the surveyors under the Domesday survey, 30 years later, reported that Archenfield had not yet recovered from their incursion."

Now it follows that so small a State gifted with such prowess and political skill must have been highly organised, for in Norman days the "Sheriff of Herefordshire used to summon some half dozen leading Archenfield Welshmen to the shire mote treating them thereby as a separate entity." Where are we to look for the site of the chief centre of this long existing, well organised community, whose renown was so great along the marches that the men of Archenfield formed by custom "the vanguard in the advance and the rearguard in the return"? Is it not to be found in the parish of Hentland, the largest in South Herefordshire and most abounding in historic remains? Its name Hen Llan, the old settlement given to it in Roman-British times and pointing to a Roman settlement of some extent; the ancient roads as Hell Ditch and the road traceable across Pengethly farm down to Hentland Church and the road leading to Bagwy Llydiatt; the camp, so altered by cultivation that its very name has faded from local knowledge and yet clearly marked in ancient maps as Gaer Cop, and known to have been littered 100 years ago with the debris of ruins and inscribed stones (and if not legendary), the connection between Dubritius, grandson of Pibanus, King of Erging and Hentland, at a time when this Roman settlement was untouched by Saxon invasion. Do not these considerations point to Henllan as the chief centre? Taylor, "History of Gavelkind," 1633, A.D. writes:—"In the region of Urchenfield in a certain parish called Hen Llan, signifying old church, and in certain pastures belonging to a farm in that parish, there is a place which to this day is called 'Llan-frawther, which is as much as to say, The church or convent of the Brethren,' the site whereof was upon a small hill not half a mile distant from Hentland, the ruins of which place, with its old foundations are yet to be seen, and was a place dedicated to holy use; there it was that the great college for one hundred students was founded by S. Dubricius, the prince of this region (to repel the progress of the Pelagian heresy), who succeeded his grandfather Pibanus, King of Ergin, the old name of Urchenfield, and in the days of King Arthur was made Archbishop of Caerleon." Again the size of the site from west to east, "the earthworks to the east in the lower meadow are half mile from the western verge," points to populous places clustering round an ancient fortified settlement which crowned the hill. A settlement, though of no great height, yet centrally situated, looking to the western limit of Erging to Orcop (ora Caput, the boundary crest) with Bagwy Llydiatt (the strong gate), and Garway to the south west, the Dowards and

Longgrove Hills to the south and the lowlands and headlands through which the Wye rolled hidden among willow groves and marshes "with a sweet inland murmur" to the sea to the east. A settlement, perhaps a city, set on a hill, the Acropolis of the men of Erging.

## ST. WEONARD'S CHURCH.

BY THE REV. A. LEY.

The writer is no archæologist, and must leave all details of the architecture to others. He can only speak of such matters as fell under his notice during a residence in the parish of nearly seven years, from Michaelmas, 1878, to July, 1885. This period included the restoration of the church, which was carried out in 1884 and 1885. Previously to this restoration a small corner gallery occupied the west end of the north aisle, in which a small organ had been placed by the Rev. T. W. Webb, afterwards incumbent of Hardwicke, who had been curate in charge of St. Weonards from 1834 to 1844. This organ was Mr. Webb's property, and was removed by him when he left the parish. The whole nave and aisle was at this time very much blocked up with deal wood-work, forming old-fashioned, high and uncomfortable pews. One square oak pew stood on the north side of the chancel and had been occupied for a long time by the Philpotts family of Trelesdee. The music was rendered by an antique harmonium, of sonorous power, with a movable keyboard, which was quite a curiosity in its way. The chancel arch was so low and the chancel itself so small as to be practically of little use.

Tower.—This (with the larger portion of the existing church) is said to be of the 15th century. Its massiveness and height make it very impressive, and standing as the church does on the summit of a hill, the tower is a striking object from many parts of the surrounding country. Wyatt, well known in many Herefordshire churches, left his mark here, by digging a doorway through the massive south wall of the tower. This was closed in 1884 and its traces on the outside as far as possible obliterated, but it is plainly visible on the inside. At the same period (under Wyatt) the ancient south porch had its outside arch filled in and was employed as a vestry until 1884. The exterior stonework of the tower was repointed in 1874.

Porch.—The south porch contains an ancient stoup, and its interior arch is said to belong to the 13th century.



Nave and North Aisle.—Both of these were re-roofed in 1884. The exterior roofs were in a dangerous condition, especially that of the aisle. In this, immediately on the removal of the weight of the stone tile, the very large wall-plate over the arcade fell bodily in to the church. The roofs were again covered in with stone tile, what was sound of the old tile was re-used, part of the remainder was brought from Kings Capel Church (which was being re-roofed at the same time), part was given by Robert Mynors from ancient roofs on the Treago estate. The work has stood since 1884 remarkably well.

Chancel and Chancel Screen.—In 1884 the chancel arch (13th century) was carefully taken down, stone by stone, widened and heightened, and the stones put back in their places; the new ones necessary to complete the enlarged arch being inserted immediately above the capitals of the pillars. At the same time an organ chamber and vestry were added on the south side, the 15th century priests' doorway being placed in the porch of the vestry. At the same time the east wall of the chancel was removed eight feet eastwards and rebuilt. The 15th century east window was carefully restored; a good part of the mullions had to be renewed—they had previously to that date been largely formed of cement placed there by the Rev. Preb. Poole, who was curate-in-charge of St. Weonards parish from 1844 to 1848. Both in 1884, and I believe in 1844, the old lines were carefully kept.

From about 1844-6 until 1884 the east window of the chancel was filled with small medallion glass, which had been in the possession of the Mynors family and was placed in the church by Mr. Peter Rickards Mynors under the influence of the Rev. W. Poole. These medallions were of Dutch origin, and represented chiefly hunting scenes, mediæval knights and castles, and other purely secular subjects, mixed with a few scriptural ones. Their small size and delicate details rendered them ineffectual in the church, and in 1884 they were returned to the possession of the Mynors family and are now, I believe, erected at Treago. Mr. Robert Mynors gave the present east window in 1884 in memory of his mother, who died at Treago in 1883 at the age of 85.

The two small side windows in the chancel are also memorial windows—the one to Mrs. Bond, wife of the Rev. W. Bond, curate-in-charge of the parish from 1856 to 1877; the other to Mrs. Elizabeth Philpotts, of Trelesdee, the face being a portrait of the worthy lady.

The beautiful chancel screen (date 1400-1450) is in its original position. It was carefully restored in 1884, lengthened to suit the widened arch, and replaced.

The interior panelled roof of the north aisle (date 1400) was thoroughly restored and portions of the oak ribs and cornices renewed in 1884. The east window of the aisle is the gem of the church, being of beautiful 14th century glass (1375-1400). This window was carefully restored in 1873 by the Mynors family. Previously to that date the glass is said to have been in great confusion, but the whole of the figures were found complete or needing but little restoration, with the exception of that of the patron, St. Weonard. This was nowhere to be found, and the present figure dates from 1873, and was executed on the following tradition. Some Herefordshire churches were described by a writer of Elizabethan date. Among those described is St. Weonard's. The writer mentions this window, and speaks of a figure of the patron saint represented with an axe in his hand. On this tradition the present figure was made. The St. Catherine figure in the left-hand lowest light is very beautiful. Sundry dates appear in the window; these are I believe, the dates of the quarterings of the armorial bearings in the history of the Mynors family—certainly they are unconnected with the glass.

The beautiful screen of what is now the "Treago seat" is said to be in its original position and to have been the screen enclosing the side altar existing there previously to the Reformation. In proof of this, notice is called to the door existing in the screen giving access to the side altar without going in front of the high altar, which would in that case establish a claim upon the gifts meant for the side altar.

A curious female figure, with hands clasped in prayer, is seen inserted in the north aisle wall. What its original position was is unknown. Near it also is inserted a stone which probably was originally a corbel.

In the churchyard wall should be noted the inscribed stone bearing the names of the main farms in the parish. The custom was said to be that each farm was liable to repair the portion of the wall adjoining the stone bearing its name, after the precedent of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day; and the patchy building characterising the wall bears visible testimony that this was really the case.

In the east chancel wall is an inscribed stone bearing testimony to the dying wish of the Rev. Thomas Evans, some time curate-in-charge of the parish. He desired to be buried as close as was possible to the altar he had served in life. So the mortal frame of the good priest was laid to rest close under the east wall of the chancel. In 1884 the chancel was lengthened, and now his dust reposes beneath the altar where he served. *Pax eterna illi!*

The churchyard was enlarged in 1885, a considerable strip of land to the east of the church being given for that purpose by Mr. Robert Mynors. Under the churchyard wall *Hyoscyamus niger*, the Henbane, was noticed by the late Rev. W. H. Purchas in 1843, and recorded in pages which have since grown into the "Herefordshire Flora." When the soil was disturbed, on the enlargement of the churchyard, in 1885, the Henbane re-appeared and flourished in large quantities on the newly exposed ground in 1885 and 1886, soon to disappear again and wait its time until some new moving of the soil gives it its periodical resurrection.

One more tradition must close these fragmentary notes. In lengthening the chancel in 1884, it became necessary to open the tomb of a certain Mr. Edward Haynes, a farmer who had resided at the Church Farm. He died of a somewhat mysterious malady, and in his illness was attended by the famous Dr. Bleek Lye, of Hereford. The funeral was duly carried out, but after the day there was a feeling uncomfortably pervading the parish that the sacredness of the grave had not been respected. It was an uncomfortable feeling, and nothing more; only the worthy doctor was known not to stand on ceremony. But when the stones over the grave were taken down in 1884, lo! the grave was empty! A corpse had never occupied it, or occupying it had been at once removed!

#### ST. WEONARD'S.

[By JAMES G. WOOD.]

The HON. SECRETARY announced that he had received the following letter and notes on the district from Mr. James G. Wood, F.S.A. Mr. Wood, after regretting his inability to attend the meeting, said: I shall be very interested to know what Mr. Jack may have to tell us as to Roman occupation at that point. You will remember that in my paper on "Primary Roman Roads" I carried the Watling Street past Wormelow Tump and through St. Weonards from Hereford to Monmouth. The origin and purposes of these "tumps" associated with Roman roads will well repay investigation. I have traced a line of such works across South Monmouthshire and West Gloucestershire from Caerleon through Caerwent into the Forest. All of these are so placed that each is in sight of the next in either direction. This suggests that they were signalling or watching stations, and several have names indicating such use. Again we find that such roads were in many cases "ranged" or laid out in line with small camps or such tumuli—being, in fact, surveying stations. For all or any of such purposes

the Romans may have used, added to, or altered existing tumuli, of Celtic or earlier origin, possibly even sepulchral mounds. It is therefore impossible offhand to assign a Roman origin to them *ab initio*. South of Monmouth, on the same line of road, there is a big tumulus at Trellech, at such an elevation (over 900 feet) that I think St. Weonard's (387) would be visible from it. But I have reason to think that Wormelow (390) cannot be seen from St. Weonard's, the 400 feet line cutting the road about half a mile south of the latter. This seems inconsistent with a signalling theory. In fact Wormelow is in a depression from both north and south. Mr. Wright, in his *Uriconium*, says that a section of St. Weonard's tumulus showed that it was originally a bank in the ring form and was filled in afterwards. I only send these remarks as a suggestion for discussion of points which no doubt would otherwise have suggested themselves to you and other members. Trellech Church is, I am satisfied, in the site of a Roman camp with the tumulus immediately outside it on the south. Does St. Weonard's Churchyard suggest anything of the sort? You know, of course, of the "old furnaces" at Treago. Possibly these may have originated in Roman times like the remains found along the Wye. This could be tested by the nature of the scoriæ if any are found. The road passing through Tretire is, I consider, part of a cross road from Ariconium (Weston-under-Penyard) which crossed the Wye at Brampton Abbots—passed between a camp (plainly marked on the Old Ordnance, but now nearly obliterated) and a tumulus near Gillow—crossed the Watling Street at the twelfth mile from Hereford, and so on by Scenfrith to Abergavenny. The first mention I have found of St. Weonard's as a church or parish is towards the close of the "Book of Llandaff," where Lann-sant-Guainerth is included in the list of the churches in Erging (or Archenfield) claimed by the diocese of Llandaff. This is among other entries relating to the time of Herwald, who was Bishop 1056-1104. It is there mentioned next to Lann-cinauc, now Llangunnoch, on the Garran about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south. The same dedication occurs 15 miles off at Llanwenarth, one mile west of Abergavenny. I find no other instance of it in Wales or the Marches; nor do I find the name in any list or genealogy of British saints. The person here commemorated may be the "Gwengarth" who appears in a grant to St. Cadoc (*i.e.*, to the monastery of Lancarvan) in the time of Bishop Berthgwyn (Rees' *Cambro-British Saints*, pp. 90-387); and as witness to grants in the same district to Llandaff in the time of Bishop Oudoceus; and also to the similar grant of Llandago on the Wye. In all or most of these instances he is associated with Morgan, King of Wenllwg. (*Liber Llandavensis* Rees Edn. 140, 141, 168, 391, 392, 400; Evans' Edn. 148, 149, 156.) In the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 and in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. the parish appears as St. Waynards. In Camden it appears as St. Wenards.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SECOND FIELD MEETING, 28TH JUNE, 1910.

GLASBURY, TALGARTH, BRYNLLYS CASTLE.

### INTERESTING REFERENCE TO ACONBURY.

Although they have been many times round about the neighbourhood—the whole of the mountainous county of Brecon being characterised by romantic historical associations—the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club took almost entirely a fresh route, on Tuesday, for their second excursion of the year, the visit being to Glasbury, Old Gwernyfed, Llanellieu, Brynlllys Castle, and Talgarth. Unfortunately, the outlook of the morning was cloudy and threatening, which no doubt deterred many of the members from joining in the excursion, especially those residing at a distance. This is to be regretted, because, with the exception of a shower of rain while they were in the train, the weather kept fine and pleasant for the party throughout the day, and their explorations were of instructive interest, besides necessitating a long walk amid the mountain air and scenery.

The President (Mr. A. B. Farn) was met at Barrs Court station by members and visitors, amongst those who accompanied him during the day being Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. R. H. George, Rev. E. A. Gowing, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. Thomas Hutchinson, Rev. A. G. Jones, (Yarkhill), Mr. Herbert E. Jones, (Ewyas Harold), Captain Kilbee-Stuart, Prebendary W. H. Lambert, Mr. C. J. Lilwall, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Mr. J. T. Pitt, (Hereford), Mr. A. Pole Small (Ross), Rev. F. H. Tuke, Rev. W. O. Wait, Rev. R. Hyett Warner (Almeley), Mr. Alfred Watkins, F.R.P., Mr. A. H. Lamont, Mr. C. E. Moody, Mr. W. P. J. Le Brocq, F.L.S., &c. Visitors comprised Rev. L. W. Richings, Mr. F. H. Stephens, Rev. Hopkins, Rev. C. T. Brookyers (Philadelphia, U.S.A.), Mr. Allen Watkins (Hereford), Rev. H. H. Gibbon, Rev. D. Lewis Davies (Talgarth), Rev. T. H. Beavan (vicar of Brynlllys), &c.

### A FAIRYLIKE SCENE.

Our first landing-place from the train was Glasbury. Here we were met by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, vicar of Llanigon, who possesses a considerable knowledge of the district and who proved a most informing and excellent guide during the day. He pointed out that there are now two parishes of Glasbury, each with a church, one on the hillside just below the station, in Breconshire, and the other nestling in the hollow beyond the river Wye, in Radnorshire. The picturesque castle of Maesllwch stood out grandly on the far side the river on the slope of the mountain, which rises and spreads for miles in the direction of Rhayader, whence the Wye has wandered after a long journey round.

### THE WANDERING WYE.

We did not go down to the village, but our guide drew attention to the fact that the Wye has in former times changed its course, stranding the ancient parish church, which was removed and consecrated by Bishop Lucy on June 29th, 1665. A house on the distant bank is called Glanhendry, meaning the bank of the old Wye. Mr. Hutchinson added that a similar thing happened in Whitney, where the site of the ancient church is now in the middle of the river.\*

Mr. Morgan went on to state that the present church of Glasbury—a somewhat ugly structure, by-the-bye—was built in 1838. In 1650, the Rev. Alexander Griffith, the then incumbent, was one of those ejected by the Commissioners during the Commonwealth for the better propagation of the Gospel in Wales, but he was restored to the living in 1662. After the death of the late Mr. de Winton, in 1878, the rectorial tithes fell to the Commissioners. The parish was divided into two, the Breconshire portion going to the old church of St. Peter, and the Radnorshire portion to the new memorial church of All Saints. The registers of two former churches at Aberllynfi and Felindre, dating 1660 to 1695, were now in St. Peter's Church.

### AN AMERICAN GARDEN.

Leaving the station, the company proceeded by a road and a footpath to Gwernyfed Park, passing two gaers, supposed by some to be the sites of fortified cattle enclosures, or perhaps fishponds. The new Gwernyfed mansion appeared charming in its surroundings of shrubs and flower-beds. Deer passed us in the park. By permission of Captain Glen-Kidston we walked through the American Garden to Old Gwernyfed. This garden contains banks and clumps

\* See Arch. Cambrensis, Vol. for 1896.



of rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs, varieties of bamboos, &c., alongside a forest of spruce and other American timber. However, there were rare flowers, such as botanists desire to inspect. A few were seen during the day. "*Geranium columbinum*" was found late in the afternoon.

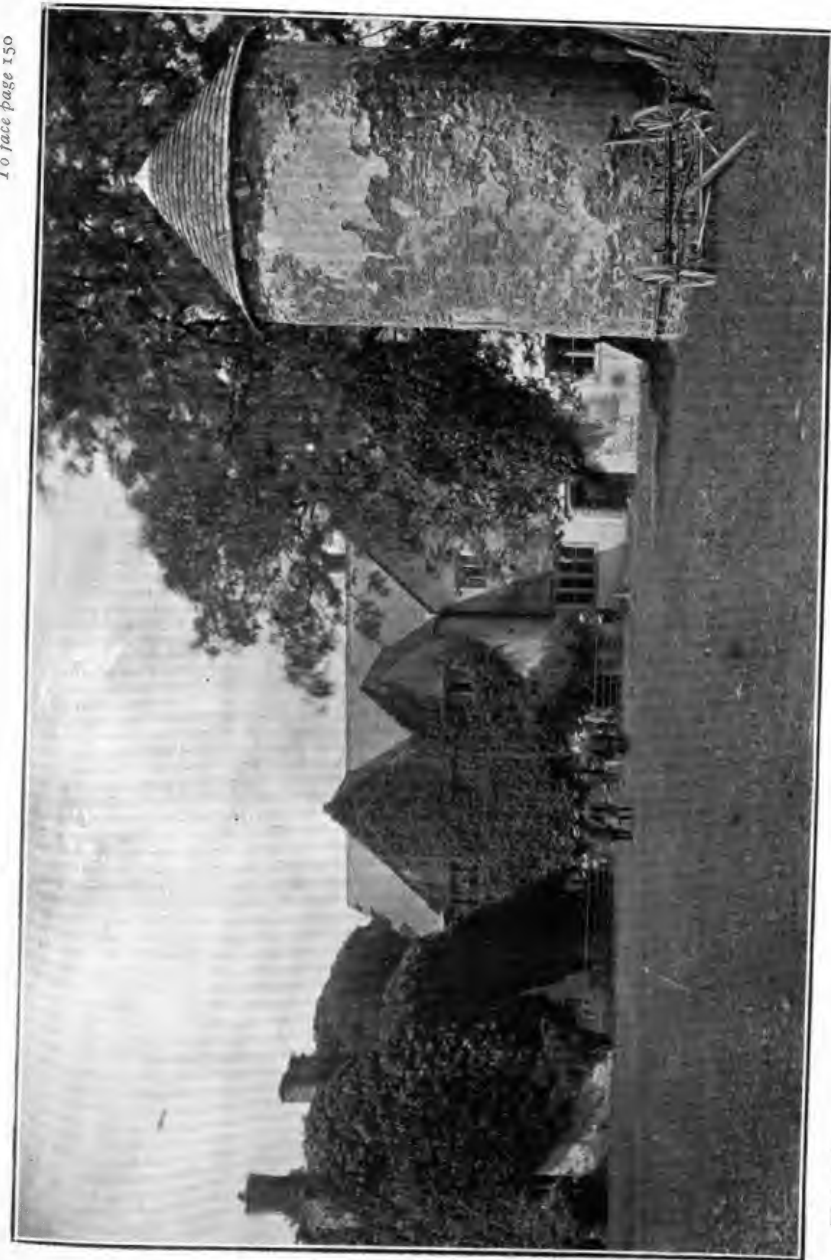
#### VESTIGES OF FORMER GRANDEUR.

The woodland path, which, for the nonce, transported one in imagination across the Atlantic, proved to be the old drive to Old Gwernyfed, taking us between the ancient gate-pillars into bare pasture, which goes by the name of "The Wilderness," the site of an old garden, maze, &c. What remains of a magnificent hall is now a farm-house, containing vestiges of former grandeur. Mr. Morgan said that Charles II. stayed here, and that the massive table at which he dined and the chair on which he sat are now at the new mansion. Sir David Williams, one of the judges of the Court of King's Bench, purchased Gwernyfed in 1660 from John Gunter, in whose family it had been held for many centuries. His son, Sir Henry Williams, thoroughly repaired, if he did not rebuild, the mansion. He was created baronet in 1644. This family failed in the male line with the death of Sir David Williams, who was buried at Clifford, January 21st, 1798. It will interest breeders of pedigree Hereford cattle to know that it was in memory of this baronet that the celebrated bull "Sir David" was named by his breeder, Mr. E. Williams, of Newton. The property went to the Williamses of Eltham, by marriage. Sir Thomas Williams was private physician to King Charles II., a fact which strengthens the story of the King's visit to Gwernyfed. The last of the family was Sir Edward Williams. Thomas Wood, of Littleton, in the county of Middlesex, married Mary, the daughter of this Sir Edward Williams, so the property came into the Wood family. He was the grandfather of the present Mr. Thomas Wood.

#### A PUZZLING INSCRIPTION.

Mr. Morgan pointed out that the arch of the porch, which seems much older than the rest of the building, and is of an ecclesiastical appearance, was the porch of either Felindre or Aberllynfi chapel, brought here by Sir Edward Williams about 1720. Part of the old minstrels' gallery remains, filled in with wainscoting. The capitals of the oak pillars bear a continuous inscription, the language and meaning of which have hitherto baffled inquirers. Some of the letters are upside down. Mr. Morgan handed his rubbings to Mr. Robert Clarke, who is an expert in these matters. The wide oak staircase is supported by a round oak post, apparently in one straight

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[A. Watkins

OLD GWERNYFED.

Photo by]



Photo by]

LLANELIEU ROOD LOFT.

[A. Watkins

length, which goes to the top of the house. The great hall has been divided, and the decorated ceiling brought down. Two round towers in the courtyard, hitherto supposed to have been dovecots, were declared by Mr. Alfred Watkins never to have been intended or used for pigeons. They were probably erected for ornament.

#### A MOUNTAINOUS PROSPECT.

Our next destination was Llanelieu, which entailed a two-mile walk up a hilly road, or, as some preferred, along the grass of the hill, whereby two of the party went astray. On the summit, almost a cyclorama of mountains was viewed, on the south the Peny Beacon, sometimes called the Hereford Beacons, or the Black Mountains, near to them being Lord Hereford's Nob. Away to the west were the Breconshire Beacons, in the far distance the Carmarthenshire Van, nearer north the hills near Rhayader, with the Wye Valley on both sides, following to the north Aberedw, Radnor Forest, the Church Stretton and Clee Hills, and in the distant east Malvern Hills. Passing the Peny Beacon range, a heavy cloud instantaneously converted them from brightness to gloom, justifying their familiar appellation of "black mountains."

#### A RARE ROOD LOFT.

We found Llanelieu church in a little valley, at the foot of a flat-topped mountain with perfectly sloping ends, called in Welsh "Y Das"—the dais mountain. Llanelieu (Llan Elieu) derives its name from the dedication of its church to St. Ellyw, grand-daughter of Brychan, Prince of Brechiniog, who ruled over this district about the early part of the fifth century. It is stated that he had twenty-five daughters, from one of whom Glasbury probably derives its name. The Rev. T. H. Beavan, Vicar of Brynlllys and Llanelieu, kindly gave much information respecting this church. The date is about the fourteenth century, and a renovation took place recently when a complete set of rude distemper frescoes was discovered around the walls. The workmen had re-coloured all but one, before the Vicar could stop them. The one he saved was George and the lion, a demi figure. The glory of the church, however, is the ancient rood-loft, which is said to be equalled by only one other in the kingdom in its perfectness of construction. It is supported by a double row of wooden piers, and has a tympanum pierced by three round holes and four quatrefoils. Bosses on them, in imitation of roses, are half of them red and half of them white, supposed to date back to the wars of the roses, when the parishioners desired to be ready for either side. In the pulpit are two copies of the Welsh "Bibl." The octagon font is regarded as older

than the church, and the open timber roof with cusped windbraces is supposed to have covered an older church. Outside, against the church, are two very old tombstones, one evidently dating from Saxon times. Outside the churchyard are some natural "stocks" in a clump of trees. Some ancient remains were viewed at Llan-elieu Court Farm, by permission of Mr. J. M. Price.

#### TALGARTH CHURCH.

The little market town of Talgarth, meaning the end of the hill, was reached from Llanellieu in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles down a lane prettily bordered with wild flowers. The town was originally a borough, and it contains an ancient watch-tower, with walls six feet thick. It has a spacious church, the principal features of which were described by Mr. Davies, the Vicar, formerly a popular curate at Tupsley, near Hereford. Adjoining the edifice is the transept of an earlier church. This transept will hold 200 people. It was used up to the time of the last restoration as a national school. It is now a Sunday school and vestry. In the church itself, which is dedicated to St. Gwen, another offspring of Brychan, murdered by the Saxons, Mr. Davies drew attention to a stone coffin lid, ten inches thick, and elaborately carved on the face with a floriated baton or wand, thought by some to indicate an ecclesiastical abbess. Another stone lid, fastened under the belfry, is handsomely sculptured with what is described as a clavis or key, which is very similar to an Early English floriated cross. It belonged to the grave of a Vaughan, who was murdered at his mansion of Porthamel, a tower and an embattled wall of which still remain. Mr. Davies added that when a foundation was being dug in the nave for a heating chamber an enormous number of human remains were found. A box with glass lid containing human hair was discovered within the altar rails. The yew trees in the churchyard were a thousand years old. Mr. Davies concluded by exhibiting a number of coins and other relics found in the abbey at Strata Florida. Within a cairn in a field on the Porthamel estate was found a spearhead of flint nearly seven inches in length and two inches broad in its widest part.

#### SUPPOSED BRITISH CASTLE.

Time permitting, we were induced by Mr. Hutchinson to visit Brynlllys, sometimes spelt Bronllys, castle, permission having been kindly given to inspect it by Mrs. Payne Evans. It consists of a single lofty circular tower about 25ft. in diameter, of great solidity, the walls being 10ft. thick, built with small hewn stones. A breach has been made on the ground level. The original entrance was at some distance from the ground, and was probably entered from a

ladder, the gutter for containing which is to be seen. The arches of the door and most of the windows are each rudely formed of two inclined stones. This tower is supposed to have been built between the landing of Julius Caesar and the reign of the Emperor Claudius, after the Phœnician type. It is on a mound close to a small river.

Trevithal, now a farmhouse occupied by Mr. J. P. Prosser, is stated to have been the home of Ithel, King of Gwent, who was slain by the men of Brycheiniog, A.D. 846.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

After dinner at the Tower Hotel, Talgarth, the PRESIDENT gave the only toast, "The King."

Mr. HUTCHINSON, as hon. secretary, read the names of new members elected as follows:—Mr. J. B. Fowler, Hereford; Dr. Dryburgh Gold, M.O.H., Hereford; Mr. G. H. Grocock, Hereford; Rev. N. Hatherley, Vicar of Linton, Ross; Rev. F. J. Lansdell, Vicar of St. James's, Hereford; Rev. L. W. Richings, Whitney; and Mr. S. R. Taylor, Leominster.

#### ORNITHOLOGICAL INFORMATION.

The HON. SECRETARY further stated that he had received a letter a few days before from the Rev. Cornish Watkins, of Staunton-on-Arrow, informing him that he had seen ten or twelve blackheaded gulls evidently nesting on Rhosgoch bog, amongst the curlew and snipe. There were certainly no gulls there a few years ago. By a coincidence Mr. Frank James and the hon. secretary, together with Mr. Farn, the President, were there a day or two afterwards and saw at least fifty gulls, but were afraid the eggs were covered by a flood. Curlew were there in large numbers. One heard snipe amongst the reeds calling their young, and three or four in the air drumming. *Osmunda Regalis* were growing thickly. Mr. Hutchinson added that he had seen a gull near the Cock at Tupsley the previous Sunday.

The Rev. W. E. T. MORGAN said a friend of his had seen a lot of gulls on a bog some distance from Rhosgoch the last three or four years.

#### A DELICATE QUESTION.

A letter was read from Mrs. Margaret Sefton Jones, of Russell-square, London, stating that she had done a great deal of Egyptian and archæological research, and that she wished to be admitted as a member of the Woolhope Club.



It was stated that the rules were against the admission of lady members, though Mr. Watkins felt there was need of more energetic technical members. On the suggestion of Mr. HUTCHINSON, seconded by the PRESIDENT, the matter was referred to the central committee to report.

#### THE BATTLE OF BADON.

Mr. H. E. JONES remarked that the army pageant committee had altered all preconceived ideas as to the site of the battle of Badon, by saying that it was fought at Aconbury Hill, near Hereford. It was generally supposed the battle took place in Somerset.

#### BRONLYSS TOWER.

Mr. H. E. Jones then read the following paper concerning Bronlyss Tower:—

Bronlyss Tower is situated on the left bank of the Llynfi, a tributary of the Wye, north of the town of Talgarth, on the ancient road between Hereford and Talgarth. The tower occupies the summit of a mound of earth, in great part artificial, which crowns the steep bank of the adjacent river, rising about sixty feet above the stream and thirty feet or so above the ground to the west of and behind the building. The mound is placed at the apex of an earthwork of rather a pear-shaped outline, of which the river forms the east side, while to its base has been applied a vallum nearly rectangular. The mound resembles one of the numerous instances in which advantage has been taken of an earlier mound to give elevation to a Norman or Early English keep. Mr. G. T. Clark, who gave the name of Burh to these castle mounds, and insisted strongly on their Saxon origin, is in disagreement with many modern antiquaries, who insist on their Norman origin, *e.g.*, Mr. Hadrian Allcroft, in his "Earthwork of England," says that "all parties are agreed that most of the mount castles are Norman. They are scattered over Normandy and the adjoining districts, they are of rarer occurrence in Germany, but they are not found in the lands from whence came the Saxon tribes, or in those parts of Ireland and Scotland to which the Normans failed to penetrate. . . . Throughout the reign of Edward the Confessor the Normans were making a peaceful conquest of the English. They introduced *inter alia* their peculiar form of castle—castels of the Mount and Bailey type. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle mentions these castels. The first instance is sub anno 1048. To this period (pre-Conquest) are believed to belong

Richard's Castle and Ewias Harold. The Chronicle, clearly distinguishing them from Burhs, speaks of them as a novelty." "In the Chronicle the term Burh is applied not to castles but to fortified towns." G. T. Clark describes two forms of Norman tower, the rectangular or solid tower, and the shell keep, which, though connected with earlier earthworks, was not the earlier of the two. The rectangular keeps were either on new sites or on sites not defended by very strong earthworks, so that their construction from the first was in masonry, while the shell keeps situated on the mounds were preceded by wooden structures which were afterwards replaced by masonry. Shell keeps are always placed upon mounds either natural or artificial, and in plan and dimensions are roughly governed by the figure of the mound on which they stand, and are generally polygonal or circular. Their diameter is rarely less than 30 feet, and seldom more than 100. The wall of the shell was usually 8 to 10 feet thick, and it was 20 to 25 feet high to the rampart walk, which was reached by open interior staircases of wood or stone. The interior of the larger keeps was an open court round which were placed the buildings, sometimes mere sheds, against the ring-wall. Where the keep was large and the castle important these buildings were permanent. The rectangular and the shell keep never occur together in the same castle, and as a general rule where there is a mound there is no rectangular keep. In the few exceptions the mound was enclosed by the keep, or the walls descended wholly or partially to the natural level of the soil. These rectangular keeps never had any underground chambers. The basement is usually at the ground level, or at most two or three feet below it; or, if built on rising ground, it may happen that a chamber, the door of which is at the ground level, may be in part below the level of the soil. The basement could scarcely have been used as a prison, where it contained the castle well. By degrees, as the Norman towers and shell keeps fell out of fashion, they were succeeded by towers of a cylindrical form, known as Donjons or Juliets. This change corresponds to the middle period of the Early English style of ecclesiastical architecture (1189-1272). These Donjons commonly had three floors. The basement was for stores. The central floor contained the principal apartment, usually with a fireplace. The upper floor was either for the soldiery or a bedroom for the lord. Usually in England only the basement was vaulted, as at Brunless. These towers are situated in the area, as at Brunless and Skenfrith, or on the walls, as Conisborough and Pembroke, but in these latter there is no communication between the tower and the rampart of the wall. At Tretower (Breconshire) a round tower has been built within the older rectangular keep. The Edwardian or Concentric castles, which followed these, were characterised by the arrangement of their lines of defence, one within

the other, two or even three deep, with towers at the angles, and along the walls, so planned that no part is left entirely to its own defences. The exterior base of one part can be seen and commanded from the summit of another. There are in Bronlyss Tower, it is said, remains of masonry still standing on part of the vallum, and indications that the tower did not stand alone, but was within a base court. These walls are not now of any extent, and seem to be included within a modern house built upon the old enclosure. The tower is at its base 37 feet in diameter, and batters inwards to 12 feet high, when it is girt by a string course much eroded. Above this the tower is cylindrical and 34 feet or so in diameter, to the summit, which is about 60, and may have been 70, feet high. It is composed of a basement and three floors, above which was the battlement, now completely destroyed. The basement within was cylindrical, 18 feet in diameter, with walls 9ft. 6in. thick, and covered by a pointed vault. The room was aired rather than lighted by a stepped recess terminating in a loop of considerable height. It was entered on the opposite side by a trap door, which lifted within a window recess and disclosed a flight of eight steps terminating in a doorway about 7ft. above the floor. The doorway opened inwards and had bolts on its outer side. In the centre of the floor is a depression which may indicate a well. Two openings have been broken into this chamber from outside. These fractures show at the base of the structure a square drain of rough construction in the substance of the wall, and were evidently drains from the upper floors collected to fall into one outlet.

The first floor, 17ft. 9in. in diameter, was entered by an exterior door in the wall 12ft. above the ground. There must have been exterior steps, but they did not bond into the wall and may have been of wood. It was defended by an inner door, but had no other defence. Of its two windows, the one to the north opens from a recess, having stone side seats, between which, in the floor, is the trap door leading to the basement. The south-west window is recessed and has a stone seat on its left side; on its right is a door, square-headed, beneath a drop relieving arch, from which rises a mural stair, lighted by two exterior loops, leading to the second floor.

The second storey had a timber floor resting on twelve corbels and is of the same diameter as the first, but higher. Besides the entrance door on the west it has south-west a fire-place under a flat segmental arch, above which are two octagonal corbels which supported a hood. There are two windows beneath drop arch recesses. The south-east window has two stone seats. The north-east window has a seat on the west side. On the east is a small,

square-headed door opening upon a mural stair 2ft. 5ins. broad, leading to the third floor. This stair is lighted by a small hole, below and above by a square-headed loop, which, though about 60 feet from the ground, was closed by one vertical and three horizontal bars.

The third stage has walls 8ft. thick and had a wooden floor. The stair from below opened into it on the south-east side, but seems to have been continued in the south wall so as to reach the battlement platform, now entirely gone. This floor has a narrow door, with a Tudor or four-centred arch, leading to a small mural chamber, no doubt a garderobe, on its west side. This door is placed between two windows. There is a small fireplace on the north side and another window on the north-east. In the wall close south of the mural chamber are two small square shafts, one no doubt a chimney and the other a garderobe vent.

Bronlyss Tower in general design resembles Early English work, but its doors, recesses, fireplaces and corbels seem of Decorated and, perhaps, in parts, of Perpendicular work. The walls may be safely assigned to the early part of the thirteenth century, but it was no doubt inhabited as a place of defence and afterwards as a dwelling for two and a half centuries after this, and from time to time received alterations, of which the present fireplace front, the cinque foiled and other windows, and the entrance to the mural chamber in the upper floor may be cited as instances. The vault of the basement may, or may not, be original. For these notes I am chiefly indebted to the late G. T. Clark's valuable work "*Mediæval Military Architecture*."

[It may add to the interest of the foregoing paper to consult Dugdale's "*England and Wales Delineated*," vol. II., in which some particulars are given of the descent of the castle from Richard Fitzpous (temp. Henry I.) through the Cliffords, Giffards, Bohuns, Staffords, down to modern times. Howell Harris, the Calvinistic Methodist preacher, and Militia captain, appears to have hailed from the neighbourhood of Brynlyss.—EDITOR.]

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

THIRD FIELD MEETING (LADIES' DAY), THURSDAY, JULY 28TH, 1910.

The third field meeting of the season took place on Thursday, a visit being paid to Church Stretton. The business of the day was transacted when Carding Mill was reached. In the absence of the President, Mr. A. B. Farn, Mr. T. HUTCHINSON proposed, and Mr. J. J. JACK seconded, that Preb. W. H. Lambert be president for the day, and this was unanimously agreed upon. The following candidates were then proposed:—Mr. W. J. Phillips, Hereford, proposed by Mr. E. J. Hatton and seconded by Mr. J. B. Pilley; Rev. Owen Randall Slacke, Bredwardine, proposed by Mr. G. M. Brierley and seconded by Preb. H. T. Williamson; Mr. H. H. Quilter, Haywood House, Hereford, proposed by the Rev. W. O. Wait and seconded by Mr. Jack; Mr. John Hutchinson, proposed by Mr. T. Hutchinson and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Stoker. Mr. W. P. J. Brocq wrote stating that he had found *Lithospermum officinale* at Brontlys Castle. It had not previously been found in Breconshire. Mr. F. R. James communicated the fact of his having seen a large flock of black headed gulls at Shelwick on June 26th.

Afterwards the members walked up the hill as far as "The Spout," where they partook of luncheon. The weather having cleared up and the sun appearing at intervals with the promise of a fine day, the party ascended the hill and spent the remainder of the day wandering amid the charming surroundings, enjoying themselves immensely. The day, fortunately, turned out favourably, and the absentees would be disappointed that they did not venture to make the journey. Owing to the very inclement weather in the early part of the day the attendance was extremely small, numbering only 13. Those present were:—Members: Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. H. W. Apperley, Dr. H. E. Durham, Mr. J. J. Jack, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Mr. T. Hutchinson and Mr. J. B. Pilley; visitors, Mrs. and Miss Hutchinson, Mrs. A. H. Lamont, Miss Wemys and Mr. J. Newman, Worcester. Hereford was left at 9.20 and Church Stretton reached at 10.48. The programme stated that the geology of the district has for many years engaged the attention of our most able geologists. It is too complicated with a cluster of unconformities, ranging from the Longmyndian to the Lias, for elaboration in a condensed paper. A number of interesting references to literature on various branches of the local natural history were given. The Club visited Church Stretton on September 18th, 1862.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FOURTH FIELD MEETING, AUGUST 30TH, 1910.

CREDENHILL CAMP, BRINSOP CHURCH AND COURT, AND WEOBLEY.

A country rich in its historical and literary associations, as well as in its folklore, and abounding in features of natural beauty, formed the locale of the fourth field meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club for the year, when Credenhill Camp, Brinsop Church and Court, and Weobley were visited, and matters of historical and archaeological interest were duly explained to the members present. The weather was fine but dull when the members assembled at the Free Library, Hereford, at 9.45 a.m., and boarded the brake and charrs-à-bancs by which they were to traverse the country mapped out for exploration. They got away promptly, and on leaving the streets of the city it was seen that the Credenhill and Ladylift were capped by a mist which boded ill for the comfort of the travellers during the day. Nearing Credenhill, they were driven through a kind of Scotch mist, which fortunately did not last long.

Arrived at the entrance to the carriage-way leading to Credenhill Church, the party were met by the Rev. C. H. Stoker, who was to take a leading part in the day's proceedings. At the church door the Rev. H. B. D. Marshall joined the party, and Miss Ecroyd gave them welcome. Entering the delightfully situated and interesting edifice, so well preserved by the Ecroyd family, some notes prepared by Miss Ecroyd were read by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. T. Hutchinson) as follows:—"As the result of an inquiry made at Hereford on the eve of Low Sunday, 34 Ed. I. (1306), licence was granted to Master Philip Talbot (rector of Credenhill, 1277-1308) upon payment of 100s. to assign a messuage, 42 acres of (arable) land and 1 acre of meadow in Credenhill to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in the Church of the Holy Cross of Credenhill, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be held by the said chaplain and his successors for ever. The tenement was held by Master Philip of Sir Richard Talbot, lord of Credenhill, by the yearly service of 5s."—This from Public Records, found by W. Farrer.



Silas Taylor (a diligent antiquary and collector of MSS., who was sub-commissioner of sequestrations in Herefordshire in 1649-50, etc.) observed: "In a small oratory on the north side of the church, upon the windows, the figure of a soldier and the Blessed Virgin Mary, over whom are these arms—gules a lyon rampant (within) a bordure engrayled or; Bendy of 12 argent and gules, underneath written as a remnant, 'Phillip (sic) Talbott me fecit.'—In confirmation of Silas Taylor's statement are—(1) Chancery Inquest post mortem; 34 Ed. I., m. 167; 34 Ed. I., p. 148; (2) Harl. MSS., 6,868.

We may conclude from these that a small oratory existed at the time of his visit, on the north side of Credenhill Church.

It is to be observed (1) that the "squint" through the southern pier of the chancel arch would direct the vision of a person standing in the south-western corner of the chancel, behind the pier, directly upon the figure of any suppliant kneeling before the altar in this oratory; (2) That there is still evidence of a timber partition, to divide the small oratory or chapel from the aisle of the nave, having formerly existed in the cutting away of the string course which forms the spring of the chancel arch, on the western face of the northern pier of that arch, and also of an oblong pole lower down in the pier, for the reception of the middle rail of the partition.

The date of the licence to endow the oratory (1306) seems to indicate the date of the stained glass remaining in the window adjoining the site of this oratory; and the evidences here quoted appear to indicate the purpose of the "squint," namely, to enable the priest or chaplain in the chancel to observe any suppliant kneeling in the oratory.

Duncumb's History remarks, with regard to the squint: "This opening is of such exceptional arrangement, that archæologists differ as to its being intended for a squint or a confessional."

"The Cantilupe window of mediæval glass is peculiarly interesting and worthy of careful examination. It is strange that it should have escaped destruction in the time of Henry VIII., after the stringent orders then issued for the destruction of all such works of art. Possibly it was removed and secreted in the church, during troublous times. In any case, there is no reason to suppose that this glass was brought to Credenhill from any other church: everything betokens great age—time has corroded the iron bars, and the lead work shows signs of weakness. The old ironwork is, however, strong. Unfortunately the vertical bar intercepts the view of the inscription and other details.

The style of letter with triple stop, in the inscription, points to the early part of the 14th century as the actual date of the glass,

but the use of the name "C'atulupo" affords a clue. It would have been natural to find the word "Herefordensis" used instead of the family name of our Bishop; and the artist must have had a good reason for using the family name instead.

His canonization took place in May, 1320. It is improbable that the glass was erected before that date, but it must have been soon after—and if it was during the episcopate of the following bishop, Thomas Charlton, 1327, it would be needful to describe his work, as we now see it.

The actual date of the glass is probably about the year 1328.

"The excellently preserved painted glass of this window is a genuine specimen of the period, and represents two figures in episcopal dress, each holding the proper crozier. Over them in Lombardic characters the words 'Cantuar—Thomas—Cantilupe.' It is considered to be the only remaining contemporary portrait of Cantilupe (born 1219, died 1282). The insertion of these effigies in the church nearest Sugwas (then the episcopal residence) was the loving work of Bishop Swinfield—by whose persistent entreaties the honour of canonization was procured from the Pope." (In 1320).

With regard to the architecture and items of interest in the church, the chancel is chiefly Early English and the roof has been restored. Some of the old encaustic tiles in the floor bore the arms of Talbot. The chancel arch is Early English, but the original arch was a single one. In the restoration (about 35 years ago) the two sides were pierced, the moulds, cusps, etc., being copied from the Cantilupe shrine in the Cathedral. The foundation of the nave is Norman, and has a fine old timbered roof. The south door (in chancel) is rude Norman. The old oak porch is of 14th century workmanship, having bosses on the roof, carved "S.M." and other devices. A tablet has been lately placed on the north wall of the nave (by Mrs. Ecroyd), in memory of Thomas Traherne, poet and divine. The reredos was given by Miss Ecroyd in 1896, and was her own work—the panels being embroidered from designs drawn for her by a Florentine artist, who copied them carefully from Fra Angelico's celebrated angels. The oak frame was carved from her own designs by a Westmorland carver.

The following notes are of interest in the history of the church:—

Sir Gilbert Talbot in 1374 obtained a royal licence to grant to the Priory of Wormesley his advowson of Credenhill, "its church not belonging to the Crown, and liable to an annual payment of ten marks to the diocesan, with liberty to the Prior to accept the benefaction: but the gift was declined, probably from unwillingness of the Society to incur the annual pecuniary liability."

In 1646 (under the Earls of Salop) Mr. Roger Breyton, the then rector, being ordered to quit this benefice, after 40 years, was so much beloved by his parishioners that they compelled him to refuse compliance, and the Parliamentarians thereupon ordered the Sheriff to forcibly dispossess him and to induct Mr. Primrose, and they awarded the Under Sheriff fifty shillings for his good services.—Walker.

In 1660, Edmund Quarrell (appointed by the Parliamentary Committee) vacated, on presentation by the King to William Carpenter, M.A., but Bishop Monk having died before the institution of the new rector, Quarrell contested the validity of the presentation, and commissioners being appointed to hear and determine the controversy, adjudged that "Quarrell was wholly incapable, disabled for the pastoral care of the parish, not only on account of his abdication of the benefice, but because he had been in actual arms against the King in 1659, that he had maintained a trooper with horse and arms to act against his Majesty; that he gave God thanks in this church for his Majesty's overthrow at Worcester, causing bonfires to be made, and music and dancing in the churchyard, and other expressions of delight openly and offensively; that he preached against both sacraments, that all kings were tyrants, that there was a causeway in hell paved with king's skulls, and that the Book of Common Prayer was composed by the devil."—Walker.

In 1661 Thomas Traherne, B.D. (to whom a monument is placed in the nave), was appointed (by the Earl of Kent). He was a noted poet and divine.

This interesting extract was copied from Calendar of Patent Rolls, by my brother, Mr. Farrar. Vol. 1330 to 1334:—

"Commission to 3 Justices on the complaint of Gilbert Talbot, that Henry de Yavesore, Henry de Brunshope, Thomas his son, Thomas Devereux of Bishopston, Walter son of Richard le Muleward of Brunshope, John Peer, Baldwin de Brugge, Edmund de Brugge, Walter son of Edmund de Brugge and others broke his park at Credenhill, co. Hereford, hunted there, and carried away his deer. To hear and determine the complaint."

At the conclusion of the paper, the PRESIDENT (Mr. A. B. Farn) cordially thanked Miss Ecroyd for the trouble she had taken to prepare the notes, and leaving the church the party made their way to the front of Credenhill Court, where, under a magnificent cedar tree, they partook of refreshments hospitably prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Farrar Ecroyd. Mr. Hutchinson warned the members that by this they were breaking one of the rules of the Club, but they were destined to break this self-same rule on no less than three



[W. H. Bustin]

BRINSOP CHURCH.

Photo by]

occasions during the day, and that without compunction. Leaving the cedar tree, by the kind permission of Mr. Ecroyd, Credenhill Camp was visited, the whole of the west side being traversed under the guidance of the Rev. C. H. Stoker and Miss Stoker. The area of this camp, which was occupied by the British for defensive purposes against the Celtic invaders, is 45 acres, and from it can be obtained a magnificent view of rural Herefordshire, with a background of mountainous country. Then, through the fields, still wet, but not disagreeably so, from the late rains, they proceeded to Brinsop Church, interesting particularly from the fact that here Wordsworth, the Poet Laureate, worshipped on the occasion of his visits to Brinsop Court. The church also contains many relics of another age, and the paper read by Mr. Stoker in the church was listened to with rapt attention.

Mr. STOKER, in his paper, said :—

Gentlemen,—The few notes I am going to read will very inadequately convey to you all there is to be seen in this beautiful little church. I can lay claim to no originality in what I am going to say. I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to include most of the interesting details, which I trust may be of some use.

The parish is noticed in Domesday Book as Hope, *i.e.*, land on the slope or under the slope of a hill. The manor had belonged to Earl Godwin, then Fitz Osborne became its owner. Harold added the estates to the Crown. At the Norman Conquest Alured of Marlborough became its owner, was held of De Braos by Fitz Peter, whose lessee Torel sublet it to Brun, hence the name of the parish, Brunshope—Brinsop. The property ultimately come into the hands of the Danseys and then the Ricardos, and quite recently has been purchased by Mr. Dearman Edwards. The advowson was presented by the Bruns to Llanthony Priory, and in 1559 by compulsory arrangement it was annexed to the see of Hereford. The list of incumbents dates back to 1296, though there is mention of one (name not given) being appointed in 1291.

The church, 11th century, dedicated to St. George, consists of nave and chancel without a chancel arch, and divided from it by a beautiful 14th century oak screen. The screen in the north aisle is modern, and the work of Mr. Robert Clarke, of Hereford, who has most faithfully copied the old one. I have been told, but whether it is correct or not I cannot say, that the screen separating the chancel from the vestry used at one time to form a pew in the space now used as the vestry. The nave and chancel are separated from the north aisle by five early pointed arches. The wooden turret contains three bells, one bearing the crowned head of Queen Eleanor.



1st. X Ste. Margerita ora pro nobis. 2nd. X Amice Xti Johannes. 3rd. Z Sanc Michel ora pro nobis. The font is a plain circular bowl on a square platform. I venture to think it is much older than the church. I had an antiquary here some few years ago—Canon Beanlands—and he said it was pre-Norman. At the south door there is an octagonal holy water stoop having sunken quatrefoil tracery panels on its sides. We hope soon to have it restored by Mr. Clarke.

The tympanum on the north wall has been the subject of much discussion. Where did it come from? It could not have been over the north door, as it would have blocked it up too much. It could not have been over the south door, judging by the stonework there now. The subject is St George and the Dragon. This saint was seldom represented on horseback. But he is so here, and in two or three other tympana, of which one is at Ruardean, in Gloucestershire, and so nearly resembles this one as to imply the same school and date of sculpture, if not actually the same hand. The saint, his cloak flying in the wind behind him, is thrusting his spear into the mouth of a monster which is of worm-like shape. It will be remembered that the description given of the Sockburn dragon which Sir John Conyers is reputed to have slain was of a "monstrous and poysonous vermine or wyverne or werme which overthrew and devoured many people in fight for ye that sent of yt poison was so strong yt no person might abyde it." Here neither St. George nor his horse show any signs of suffering as to the organ of smell, but both are quite placid and content, while the birds on each side of the saint's head are perhaps hoping to make a meal. Close by, built into the west wall, is a most interesting stone. It may have been part of an early preaching cross, for the ornamentation is of that interlaced Runic character which habitually decorated such objects in Saxon times. Over the tympanum and over the north door, outside and in, are Zodiacal signs, the Heavenly Twins, Sagittarius, and others. Canon Beanlands says these stones are all in their wrong order. The various monuments in the chancel are nearly all in memory of the Danseys. The flat stone on the west wall is to the memory of Lady Douglas Dudley, wife unto Captain William Dansey, second son of Roger Dansey, Esq., died 6th August, 1642. Roger Dansey took the King's side in the great Civil War, and his estate was estimated at £800 per annum. His son, William, styled Captain upon his wife's monument, compounded for his estate at Brinsop for £390. He married Lady Douglas Dudley, daughter of the infamous Earl of Leicester, whom he must have married before 1643. Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, married for his second wife Douglas Howard, daughter of the Earl of Effingham. He tried to poison her, as he had already poisoned Amy

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[A. Watkins

BRINSOP CHURCH. NORMAN DOORWAY.

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BRINSOP CHURCH.

[W. H. Bustin

Robsart, his first wife. His son, styled base, was married to a daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, of Stoneleigh, Bart. By her he had a daughter Douglas, who was doubtless the wife of Captain Dansey. The curious part is that the mother of Mrs. Dansey was created a duchess for life, with precedence to her surviving children, in 1644, and her daughter Douglas is mentioned by peerage compilers as having died unmarried.

I am told that as late as the end of the 18th century every window was filled with ancient glass, which was taken out and sold by the churchwardens. Fortunately some was saved and is now to be seen in the beautiful 12th century east window. The glass is supposed to be some of the finest in England. In the centre panel, under a richly-decorated canopy, is to be seen St. George in chain armour, bearing on his left arm a shield charged with a red cross and holding in his right hand a spear; his left hand rests on a richly ornamented sword. Over the armour is worn a white surcoat charged with the red cross. In another panel is the B.V. Mary crowned, standing on a red dragon; St. John the Evangelist, a female saint, etc. I would particularly draw your attention to the trefoil pattern in the purple around the Good Shepherd. I am informed that modern makers of coloured glass are unable to give it the same appearance of distance.

On the south of the sanctuary is a window to the memory of William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate. It is related that the last Easter Sunday he was at Brinsop, he, his son, Ian Quillinan, and Robert Southey knelt together to receive the Holy Communion.

Opposite to this window is one to the memory of Dorothy, sister; Mary, wife; and Dora, daughter of the Poet Laureate.

The window near the tympanum is to the memory of Henry David Ricardo, born March 8th, 1833, died February 18th, 1873, son of David Ricardo and grandson of David Ricardo, the political economist, all successively proprietors of Brinsop Court; and the one by the stove to the memory of William Cecil Fowle, who was vicar of the parish from 1866 to Christmas Day, 1881, and who so carefully and lovingly restored this church.

Remains of frescoes are to be seen. Over the south door is a representation of the Crucifixion; in the splay of the Wordsworth window are female figures, etc. There is a chamfered recess in the south wall of the sanctuary, the lower part for a piscina, and the upper part grooved to carry a shelf for credence. The oak shelf was presented to the church by Mr. Clarke in 1894.

The aumbry on the north of the chancel has a ledge.

The porch is another debateable point. Has it at some time been lowered, or is it in its original state? That course of stones and corbels above the arches: do they point to an original lower roof, or what?

The church stands on sloping ground within a quadrangular single entrenched camp—evidently one of Roman construction. The embankment at the W. and N.W. angles is nearly 10 ft. high. Evidently into this camp, lying as it does under the shadow of the Credenhill camp, the cattle, etc., were driven at nights. The two fields to the north and the west we will walk in in a few minutes are called the upper and lower stanks, where in former days the water was "stanked" up.

In the churchyard are buried George Hutchinson, of Kington, 1864, ætat 86; Margaret, his widow, 1869, ætat 72; Mrs. Elizabeth Monkhouse, 1828, ætat 77; Jane Winder, born at Keswick, died at Brinsop Court, 1843, ætat 43. This stone was erected by William and Mary Wordsworth in affectionate and grateful remembrance of her faithful services, continued through 15 years.

Under the east window are some flat stones. On one is: "Here lyeth the body of Martha Hyet, widow, late the wife of James Hyet, of Sarnesfield, in the county of Hereford, Esq. (?) the daughter of Richard Hopton, of Hopton, in the county of Salop, Esq., who departed this life the last day of August, 1666."

The adjoining one reads: "Here lyeth the body of Deborah Dansey, second wife of William Dansey, of Brinsop, Esq., being one of the daughters of James Rodde, of the city of Hereford, Esq., who departed this life the 24th day of December, 1655."

The earliest registers date back, as far as I can find, to 1695.

This over, the walk was resumed and the fields crossed to Brinsop Court. On the way Mr. Stoker pointed out a freak of one of the recent thunderstorms, the lightning having struck a fine old oak, from the top branches almost to the bottom of the trunk, causing a curious contrast of brown, shrivelled, and green virile leaves. The Court, now the property of Mr. Dearman Edwards, was reached about 12.15, and the party was glad to accept the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards to again inspect the remains of this interesting old moated mansion, consisting of the hall, the chapel, which has some windows of the Decorated style, and a roof, which is a splendid specimen of timber work of the 14th century. It was here that the ancestors of the present hon. secretary of the Club resided years ago, and it was here also that Wordsworth and his wife, who was the sister of Mr. Hutchinson's grandfather, frequently visited.

He was a frequent visitor also to Brinsop Court in his after years, and no doubt the romance of the house, and its lovely woodland and pastoral surroundings served in a large degree to inspire his muse. To the house Lord Saye and Sele presented a handsome Pickersgill portrait of the Poet Laureate, and it now hangs in the dining-room. In the entrance hall hangs a portrait of a dog which in its old age met with an inglorious death, and underneath is an epitaph inscribed on a stone tablet composed in a room above by Quillinan on the death of the dog, and which is referred to in the paper read by Mr. Stoker on the Court. This stone for many years stood at the head of the dog's grave at the Court, but was subsequently removed to the late Miss Elizabeth Hutchinson's garden at West Malvern. On her death it was returned to Brinsop Court by Mr. T. Hutchinson, the hon. secretary of the Club. At the back of the house still stands the old banquetting hall, and here the party were received by Mr. and Mrs. Dearman Edwards, Miss Edwards, Mrs. Fred. Edwards, of Neath, and Mr. Owen Edwards, of the Argentine. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards in their hospitable way, had here prepared an informal luncheon, and once again the rule previously referred to was broken. Previous to this, however, Mr. Stoker read the following paper on the Court:—

I can only repeat what I said at the church, viz., that I have no claim to originality in what I am going to say. I have made use of every source I could lay my hands on, and Mr. Robert Clarke has most kindly given me some valuable notes. I have also made use of the article in "Country Life," May 22nd, 1909, and an article entitled "The Wordsworths at Brinsop Court," which appeared in "Temple Bar" about 30 years ago.

In the valley below the camp in its northern side lies the ancient mansion of Brinsop Court, a moated residence of great antiquarian interest. Mr. Robinson, in his "Mansions of Herefordshire," states that references to it exist from the early part of the 13th century, and that the Dautesseys, D'Anseys or Danseys held it from the 15th to the beginning of the last century. It then passed into the hands of the Ricardos, and two or three years ago it was purchased by Mr. Dearman Edwards who has lived at the Court since 1851. He comes of a good old family, tracing back to Baron Owen, of North Wales, on one side, and to Sir Richard Vaughan, of Bredwardine Castle, Herefordshire, on the other. According to a MS. account compiled for the Dansey family, the Court was "moated round and approached by a drawbridge; within the quadrangle was a chapel with a crypt beneath it, and a dungeon. The chapel occupies one side of the square; it had a groined roof and walls painted in frescoes." Two towers flanked the drawbridge,



having grotesque figures on their top—one being a monkey playing a fiddle. In the inner court was a third tower which, though in a perfect state of preservation, was "pulled down about 1790 to assist in building a wall round the stables." The great west window though blocked up with masonry still retains nearly all its tracery and stonework, including the moulded projections into which the shutter bolts fastened. Though undoubtedly a chapel, it seems afterwards to have changed its use, as the traditional name of the "armoury" has come down to us.

The moat—as you see—still exists, fed by a beautiful spring to the north of the pond by the stables; so too does the beautiful old banquet hall, sometimes wrongly spoken of as the chapel (it used to be called by the people "Holy Stage"). It is extremely fine, and belongs to the early or middle part of the 14th century. The south side of the roof has been re-covered recently so as to preserve the timbers. It is in a wonderful state of preservation. It is an upper room built over various offices, having good two light traceried windows and a fireplace which Mr. Edwards has recently had opened out. Its chief point of interest, however, is its grandly beautiful timber roof. The great trusses which carry it out are cut out of large oak timbers, with most beautiful outlines and fine mouldings throughout. The eastern portion was plastered between the rafters and decorated with simple rosettes in red with a dark centre. The west end was close boarded under the rafters and decorated with a similar rosette placed between cross lines of a dark colour. In this part also the roof timbers are richly coloured, indicating it as the place of highest dignity. There are also some remains of grotesque finials, which show an appreciation of the humorous side of life, and give the probability that merry times were held in the grand old hall. The steps by which we entered the hall are often a source of speculation to many, but what is now a doorway used to be a window. You can see the groove where the glass used to be, but if you look at the other window on the same side you will find no groove, which proves that the steps used to be there. The east end—now of brick—must have either fallen in or been taken down at some early period. Many have thought that the hall originally was longer, but Canon Beanland measured the spaces between the large timbers, and he assured me such was not the case. At the west end is the retiring room, with its staircase connecting the hall with the offices underneath. Beyond this room is what is used now as a billiard room. It has a fine fireplace, some good oak panels, and a fine large window. What were the buildings on the east side of the quadrangle? Where are the dormitories, the great kitchen and the other necessary buildings? Echo still answers "Where?"

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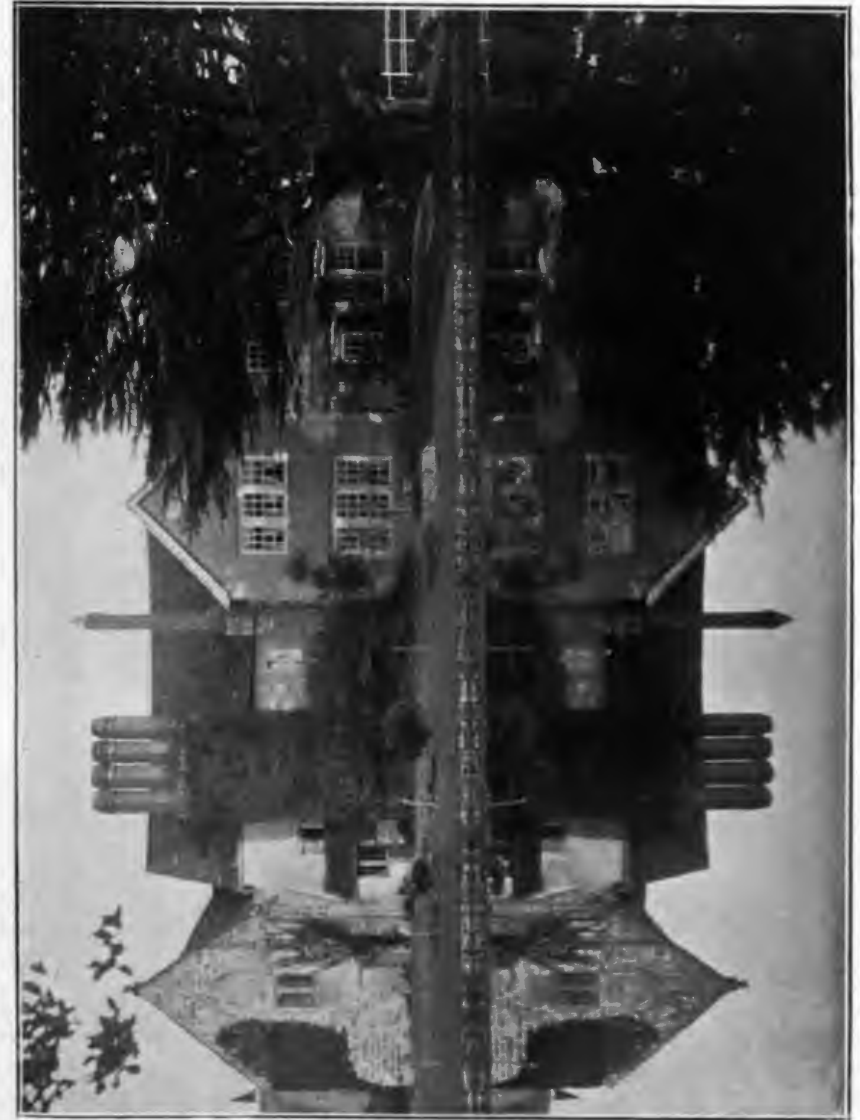


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BRINSOP COURT.  
(*Nature's Mirror.*)

[W. H. Buskin



Photo by]

BRINSOP COURT.

[W. H. Bustin

For over 20 years it was the residence of Mr. Hutchinson (Wordsworth's brother-in-law), his wife, and family. Our interest in this beautiful old place deepens and deepens when we remember that it has frequently received, as guests, the Wordsworths, their relatives, the Quillinans, Southey, H. C. Robinson, and other celebrities. At Dame Birkett's school at Penrith, William Wordsworth and Mary Hutchinson not only learnt to read and write, but also to love one another, and in due course became man and wife. Mary's brother took to agriculture, and she kept house for him near Stockton-on-Tees until she married the poet and settled down in the Lake country in 1802. Eventually her brother left the north and came to live at Brinsop. Wordsworth's first visit was in 1827, and the last in 1845. The poet dearly loved the rural scenery of Herefordshire, and in an ode to his dearly loved sister Dorothy occurs this verse:—

"Then come, my sister! Come, I pray,  
With speed put on your woodland dress,  
And bring no book; for this one day  
We'll give to idleness."

In 1827 Mr. Hutchinson got his brother-in-law to plant the cedar which now brushes the front of the house with its noble branches.

There is a portrait of the poet in the dining-room—a copy after Pickersgill, presented to the Court by the late Right Hon. and Ven. Lord Saye and Sele to commemorate the poet's visit to Brinsop.

It is to Mrs. Wordsworth and her sister, Sarah Hutchinson, as well as to Wordsworth's sister Dorothy and daughter Dora, that much of his poetry is due. Devoted to him and to his genius, they never wearied of encouraging him to write, or of accompanying him on his long and fatiguing walks. When his eyesight failed, his wife, the beloved companion of half a century, was his untiring amanuensis and it is not surprising that he should say that "He never saw an amiable single woman without wishing that she was married."

May I, for those who either do not know it or who have forgotten it, refer to the story told of the Brinsop dog, interesting from its connection with Dorothy Wordsworth and Quillinan, who afterwards became her nephew by marrying Dora Wordsworth. Dorothy was naturally not fond of dogs, but this one—Prince by name—attached himself to her, and accompanied her on her long solitary Herefordshire rambles. On the eve of one of her departures from the Court he discovered, as dogs will, what was about to happen, and lay at her bedroom door all the night. The following morning he secreted himself in the cart that conveyed her luggage to Hereford, and finally met her at the coach. They had great difficulty to

get him home again. Some time after, when Prince was, like Dorothy, "Stricken in years," he became sadly infirm and a burden not only to those about him but to himself. However, Prince's young master, George Hutchinson—the poet's nephew—repeatedly begged him off from his impending fate.

At last, however the fiat went forth that Prince must die. The dog was hanged by a servant named Jerry Preece during the temporary absence of her friend George. Quillinan was staying at the Court and was engaged laying nightlines across the moat. When the boy returned he unadvisedly sent him to look for worms in the "duck's nest." When George drew near, chancing to look up at a neighbouring willow, he saw his beloved Prince hanging by the neck. Half mad with grief, he would not be consoled. Quillinan, who had not known of the place of execution, was much distressed. Retiring to his room, he hastily wrote the following impromptu lines by way of consolation, which he threw out of the window facing the cedar and moat to the boy wailing beneath it, with the words, "Look George! Here's an epitaph."

Epitaph to a Favourite Dog.

"Stop! passenger, and drop a tear;  
A most ill-fated Prince lies here.  
His reign in youth was wild and pleasant;  
He hunted rabbit, hare, and pheasant;  
Grown old, he bid adieu to sport,  
And mildly ruled at Brinsop Court.  
But shame on these reforming times\*  
Of revolutionary crimes!  
This harmless, old, and good Prince-royal  
Was vilely used by hands disloyal.  
His noble neck was hempen-collared  
And stretched upon a willow-pollard.  
Oh, wicked traitor, Jerry Preece,  
Repent, if you would die in peace."

[\*1832].

We do not know whether these verses consoled young George, but they were engraved on stone, and placed at the head of Prince's grave. Owing to the energies of our worthy secretary, the stone has been returned to the Court and has been placed inside the front door.

I cannot close these remarks without saying how glad we are that the dear old Court has now fallen into such worthy hands. Every stone of it is loved by the Edwards family, and we feel confident that nothing will prevent them from keeping the old place

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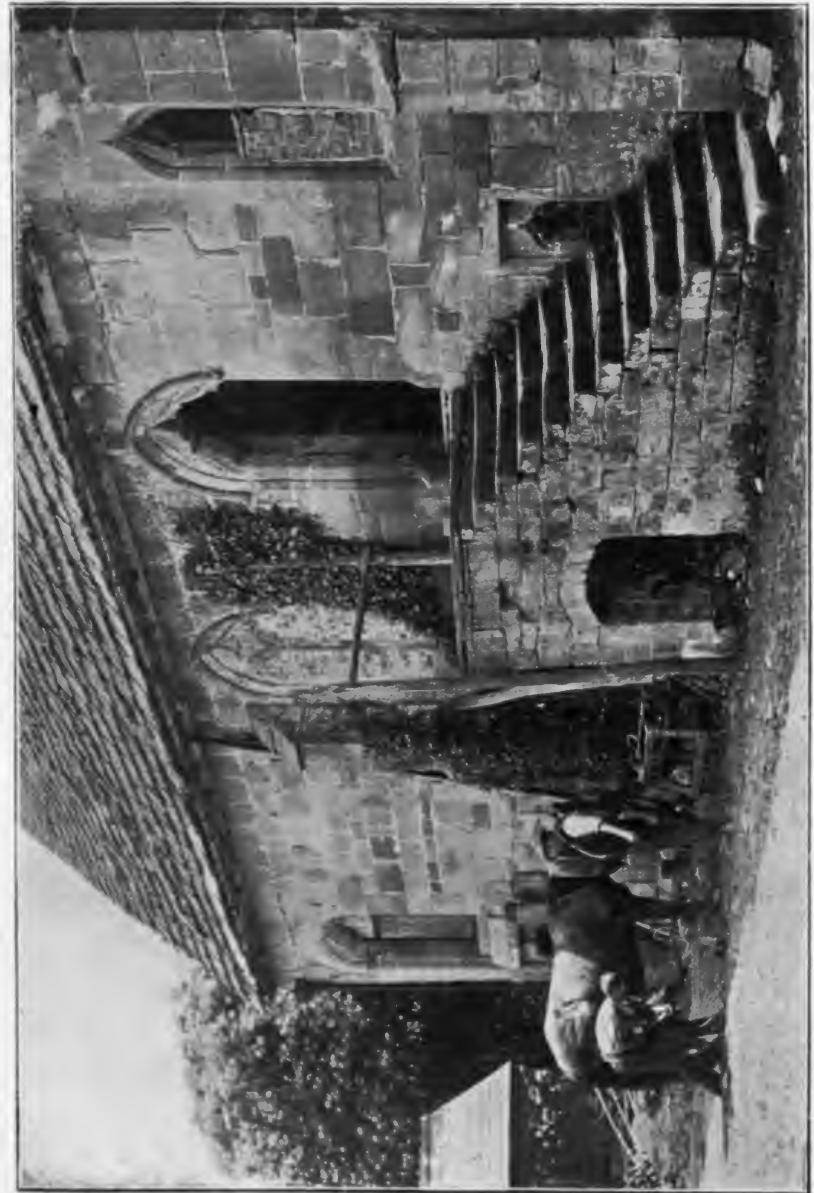


Photo by]

BRINSOP COURT. GREAT HALL.

[A. Watkins



in sound repair. We see too much in these days of "renovations." What we want is "preservations," and these we know will be done.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your patience.

Then justice was done to the good things provided, and afterwards,

The PRESIDENT said they could not leave without returning thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dearman Edwards for all the kind hospitality they had received. The Secretary had said they were breaking the rules, but if they had broken them they had done so very pleasantly. They thanked Mr. and Mrs. Edwards most heartily for all their kindness.

Mr. DEARMAN EDWARDS, in reply, expressed the pleasure he and his family had in receiving them there, and hoped they would come again.

The party afterwards whiled away the time at their disposal in the grounds of the Court, giving an opportunity to the drivers of the brakes to attach the horses. At 1.30 they said adieu to the residents at the Court and went by way of Raven's Causeway to Weobley, a distance of five miles. On the way they passed Wormsley Church, about 300 yards to the west of which is a holy thorn, which was visted by people on the eve of Epiphany. Along the road magnificent and extensive views were obtainable. Hereford was to be seen in its basin-like situation, and behind were the Malvern Hills, while in the far distance, May Hill, in Gloucestershire, was discernible. Nearing Weobley, country extending to the Cleve Hills, the Strettons, and Ludlow provided a view of considerable grandeur. The party again alighted from the conveyances at the site of Weobley Castle, where they were met by Mrs. F. H. Leather. From a natural platform of rising ground Mrs. Leather read some notes on old Weobley, humorous, historical, and otherwise interesting. They were as follows:—

I. The Borough.—Members of the Woolhope Club are doubtless familiar with the able and exhaustive account of Weobley and its castle, of Garnstone and The Ley, written by Canon Phillott for the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1869, and with the shorter accounts from the same pen printed in their own "Transactions." I will therefore omit or touch very briefly on those points connected with the ancient borough which have been previously dealt with.

The borough was represented in Parliament during the reign of Edward I., and from 1640 to the passing of the Reform Act in 1832. At the Bear, formerly the principal coaching inn, we could

until recently point out the frail platform above the door from which the newly elected members for Weobley addressed their constituents, after the declaration of the poll. Unfortunately this house has been partially rebuilt this year; the platform has been removed and the mellow Georgian front of red brick covered with rough-cast. From 1760 to 1832 Weobley appears to have been the pocket borough of the Marquis of Bath. He used to send his Shropshire tenants to Weobley to vote at elections; they were the supposed occupiers of many dilapidated dwellings now destroyed. By old custom they could legally vote, provided that they boiled their kettles in Weobley the night before. Hence they were called "pot-wallopers," or "pot-wallers." A similar custom existed at Taunton in Somerset. There were living in Weobley until recently, people who could remember the elections, and the coming of the "pot-wallopers"; they made huge fires for boiling their kettles all the way down the main street, round which they made merry, probably assisted by good cheer provided at the expense of the prospective members of Parliament for Weobley.

Among these representatives, the most note-worthy are Colonel John Birch (1651), Captain James Cornwall, R.N. (1732); Duke of Portland, Prime Minister, 1761; the Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor (1783). Weobley belonged to the Marquis of Bath until 1877, when he sold the properties by auction, which were purchased by their occupiers at large prices. It was found that some had obtained possessory titles and could not be ejected.

Colonel Birch, as you all know, was one of Cromwell's generals, who captured Hereford during the Civil War; and was one of those who signed the death-warrant of Charles I. He bought Garnstone from a daughter of Thomas Tomkins in 1661. It has been stated that he started life as a packhorse trader, but a letter which he wrote to the Governor of Shrewsbury in 1642 seems to show that he was then in business in Bristol as a wine merchant. If the writer of this letter and Colonel John Birch are one and the same, and the date of his birth correctly recorded on his monument, he could have been only sixteen years old at the time. He writes to complain that the Governor has seized "fower butts of sack" which he sent to Shrewsbury, "as myself," he says, "being one of the malignant party that have taken up arms against the King, which God forbid." The letter is printed *in extenso* in the Transactions of the Shropshire Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society, 2nd series, vol. vii., pt. ii., 258.

Lord Eldon has recorded in his anecdote book his experiences as a Parliamentary candidate for the borough of Weobley, when he was Mr. John Scott, a young barrister.

"When I first came into Parliament I was elected for Weobley, in Herefordshire. About that period" (1783) "there were many meetings in different parts of England for promoting what was called reform in Parliament. Lord Surrey" (of Holm Lacy) "afterwards Duke of Norfolk, . . . stood at that time, or took a strong part with some person who did stand, as a candidate for Hereford, and condescended when he was somewhat inebriated to ride into that city on a cider cask. He made a long speech in favour of Parliamentary reform, illustrating his remarks by calling the attention of his audience to the fact that Mr. Scott, a young barrister from Newcastle-on-Tyne, was to be elected for Weobley by the influence of a nobleman.

"When I got to Weobley, I inquired what was the usual mode of proceedings there, and I was told that I was to go first to the house that contained the prettiest girl in the place and give her a kiss. This, I thought, was a very pleasant beginning. I did so, and then went to the different voters. When I presented myself on the hustings, a very old man addressed me, stating that I was, as he understood, a lawyer, and ought to be able to give them a speech, which was what they had not heard from the hustings for thirty years, and he adverted to what Lord Surrey had said about me at Hereford. I accordingly got upon a heap of stones, and made them as good a speech upon politics in general as I could, and it had either the merit or demerit of being a long one. My audience liked it, on account, among other things, of its length. I concluded by drawing their attention to Lord Surrey's speech. I admitted that I was unknown to them. I said that I had explained my public principles and how I meant to act in Parliament; that I should do all I had promised, and that, though then unknown to them, I hoped I should entitle myself to more of their confidence and regard, than I could have claimed if, being the son of the first Duke in England, I had held myself out as a reformer whilst riding as the Earl of Surrey rode, into the first town of the county, drunk, upon a cider cask, and talking in that state, of reform. My audience liked the speech and I ended, as I had begun, by kissing the prettiest girl in the place. Very pleasant, indeed. Lord Surrey had often been my client, even at that early period of my life. He had heard of, or read my speech, and when I met him afterwards in town, he good-humouredly said, 'I have had enough of meddling with you. I shall trouble you no more.'"

Timber Houses.—Weobley has lost its market hall, said to have been the work of John Abell, the distinguished Herefordshire architect of Elizabethan days, buried at Sarnesfield between his two wives. It was pulled down about the middle of last century,

as well as the fine old house which stood on the north side of the block still happily remaining in the main street and about eighty other houses. Old inhabitants say that the Marquis of Bath of that day had no interest in the place after the passing of the Reform Act, and sent word to his agent that he should find no money for repairs, and the old places might come down. They add that he had never seen Weobley then, but visited the place later, and much regretted what he had done.

You will see first the old Grammar School, which was used as such until 1870, when the present parish school was erected. The Grammar School was built in the 17th century. William Crowther by will dated 9th September, 1653, devised an annuity of £20 towards the "maintenance of an honest, and able man, well grounded in Latin and Greek," to be a schoolmaster in a free school in Weobley. This William Crowther was member in the Long Parliament for Weobley. He willed also that his nephew, John Crowther should, within one year after his—the testator's death, expend £100 for erecting or buying some fitting house in Weobley to be employed as a school house. He charged "his farm of the Grange of Wormesley and the lands which he bought of Thomas Tomkins, esqre., situate in Wootton" with the payment of the said annuity. The school was closed in 1815 till about 1821, when a Mr. Timothy Kelly "was applied to by the inhabitants of Weobley, Wormesley, and Wootton to open and conduct the school, which he did." This shows that trustees had ceased to be appointed as directed in the will, and that proper control and management of the school had ceased. A petition was presented to the Court of Exchequer on June 30th, 1853, by the vicar and inhabitants of Weobley stating *inter alia* that it was not known in whom the school house and premises were vested. The result was that by an order of the Court dated July 13th, 1835, it was declared that the school ought to be available "as a free school for the instruction of the poor inhabitants of Weobley, Wormesley and the township of Wootton, in the Protestant Christian religion and in reading writing and arithmetic and other useful learning." After this Mr. Timothy Kelly was approved as schoolmaster. The annuity proved insufficient, and the funds were given to the present school.

Further on on the right is the former "Unicorn Inn," now called the Throne Farm, where the unhappy Charles the First supped and slept on the night of Friday, September 5th, 1645. The tracery of the windows, and the timbered gable at the back of the house are worthy of notice. Houses formerly stood on all the open spaces in Broad-street, as well as on either side of the "markets house" in the centre. The houses, which have brick fronts now, are nearly

all timbered at the back, and only brick-fronted. Besides the Bear and the Unicorn, Weobley has another fine old inn called the "Bell." It was built round a courtyard on three sides of a square, and covered what is now "Bell" field, opposite the row of houses in Bell-square, known locally as the "Docks." These houses prop each other up, as it were, by means of a beam placed between them; they stand on either side of the brook, which formerly flowed across, and not under the road, and in flood time rose very suddenly into the houses. Here the gables are quatrefoiled, there is Gothic tracery under the eaves, and the original pointed doorway remains. These have been pronounced by experts to be among the oldest timbered houses remaining. As old, or possibly even older, is the quaint house a little further on the Kington road, which has massive oak "crucks" at its southern end, reaching from the ground to the apex of the roof. A little study will show that the house had originally at this end, a hall, open to the roof, while at the other end were the "with-drawing room," on the ground floor, and the bedrooms, in an upper storey. In repairing the house lately the cusped timbers of the Gothic roof of the hall were found. In comparing these Weobley houses with each other, with the Ley (said to be the work of John Abell), and with Fenhampton, the student of timbered architecture will notice the gradual change of style, more especially helpful as the actual dates of the building are in two cases recorded. Weobley retained its ancient reputation for home-brewed ale within living memory; the day of the feast, or wake, was called "Ale-tasting" day, because on that day folks went round tasting their neighbours' new brew, then tapped for the first time. But brewing, and a long extinct trade in gloves, are not the only minor industries dying or dead; there were during part of last century five malthouses, and at a cottage in the Kington-road lived "Old Powell the Nailer," the last of his trade in Weobley. Next door I believe at the thatched cottage, once a tavern called the "Cock and Breeches," was to be found, a few years ago, the local charmer, much respected and looked up to as "mighty clever with dumb animals and Christians." I never knew him, though I have heard much of his ability to cure and charm burns and toothache, and of his power to remove spells and the evil effects of witchcraft, and have been privileged to read one of his treasured MS. note books, from which comes the following prescription:—

"Remedy for the bite of a mad dog.

Fuery, gary, nary,  
Gary, nary, fuary,  
Nary, fuary, gary."

Write this on a piece of cheese, and give it to the dog."



It is just possible these words are not mere nonsense, but ancient words from the Hebrew or other language. I should be grateful if any member of the Woolhope Club can explain them.

I fear I can add nothing to Canon Phillott's history of the Castle, except that in later years the courtyard was the scene of cock fights and prize fights, especially at the time of the feast.

The pound was in the yard belonging to Mr. Thomas Pugh, in the Kington-road, and I have been told that there were stocks at the White Hill, but no trace of them remains; there were some in the old market. You will all know the old saying, "Poor Weobley, proud people; low church and high steeple." We have also—"Coffee and tea, say the bells of Weobley, sixpence and a shilling, say the bells of Dillin." And a weather proverb "When Burton Hill puts on its cap, Weobley men put on their hats."

The Ley, in addition to the beauty and interest of its architecture so carefully preserved during the recent necessary restoration by Sir Joseph Verdin, Bart., has a curious secret hiding place at one end of the largest bedroom. A narrow piece of the end of the room was partitioned off, and until a few years ago the only way into this space was through a square hole with a wooden shutter, under the large four-post bed. It has now a door and window, and forms a small room, about 4ft. in width. In the attic there is a cell or prison, which has no window, but a wooden shutter through which, tradition says, food and drink were passed to the unlucky occupant. A very interesting document relating to the Civil War in Herefordshire was found in these attics in 1907, during the recent restoration. It is now in the possession of Sir Joseph Verdin, and a facsimile can be seen at the Ley. It is as follows:—

"By his Excellency the Earl of Leven, Lord General of the Scottish Armies.

These are to require all officers and souldiers under my command not to trouble nor molest the person or Family of Thomas Bridges of the Lay, nor plunder horses, oxen, kind, nor intermeddle with his hey comes, household stuffe, or other his goods whatsoever provided yee doe and performe what by authority of Parliament shall be required of him. And for further assurance these are graunted as a protection from all violence of souldiers and a safeguard to him, his person, family and estate, certfy . . . . all orders obey . . . . ware the contrary . . . . souldiers before Hereford.

(Signed) LEVEN. (Seal).

Aug. 19th, 1645.

My commands or others whom these may concern."

In preparing these few notes on Weobley I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Mayor of Hereford (Mr. Walter Pilley), for the use of materials relating to Weobley from his unique Herefordshire *Collectanea*.

The PRESIDENT heartily thanked Mrs. Leather for her instructive and amusing address.

Led by Mr. and Mrs. Leather, the party went over the Castle Green to Castle House, where they were again the recipients of a generous hospitality, afternoon tea being provided. Constituting herself cicerone, a capacity in which she proved herself most able and charming, Mrs. Leather led the party to places of interest in the ancient borough. After an exploration of the 17th century Grammar School, they admired the beautiful gable at the rear of what was once the Unicorn Inn, but is now the Throne Farm, and it was here that Charles I. passed a night. Proceeding through the streets, and admiring the examples of 16th century domestic architecture en route, they arrived at the church, where they were received by the Rev. J. S. Crook (vicar), who conducted them over the edifice, and read some notes, which, owing to lack of time at their disposal, the members were unable to hear to the end. Mrs. Leather then conducted them to the timbered house of Mrs. Griffin, on the Kington road, which has a roof of almost exactly the same style as Canon Pyon Church. The Ley was the next point of interest, and on the way they passed Windmill Stump, once the site of a windmill from which a grand view is obtainable. "The Ley" is a well-preserved specimen of timber work of the 16th century and is now the residence of Mr. F. J. Berry, by whose kind permission it was visited. On the porch are two oak panels, the one bearing the coat of arms of the Bridges, the first owners, surmounted by the initials "I.B.," and the other bearing the date 1589, with the inscription "In Dei Nomine."

The brakes were here again boarded, and the drive to the Moorhampton Hotel was much enjoyed, commanding a view as it did of range upon range of hills, with the Black Mountains and Radnor Forest in the far distance. At the hotel Hostess Pearman had provided an excellent dinner, those present being the President (Mr. A. B. Farn), Mr. H. W. Apperley, Mr. C. P. Bird, Mr. T. Brown, Rev. W. S. Clarke, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Rev. Fitzsimons, Mr. J. Bucknell Fowler, Mr. G. H. Grocock, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Mr. F. S. Hovil, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon secretary), Mr. G. H. Jack, Mr. J. J. Jackson, Rev. A. G. Jones (Yarkhill), Mr. Herbert E. Jones, Mr. John Lambe, Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Rev. W. Marshall, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Captain T. L. Morgan, Mr. John T. Pitt, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Mr

H. H. Pumphrey, Rev. L. W. Richings, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Preb. H. T. Williamson, Rev. F. E. W. Wilmot, Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary), and the following visitors—Mr. H. J. Berrow, Mr. J. Brash, Major Wegg-Prosser, Mr. Ralph Cox, Mr. W. J. Davies, Mr. Harry F. Davies, and Dr. W. T. Williamson.

After the toast of "The King,"

The PRESIDENT announced that the following had been unanimously elected members of the Club: Mr. John Hutchinson, of Hereford, who writes under the name of "Ladylift," and whose parents were buried in Brinsop Churchyard; Mr. H. H. Quilter, Haywood House; Mr. W. J. Phillips, Hereford; and the Rev. O. Randall Slack, Bredwardine.

The HON. SECRETARY said the following had been proposed for election at the next meeting: Mr. W. J. Davies proposed by the Rev. C. H. Stoker, seconded by Mr. J. T. Pitt; Mr. F. H. Leather, proposed by Mr. Hutchinson and seconded by the President. They would come on for election at the next meeting.

Once more boarding the conveyances at 6.15 p.m., Hereford was reached about 7.30, bringing to a close a splendid day.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

WINTER MEETING, DECEMBER 15TH, 1910.

### ROMAN REMAINS AT MATHON AND BLACKWARDINE.

The annual meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club for the election of the President and officers for 1911 took place in the Woolhope Club Room, Hereford Free Library, on Thursday afternoon. Mr. A. B. Farn (the retiring President) took the chair, and there were also present:—Mr. H. C. Beddoe, Mr. F. R. James, Prebendary H. T. Williamson, Rev. R. A. Davies, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Mr. E. J. Hatton, Rev. R. H. Warner, Dr. Durham, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Mr. Robert Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Mr. W. M. Wilson, Dr. Sinclair, Mr. Hovil, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Mr. Herbert A. Jones, Mr. Jack, Mr. J. Cockcroft, Mr. J. B. Fowler, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary) Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary).

The HON. SECRETARY said that as to the presidency for the coming year he had got into communication with Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips, of Hay, a very old honorary member of the club. Throughout the Transactions there were many papers by him relative to the birds of Herefordshire and Breconshire. Quite recently, at the request of the late Mr. H. C. Moore, Mr. Phillips wrote about the birds of Herefordshire for the Victoria History. He was a man of genial disposition, and would occupy the office of President most admirably with great advantage to the members of the club. Mr. Hutchinson concluded by proposing the election of Mr. Cambridge Phillips as President for the ensuing year.

Mr. FARN said he had great pleasure in seconding.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Prebendary WILLIAMSON ascertained that Mr. Cambridge Phillips consented to take office.

In reference to the Vice-Presidents, Mr. HUTCHINSON said it was usual for the retiring President to become a Vice-President, and the two remaining Vice-Presidents were Prebendary Williamson and Mr. G. H. Jack, who would continue for this ensuing year. Mr. Hutchinson suggested the Rev. C. H. Stoker as the fourth

Vice-President; he had been very good to the society when they visited Brinsop, taking a lot of trouble in the preparation of the arrangements.

The other officers were re-elected as follows:—Central Committee, Mr. R. Clarke, Prebendary Lambert, Mr. A. Watkins, Mr. A. H. Lamont, and Mr. G. H. Jack; hon. librarian, Mr. C. P. Bird; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. C. Beddoe; hon. auditor, Mr. James Davies; editorial committee, Rev. A. Ley, Rev. R. H. Warner, Dr. L. Richardson; hon. secretary, Mr. T. Hutchinson; assistant secretary, Mr. J. B. Pilley. The Rev. J. O. Bevan was appointed delegate to the British Association, and Mr. J. G. Wood was appointed delegate to the Society of Antiquaries.

Three candidates for membership were announced: Mr. H. J. Burrough, Pomona, Withington; Mr. C. E. Brumwell, Broad street; and Dr. John Stephenson Clarke.

New members were declared elected unanimously: Mr. W. J. Davies, Hereford, and Mr. F. H. Leather, Weobley.

A letter from Messrs. Jakeman and Carver stated that the new volume of transactions would be ready in January.

Mr. HUTCHINSON said that Mr. J. E. H. Blake, The Lees, Malvern, had written as follows:—"At Mathon, near here, in some sandpits adjoining a farm belonging to a Mr. Hodges, at Southend, some fragments of pottery and calcined bones have been found about 2½ to 3 feet below the surface. No entire cinerary urn has been found unbroken, but I have sent some pieces to the British Museum, and they pronounced them to be of the later Bronze Age, about 400 B.C. or later perhaps. I have some fragments of skulls, and other bones very brittle and fragmentary, as they have been calcined. Some entire bones were found and taken to a local doctor, who pronounced them to be human. I arranged with the farmer that he should let me know when he got near another urn but at present they have only come across fragments. I think it would be a good thing if some of your club would visit the spot. It ought really to be properly excavated, but I have not the leisure. There was also found a bit of thin bronze, which the British Museum people say is probably not of the same date, but is rather like the central boss of a Roman shield. If any of you go to Mathon I should be glad to act as a guide if you require one. The burials seem to have taken place in rows at regular intervals and the ground is blackened (so the farmer says) for about 'the length of a man,' and there is a line of small flat stones set upright (underground) round this space. This is all hear-say from him. It looks as if

the bodies were burned on the spot, and the ashes collected and put in an urn at the head of the space."

In reply to the President, Mr. JACK said the bodies were very often burned on the spot, more often than not.

Mr. HUTCHINSON said this matter was discussed by the Central Committee, and Mr. Blake was quite willing to meet any of them who arranged to go.

Mr. HERBERT JONES ascertained that other members might attend.

Mr. JACK said he hoped to go next week.

Mr. HUTCHINSON remarked that it was a good botanical ground. Mathon had been recently joined to Herefordshire.

The HON. SECRETARY said a letter had been received from Mr. J. W. Stephens, of Womaston, as follows:—

Womaston, Kington,  
Herefordshire,  
December 1st, 1910.

Dear Sir,—Kindly inform the committee that I was enabled by the kindness of Mr. A. Parker, Kington, whose volume of the Woolhope Transactions I borrowed, to render much appreciated assistance to the Cambrian Archæological Society, who visited this neighbourhood (Old Radnor) last summer, by having read out the account from our Transactions of Old Radnor Church in that edifice, and of Fourstones, by the late Mr. Banks, on the spot at Fourstones. Several members of the Cambrian Society, of whom there were eighty present expressed approval of my service.—Yours truly,

J. W. STEPHENS.

Preb. WILLIAMSON said he had often thought it was rather a pity that the beautiful room which they were in and which was handed over for the use of the club, was not more used by the members. He thought it would be possible for the members of the club to use it as a writing or reading-room if they paid a small subscription in addition to the annual subscription.

The HON. SECRETARY said some years ago the Free Library Committee had permission to put up the shelves on either side of the room for the reference library. It was, however, clearly understood at the time, and was mentioned by himself and



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other members, that they reserved their rights as the owners of the room.

Mr. COCKROFT said that was so.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, continuing, said the members of the club had the right to come to the room whenever they liked without interference on the part of the staff. If the general public came to use the reference books a member of the Library staff would as a rule be with him, but the members of the club could come and go as they liked.

Preb. WILLIAMSON proposed that a small committee be appointed to consider the question of the feasibility of adapting the room to the greater service of the members.

The PRESIDENT seconded. He said it was a very excellent suggestion.

Mr. JAMES said although he did not know the exact rights of the Woolhope Club to the room, he was quite sure the Free Library Committee would be only too glad if the members of the Woolhope Club would make as much use of it as possible for anything in the nature of the work of the Woolhope Club. He would like to draw attention to the fact that they hoped this summer to extend this building by a new lending department, over which would be an art gallery which they hoped to fill with objects of interest. As regarded that room, some of the books would be removed, as they hoped to extend their reference library and have a separate room for Herefordshire books. They were trying to improve their reference library capabilities.

On the motion of Mr. STOKER, a committee composed of Mr. James (Chairman of the Free Library Committee), Preb. Williamson, and Mr. Hutchinson, was appointed to go into the matter.

Mr. STOKER said another subject talked about was whether during the winter they could not have a lecture, and after the lecture, a dinner. He knew certain members had spoken about it.

Preb. WILLIAMSON asked if it was suggested that it should be an annual event.

Mr. STOKER: Yes.

Mr. JACK supported Mr. Stoker. He said a little revival of interest in the club would be very a good thing. If he as a young member might be allowed to say so, they were apt to degenerate into a society which enjoyed a day's outing now and again, but

they had not that enthusiasm which, from old volumes of the Transactions, seemed to exist previously. He was astonished when he read the journals of the club at the amount of valuable actual work done by the members of the club. He did not think there was another club in the country which had done so much work. New matters of interest were always to be found in the pages, but within late years, as far as he could see, there had been a slackening somewhere in following up the matters of interest with which this country abounded. At this stage he might say that only recently, by the kindness of Mr. Frank James, he was able to make a few scratches at Blackwardine, near Leominster. In excavations on the site they could not fail to bring to light things of antiquarian interest. They made a few openings in the surface. What they found were Roman pottery, black and red, a large number of human bones, a worked flint, and several items of archæological interest. They only had three hours' work, and they were loth to leave such a rich place. It was almost the duty of the club to excavate there. It might have been a Roman town or station. If they could revive the interest in the actual work of the club it would be in the interests of the county, and would extend their ranks, and bring fresh glory upon them (applause).

The PRESIDENT said it was an admirable suggestion. The question of the lecture would be better decided by the Central Committee. He believed that years ago a dinner was held. Anything that would increase the work of the members in connection with the matters of interest in Herefordshire was most certainly desirable, and the locality Mr. Jack had mentioned ought certainly to be explored.

Mr. STOKER said he was willing that it should be left to the Central Committee.

Mr. HUTCHINSON said a communication had been received from Mr. A. G. Chater, hon. secretary to the committee of the Congress of the Archæological Societies, asking if the club wished to take copies of the "Scheme for Recording Ancient Defensive Earthworks and Fortified Enclosures." They had subscribed before, and the cost to the club would be 12s. per hundred copies.

Authority was given for the purchase of copies.

Mr. STOKER asked whether the club would authorise the treasurer to disburse money for excavations not only at Blackwardine but in places where the committee thought it desirable. It seemed a pity that the club should not take an active part in excavating and

finding what those places contained. He had no doubt that Mr. James would offer every facility.

Mr. JAMES said he dared say the owner and occupier of the land would give their permission. Had they funds available for excavation?

Mr. HUTCHINSON said he did not think they had.

Mr. BEDDOE said excavations were often a serious matter, and an expensive one, and it did not do to rush into excavation without considering the probable cost.

A number of accounts were then passed for payment, and the meeting terminated.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SPRING ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 20TH, 1911.

The Spring annual meeting of the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club was held in the Club Room at the Free Library, Hereford, on Thursday afternoon.

There were present Mr. A. B. Farn (president), Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips (president elect), Preb. H. T. Williamson, Rev. Hyett Warner, Preb. W. H. Lambert, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Messrs. G. Marshall, Herbert E. Jones, E. J. Hatton, R. Clarke, W. E. H. Clarke, W. M. Wilson, H. Southall, A. Watkins, C. P. Bird, C. J. Lilwall, G. M. Brierley, A. H. Lamont, T. Sanders Hovil, T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary) and J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary).

Mr. BEDDOE (hon. treasurer) read the financial statement. The gross receipts amounted to £352 2s. 7d. and after the payments there was a balance in hand of £318 17s. 0d. This was something like £80 in excess of what they had twelve months ago. The accounts had been audited by Mr. John Lambe. He was glad to present such a satisfactory account, having attained his majority, *i.e.*, that was his 21st year as hon. treasurer.

Mr. SOUTHALL: I believe it is the most favourable I have ever heard in regard to cash balance.

The following field meetings for the season were decided upon:—Tuesday, May 30th (President's nomination) Rhos Goch and Painscastle; Tuesday, June 27th, Bache Camp, Grantsfield and Berrington; Thursday, August 3rd (Ladies' day), Stratford-on-Avon; Tuesday, August 29th, Wellington Heath and Bosbury.

Mr. PILLEY presented his report as follows:—The report for the past year varies but little from its predecessor, although the assistant secretary has with regret to announce the loss by death and resignation of several members. The number on the books at the close of the year was 226, including 19 elected during the same period, against 236 in 1909; it is trusted that the deficiency may be soon made up. The resignations are less than in the previous year, 14, removals and inability to attend the meetings accounting for



the greater number. The Rev. J. E. Grasett joined the club in 1871, and until very recent years was a frequent attendant at the meetings. Prebendary Maddison Green and Sir Edward Hopton were members for 34 and 21 years respectively. The deaths number five. The late Mr. J. U. Caldicott's face was very familiar at the meetings, and it was rarely he was absent; Mr. G. H. Hadfield had been a member for 32 years. Owing to arrears of subscription, two names have been omitted from the list. From the accounts which have been read it will be seen that £106 has been received in subscriptions and arrears, a small increase over 1909, owing to a larger number of new members elected. The arrears carried forward are less, but there is room for improvement in this respect. Owing to the unfavourable weather on the Ladies' Day, the number attending was reduced from 60 to 80 to 13, of whom one-third were ladies. The numbers at the remaining three meetings were quite up to the average, the total number for the season being 146 against 192 for the previous year.

Mr. SOUTHALL mentioned that the Rev. Augustin Ley was seriously ill. He said Mr. Ley was one of the oldest and most active and useful members, and he proposed that a resolution of sympathy be sent to the family.

The retiring President's address was as follows:—

Gentlemen,—It is usual for your president, at the termination of his year of office, to refer to the proceedings of the club during that period, and to weary you more or less with a valedictory address. As regards the four outings of the club, I regret that I was unable to attend one of them, namely, the "Ladies' Day," but on that morning *Jupiter Pluvius* had put on the largest rose of his watering-pot, and when I should have set out he was emptying the pot at such a furious rate as utterly to preclude my starting from Breinton. This proceeding on his part also debarred very many members of the club from joining what would no doubt have been a most enjoyable excursion. As regards the other three expeditions, the pleasures of them will be well in the memory of those who were able to attend, and a very full account of them has already appeared in the *Hereford Times*, for the benefit of those who were not so fortunate. I would, however, refer to the many interesting papers which were read at these meetings: to that, on May 26th last, by the Rev. Augustin Ley, on St. Weonard's Church; also to a paper by Mr. Herbert Jones on a tumulus near the church. The hon. secretary read a very interesting letter from Mr. James G. Wood, in reference to the Roman occupation of the district. Two papers were also read by the Rev. W. G. Barber on Tretyre and Michaelchurch. Mr. Burton Parry kindly allowed us to see Gillow Manor, and after lunch

Mr. Jack read a most interesting paper on the sites of the Roman baths at Bath. On June 28th, the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan gave us interesting information as regards the church of Glasbury, and the Rev. G. H. Beavan contributed to our knowledge respecting the churches of Brynlllys and Llanellieu. The Rev. M. Davies kindly pointed out the principal features of his church at Talgarth, and after the dinner Mr. H. E. Jones read a paper very fully describing Brynlllys Tower. July 28th was the "Ladies' Day," and I must congratulate the few members who attended that meeting not only on their courage in doing so, but also on the happy change in the weather which took place later in the day. At our fourth and last meeting we had a most interesting paper on Credenhill Church, kindly contributed by Miss Ecroyd. The Rev. C. H. Stoker also gave us two papers—one on Brinsop Church and another on Brinsop Court. At Weobley, Mrs. F. H. Leather read a most interesting and amusing paper on old Weobley. The Rev. J. S. Crook kindly conducted us over the church. Personally, I must thank these ladies and gentlemen for the trouble they took to add to the interest of the meetings, and for the pleasure I received from the information afforded in their respective papers. Although on the occasion of this last meeting we (so our hon. secretary informed me) broke through our rules by accepting refreshments, yet our thanks and acknowledgments are due to Mr. Ecroyd, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Leather for so thoughtfully giving us the opportunity of doing so. With your permission I will now turn to a subject which has, so long as I can remember, been my hobby. The study of nature has for me a charm which seems ever to increase as time goes on and one's powers of observation grow. There is always a yearning to learn more of the ways of animals and plants, and to the true lover of nature there is ever a longing to be away from the busy haunts of men to watch those struggles for existence which, alas, are ever present. Schillings, in his work "In Wildest Africa," has called this desire the "Spell of the Eleles-cho," the Masai name for the aromatic plant known to botanists as *Tarchonanthus camporatus*, the scent of which recalls to him the many delightful experiences he had in watching the numerous species of animals, birds, and insects in the district in which the bush flourishes. He says: "For me this bush is symbolically linked with the plunge into uninhabited solitudes with self liberation from the pressure of the civilisation of modern men and all its haste and hurry." Although in this country we have not the opportunities afforded by the district to which he refers, yet in the large woods in our neighbourhood there are sights and sounds to be discerned and heard which give great pleasure to the naturalist. Here, reclining on the soft turf in the nesting season, he may watch the birds with their strange antics of courtship, the warring of rivals, the gathering of materials for the nest, or collecting of food for the

young. Here the dainty flight of butterflies poising at intervals on the flowers to feed on the nectar these latter afford. Then the caravans of the large wood ant, heavily laden with all kinds of food for the inhabitants of the great mounds of twigs forming their nests—moths and their larva, flies, portions of beetles—some burdens so great as to require the united strength of two, three, or more ants, all working unceasingly for the common weal. When one considers the enormous number of the insect world which falls to their persistent efforts, it would seem as though none but ants could possibly survive. Much has been written about “warning colours” and mimicry, and while admitting that there is some good foundation for some of the theories advanced on the subject, still I cannot help thinking that in some cases the evidence brought forward is not quite convincing. Hans Gadow pertinently remarks in his “Book of Travels through Mexico” that the beautiful colours of the coral snake—black and carmine on coral red in alternate rings—are strong contrasts in daytime, but that this combination ceases to be effective in the dark, at which time these snakes would be on the move. The red on the black ground is the first colour to produce a neutral tint as the light diminishes. Further, he remarks that it is usual to explain the occurrence of supposed warning colours in harmless creatures as cases of mimicry. There may be fair cases of mimicry where the dangerous and the harmless creatures live side by side, but there are cases where the latter reside in far distant parts of the world from the former. May not this similarity be due in great measure to similar environment? Hans Gadow amusingly remarks that people are prone to over-estimate everything except their returns for the income-tax! Mr. F. C. Selous, in his African nature notes, urges very strongly the influence of environment on the colouration of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects, quite apart from protective colouration, and he supports his argument with very numerous examples as regards African fauna. He points out, *inter alia*, that in treeless deserts within the tropics, where there is little rainfall, and exceedingly hot and dry climate within tense sunshine throughout the year, the mammals, birds, reptiles, and in erts are found to be of a dull colouration harmonising with the soil on which they live, and that, on the contrary, animals which live in thick jungle or in deep, gloomy ravines are of uniform dark colouration. He suggests that while adding greatly to the protection of the creatures, this protection is not the sole cause of the uniformity in colouring to which he refers. As evidence of this, he mentions that the plumage of the males and females of many species of birds, varies immensely, the males being of gaudy and conspicuous colour, whilst the females are sombre coloured, yet in some cases the brightly coloured male assists in the incubation of the eggs; and it would thus appear that the colour of the plumage of these birds is not

absolutely necessary for protection against enemies. It is generally admitted that, as was pointed out by Darwin, the brilliant colour of male birds, especially during the breeding season, is due to the influence of sexual selection. Mr. Selous further points out the case of the extinct form of zebra—*Equus Quagga*—formerly abundant on the plains of Cape Colony, which was of a dull grey-brown ground colour, with darker brown stripes on the head, neck, and forepart of the body alone; whilst *Equus Granti*, the form of zebra on the plains of East Africa, is the most brilliantly coloured representative of the genus—jet black stripes on a pure white ground—and he argues that these two races of zebras, both living on bare, open plains, could not both have been coloured in the best possible way to escape from the lions which constantly preyed on them unless their respective environment afforded equal protection. In the case of the Cape, he states that everything on the plains is of a dull brown colour, the country being without trees, no shade is to be found anywhere, and here the dull-coloured zebra existed. On the other hand the plains of East Africa (where the brightly coloured zebra exists) are surrounded by well wooded hills which give light and shade. And he further argues that if environment in the case of these zebras had no influence on their colouration, then the theory of protective colouration must be equally at fault, as in both countries these animals have been hunted by lions under precisely similar conditions. He also gives many other instances in support of his idea. To sum up Mr. Selous' contention—without proper environment, no protection. One of the most striking instances which has come under my notice of the influence of environment, was in the case of a moth, *Gnophos obscurata*, one of the geometers. This insect is usually of a deep, almost sooty black when found on peat; and grey, sometimes almost white, when found on limestone and chalk. Yet in one district on the chalk, I found, to my surprise, the specimens were as dark as those occurring elsewhere on peat. I was puzzled for some time, until I noticed that my hands and light-coloured clothes were invariably blackened as I walked through the grass collecting there. I then remembered that in a chalk pit at one end of the range was a tall shaft connected with cement making, which at times vomited forth volumes of black smoke, and this, with the prevailing winds, swept over the place blackening the herbage where *obscurata* occurred. Another very startling effect due to change of environment occurred in reference to some minnows. Late in the afternoon I was catching some of these in a small brook as bait for perch. A very large oak grew on one side under whose roots was a hole some four or five feet under the bank. The water reached up to the roots, causing the hole to be almost absolutely dark. Having placed a net across the stream below this oak I turned out, with a stick, several of the largest minnows I have ever

seen; these were sooty black on the back and sides, the gills and fore parts of the belly gold colour, shading into an absolute crimson. Never having seen any minnows approaching this colour I took them home at night and placed them in a globe aquarium in an unlighted room. Upon going to see them the next morning about 9 o'clock I found—not my black and crimson fish—the few hours of morning light had changed their backs to a pale green colour, and the gills and lower part to as silvery, if not more silvery, a colour than any I had ever seen. It would appear that their environment had had a sort of photographic influence upon them. I may add that I had known the tiny brook for many years and had never seen in it any predatory fish which could have fed on these minnows. While on the subject of fishes I may mention that when staying at Cromer, I noticed on the slab of a fishmonger soles of a peculiar grey colour; upon referring to this the man told me that they were taken in an area where the chalk cropped up at the bottom of the sea. I recollect, too, hearing at a meeting of the Linnæan Society, a most able paper by the late Sir Francis Day, the great authority on fish, in which he seemed to prove that there is but one species of trout in these isles. He referred to the fact that the differentiation of the species had been founded on the difference in number of the vertebræ of the fish, as also on the size and number of the coecal appendages, or what may be termed subsidiary stomachs. These variations he claimed were due entirely to the environment of the fishes so far as food supply was concerned. He instanced trout in the same stream having in one portion of the river more vertebræ than those in another portion; whilst in the intervening space there would be trout having vertebræ varying in number between the two extremes. As regards the so-called "Gillaroo" trout found in the Irish Lochs, he said that the true stomach in these was exceedingly strongly developed, and that this together with the increased coecal appendages, was due to the fact that the fish lived in great measure on small shell-fish, and therefore it required a stomach of greater power to grind up the shells and coecal appendages which would extract every possible amount of nutriment. As a striking instance of what increased food would do he mentioned the fact that ova from the small brook trout of this country—which rarely exceed a pound in weight—had produced fish in our Australian colonies, whose progeny had weighed upwards of 30lbs., with an increase not only of weight but of the number of vertebræ. Professor Huxley, who was present at the meeting, expressed agreement with the views of Sir Francis Day. On one occasion I had a curious instance of the apparent knowledge in a bird of the protective colouring of part of its plumage. When as a boy of 14 I had my first gun, I, like most boys of that age, shot birds simply to show my skill, and I remember shooting at and wounding a king-fisher which was flying across

me. It was in the winter time with snow on the ground and the wounded bird settled on a small leafless hawthorn bush. I observed upon walking up to it that it kept its head towards me so that only the brown breast plumage and none of the brilliant colouring of the back was exposed. I walked slowly round the bush, the bird following my movements by also slowly turning its body so that I never had a glimpse of its bright feathers. I had expected that instead of doing this it would have turned its head only to watch my movements, and I thought then, and am still of the opinion, that its action was not solely for the purpose of watching me. Colouration due to environment may, and often does, lead to protection, but not, I think, invariably. At the risk of wearying you I have extended my address to greater length than I had intended, and can only plead in excuse that to no one more than to the naturalist comes home the well-known quotation "Books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything." I cannot, however, leave this chair without thanking you most sincerely for the honour you did me in electing me your president; for the courtesy and consideration I have received at your hands; and for the kind attention you have given to my paper.

Preb. LAMBERT said before they parted they ought to express their thanks to the retiring President for his invariable courtesy and his deep interest in the welfare of the club.

Rev. H. B. D. MARSHALL seconded and the proposition was carried.

Mr. FARN in reply, said his duties had been very light, thanks to the hon. secretary, who had relieved him in every possible way. He was grateful to all the members of the club.

New members were elected as follows:—Mr. H. J. Burrough, Withington; Mr. C. E. Brumwell, Broad Street; and Dr. John. S. Clarke.

The following candidate was proposed for membership: Mr. J. S. Stooke-Vaughan, 42, Bedford row, London, W.C. Proposed by Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan; seconded by Mr. T. Hutchinson.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

The high esteem in which the late Rev. Augustin Ley, of Brampton Lodge, near Ross, was held by both clergy and laity throughout the district was eloquently testified to by the large congregation which assembled at the quaint old parish church, at Sellack, on Friday, to witness the interment of his remains. For many years the deceased was an active and useful man in the locality, and by his death, the district, more especially the parishes of Sellack and King's Capel, have been deprived of a true and earnest friend. The body, in a coffin of polished elm, with a long brass cross, bearing the words, "Augustin Ley, Priest," and massive brass furniture, was conveyed from Brampton Lodge to Sellack Vicarage at mid-day, the chief mourners following in coaches. In accordance with the wishes of the deceased he was carried from the vicarage across the field and down the winding path to the church—the way the late vicar regularly walked to the church when in active service. Preceding the coffin were the surpliced choirs from Sellack and Kings Capel, and a number of neighbouring clergy, also robed. On the way to the church, which is situated in a most delightful spot, almost on the banks of the Wye, several of Mr. Ley's favourite hymns were sung. On the procession approaching the churchyard gate, the Rev. George Whitehouse, the present vicar of Sellack, commenced to read the opening sentences of the burial service, the choirs lining the path leading to the church porch as the coffin, chief mourners, and the numerous friends wended their way slowly into the sacred edifice, which had been tastefully decorated with daffodils, etc.

The chief mourners were :—Captain J. C. Ley, R.N., Mrs. Ley, Dr. B. Ley, Mrs. B. Ley, Captain C. H. Ley, R.E., Miss Ley, Professor Orton, Mrs. Orton, Mr. Arthur DuBuisson, Miss DuBuisson, Dr. DuBuisson, the Rev. J. C. DuBuisson, the Rev. C. V. Gee, the Misses Gee, the Rev. T. I. Pocock, Mr. W. Pocock, Mr. Edgar Prichard, Miss M. Prichard, Mr. Hermann Haines.

The service opened with the singing of that well-known hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning," after which Psalms xxxix. and xc. were read. The special lesson was then impressively read by the Vicar and the hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was sung at the conclusion.

As the procession left the church to proceed to the grave, the organist played the "Dead March in Saul." The committal was performed by the Rev. C. T. Wilton (vicar of Foy), after which the hymn, "The Saints of God, their conflict past," was sung, the Rev. C. T. Wilton pronouncing the Benediction at the close. The surpliced choir included the Rev. G. Whitehouse, Rev. C. T. Wilton, Rev. Douglas Seaton, Rev. R. A. Lyne, Rev. R. Harington, Rev. Scarlett-Smith, Rev. R. H. Bird, Rev. W. D. Barber, Rev. Shuttleworth Clark, Rev. N. Hatherley, Rev. H. B. D. Fernandez, and Rev. P. H. Fernandez. There was also a large number of neighbouring gentry, including Colonel O. R. Middleton, Capt. R. H. Verschoyle, Commander Hudson, Capt. W. S. R. Cox, Dr. J. A. Potts, Miss Hawkshaw (representing Rev. E. B. Hawkshaw), Messrs. T. A. R. Littledale, Henry Southall, H. T. Blake, Spencer Bickham (Ledbury), E. Hone, E. W. Caddick, A. Edwards, E. Bullock, W. Thorpe, Selwyn Jones, of Carthage, and very many others, in addition to hundreds of the parishioners and school children, who attended to pay their last tribute of respect to a departed friend.

Mr. T. Hutchinson (secretary), Mr. J. B. Pilley (assistant secretary), and Mr. R. Clarke were present as representatives of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, of which the deceased was an old and valued member. There was a large number of beautiful wreaths. During the evening muffled peals were rung on the church bells.

### THE GRAIG,

### ROSS-ON-WYE.

As one of the oldest members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club and also for many years an intimate friend of the late Rev. Augustin Ley, I should like to say, that I never knew a more zealous or untiring worker in the field of scientific or naturalistic research and enquiry than my late very dear friend, whose loss will, I know, be severely felt by the members of the Club generally.

He was never satisfied till he had got all the information and materials for forming an opinion on any subject he enquired into.

He continued his laborious investigations up to very nearly the last, and has, I venture to think, left behind him a record, which few, if any, have equalled.

Two subjects of a botanical kind were amongst the last which greatly interested him, that of the revision of the list of species in two orders of plants, Rosaceae and Ulmeae or Elms. He told me, shortly before he was confined to bed in his last illness, that he had

no doubt that there were at least eight different varieties of Elm in Britain and some of these not previously recognised.

The Genera of *Rubus*, or Bramble, was one in which he added a large number of distinct varieties.

The Willow tribe (*Salices*), he continued to puzzle at long after many had given them up as almost undistinguishable.

He knew more about the *Hieracium* genus than probably any one else. In fact, if he erred at all, it was in extreme exactness in definition, and he had perhaps a supreme, and, as some might think, an unnecessary dislike to grouping plants under the same name, if there was any difference, however slight really, to distinguish them.

But these labours, however constant, did not occasion him to neglect his duties as a parish priest.

He was a welcome visitor in the homes of the poor and neglected, and in this respect his loss will be felt in many places in the neighbourhood of Ross.

Notwithstanding his devotion to science, he did not omit other important matters, and I venture to think that for accuracy of knowledge and judgment on social and religious matters he might be trusted to form a careful and sound opinion.

I need not enlarge on the social qualities which made him such an interesting companion and one from whom you might often learn something which was valuable and useful. I feel it unnecessary to add more, for although dead he still lives in our fondest memories. We can now only hope that some one will be found to follow in his footsteps and illustrate, as he did, the combination of a loveable friend, a real gentleman, and a devoted Christian.

"And when the stream  
Which overflowed the soul was passed away,  
A consciousness remained that it had left  
Deposited upon the silent shore  
Of memory, images and precious thoughts,  
That shall not die, and cannot be destroyed."—(WORDSWORTH).

HENRY SOUTHALL.

## OBITUARY.

### AUGUSTIN LEY.

(1842-1911.)

AUGUSTIN LEY, who died at Brampton Lodge, near Ross, after a few weeks' painful illness, on April 23rd of this year, was born in Hereford on April 3rd, 1842. He was of a Devonshire family, but his father, the Rev. William Henry Ley, after taking First Class Honours at Oxford and becoming Fellow and Tutor of his College, was at that time Head Master of the Cathedral School in Hereford—a post which, owing to rather failing health, he resigned in that year for the incumbency of Sellack with King's Capel, two contiguous parishes on opposite sides of the Wye, near Ross.

The vicarage at Sellack, built at this time, proved to be Augustine Ley's home for fifty-six out of the sixty-nine years of his very strenuous life. There, together with his brother William Clement, his senior by about a year (who also took Holy Orders and died some years ago), he was educated and prepared for the University by his father; and there he afterwards lived, first as curate and then as vicar of the combined parishes, for a further thirty years, to within three years of his death. Indeed, it was only for the four years that he held the curacy of Buxton, immediately after his ordination, that he lived out of Herefordshire, or more than a few miles from Ross and Hereford and the banks of the Wye.

His father was a great lover of nature, and encouraged his children to seek constant pleasure and recreation in the study of the natural objects around them. But such pleasure and the kindred delights of country life were always the relaxation from more vigorous intellectual work. That botany took an early place in such recreations is shown by the discovery among Augustin's papers of a *hortus siccus* dated 1848, with the names of the two brothers and of the plants in a child's writing, but with the plants themselves so well pressed and arranged as to suggest paternal guidance and help. Birds and beasts were also closely observed and meteorology studied, especially by the elder brother, who became an expert in this branch of science. An intense love of music was early developed, and by Augustin was turned to very profitable account in after years in the training of church choirs far and wide.

His early taste for botany first awakened by his father, was afterwards quickened by intercourse with his uncle, the late Augustin Prichard, of Bristol. I do not know what progress in this there may have been during his time at Oxford, where he entered Christ Church as a scholar and took classical honours—a first in Moderations in 1862, and a second with his degree in 1865, after having previously won the Gaisford Prize for Greek prose. In this connection he has related how Dean Liddell, while complimenting him on his composition, objected to one word in it as incorrect and was met by the rejoinder, "I got it from your Lexicon, Sir." It is characteristic of Ley that no mention of these University honours is to be found in "Crockford."

After his ordination in 1867, and his four years' curacy at Buxton, he returned home to help his father in the care of his two Herefordshire parishes, which, with their two churches and distinct populations, could not be satisfactorily worked without the assistance of a permanent curate. It was probably during the seven years he then spent under his father's roof, as assistant curate, that he began his systematic exploration of the county, preparatory to the publication of the *Flora of Herefordshire* twenty-two years later. In his brief memoir of the Rev. W. H. Purchas, his colleague in that work (written for this Journal in 1904, pp. 80-82), he has told us how Mr. Purchas, some years before this, had mapped out the county into fourteen districts, and set to work energetically to investigate the distribution of its flora. But in 1870 Mr. Purchas had removed into Staffordshire, and from that year ceased altogether to reside in Herefordshire; so that Ley's most constant work in the field must have been done apart from his colleague. Though it was not until 1889 that the *Flora* was published, it may be convenient to mention here that in its "Preface" will be found a full account of the progress of the work, as it grew under the hands of its authors.

A short note of his, on the occurrence of *Alyssum incanum* in a field near Ross, is to be found in the 1871 volume of this Journal; and in an 1872-1874 list of members of the Botanical Exchange Club I find his name with my own. His contributions to this club (sometimes eight hundred or nine hundred sheets in one year), exceeded those of any other member, and testify to his extraordinary capacity for enduring fatigue in collecting and drying his collections, all the more remarkable when we remember how active a member he was also of the Waston Exchange Club. But it appears that his unceasing work at the *Flora* did not leave him much time for other botanical writing, as it is not until 1887 that his frequent contributions to this Journal begin. From that date onwards,

however, up to the closing number of last year's volume, these contributions are of frequent occurrence and great interest, as may be seen by a reference to each year's Index.

It was in 1878 that the great sorrow of Ley's life overtook him in the death of his wife, after they had been married barely three months. From that year to 1885 he held his first incumbency, in the remote parish of St. Weonard's, half-way between Hereford and Monmouth. This he resigned at the latter date, in consequence of his father's marked failure in health, and returning once more to his old home as his father's assistant curate, he held that post again for two years, till his father's death, when he succeeded him as vicar, and with the help of a curate for Sundays, worked the two parishes for a further period of twenty-one years.

Not by one only of my correspondents has it been said of him, in almost identical terms, that "next to his duty as a parish priest, which always held the first place, his life's interest was found in botany." Right zealously, certainly, and most unselfishly did he devote himself to his work in the ministry; but none to whom he was at all intimately known could doubt that that work was all the better done for the unfailing recreation which he derived from his botanical pursuits. His keenness and thoroughness in botanical research—alike in the field and in the study—were indeed most remarkable. As the Rev. E. F. Linton writes of him; "an all-round British botanist, he took chief interest in the more difficult genera, and spent an immense amount of labour in collecting material, and working out species and varieties new to Britain and to science. In the genus *Rosa*, he revised the *mollis-tomentosa* group, a revision which was embedded in the last edition of the *London Catalogue of British Plants*. In *Hieracium* he was a large contributor to the later fascicles of the set of British Hieracia, and he continued to work at the genus to the end. The list in the *London Catalogue*, ed. 10, shows that he was responsible for five species endemic to the British Isles, and since its issue is given specific rank to seven more—some of them previously described as varieties. An important paper on the comparative distribution of Hawkweeds in the counties of Brecon and Yorkshire appeared from his pen in this Journal for 1909, pp. 8 and 47. This he proposed to follow up with a more general paper on their distribution in the British Isles [in conjunction with Mr. Linton]—and his latest work in this direction was the preparation of his part of the proposed paper, which he posted to his colleague shortly before his death. His unexpected removal from us is a grievous and irreparable loss to all who worked with him on this intricate genus. In his knowledge of the Welsh Hawkweeds and on some sections of the genus his opinion was invaluable. Another difficult genus that he knew



in the field better than any other British botanist was *Ulmus*. The result of his work is given in this Journal for 1910, p. 65; and though some revision in the nomenclature may occur in the future, there is no doubt that he knew the British forms well, and that his distinctions will stand."

Mr. Linton also refers to "his unfailing courtesy and good temper in any argument or difference of opinion, his thoughtfulness of others, and his industrious and persevering method in carrying out laborious investigations."

In *Rubus* for the last twenty years Ley has been my indefatigable and most helpful fellow-worker. No county in Great Britain or Ireland can have been nearly so well explored for its brambles as Herefordshire has been by him, with the remarkable result that it is now known to contain 136 out of the 191 forms with which the British Isles are at present credited; and with the distribution of most of them already ascertained. Of these 136 forms (83 species and 53 varieties), eleven (species and varieties) are new to science and were published by him in this Journal between 1894 and 1907. Another new species, *R. orthoclados*, was discovered by him in Monmouthshire and published in 1896. This has since been found in West Gloucester and near Namur in Belgium. The rest are now known (chiefly through his research) to be more or less widely distributed in counties other than Hereford. Two of them are *dumetorum* forms (*triangularis* and *raduliformis*), and the permanent value of these may possibly be open to question, though to me, as to Ley, they seem constant enough. The remaining nine are distinct and strongly marked, and as such have, I believe, a secure position in our list.

The work involved in producing such results as these would have been very exacting if the worker had confined himself to the study of such a genus as *Rubus* in one large county; but it has to be remembered that his explorations in the neighbouring counties, on both sides of the Welsh border, were almost as extensive as in Herefordshire itself. There are also other forms in our list which he discovered and induced me with his help to publish from time to time. This great industry in research was due to his conviction that what is "worth being is worth knowing, and that its publication will lead into fuller truth" (*Journ. Bot.* 1908, 69), a conviction which made him unwilling to disregard, as if abnormal, any fairly abundant but apparently undescribed plant that he met with. In some few cases other experts may not be agreed as to the value of the additions thus made; but I may be allowed to express the opinion that if his new Rubi are a fair sample of their

real importance, there can be no question as to our indebtedness to him for his work in this direction.

In *Pyrus*, another genus of the same family as *Rosa* and *Rubus*, Ley's interest was unflagging from 1895, when his first note on his new species, *P. minima*, appeared in this Journal; and the lasting value of what he has done in the elucidation of this genus has been recognized on the Continent, as well as among us.

As to his knowledge of Mosses, so good an expert as the Rev. C. H. Binstead writes: "He took up mosses quite early in his botanical career, and used to be one of our best workers. From 1900 he did but little, his eyesight being not quite keen enough after that date. . . . It is noteworthy, however, that it is due to his perseverance that a moss, *Eurhynchium abbreviatum*, was added to the list of British species. It had always been mistaken for *E. Swartzii*. Ley would not admit the identity, and his friend Boswell, of Oxford, at last identified the species, which was well known on the Continent. Up to the last he was always interested in the mosses."

As has been stated above, the *Flora of Herefordshire* was published in 1889. In pp. 217-220 of this Journal for that year appears an appreciative review by the Rev. E. S. Marshall. This work, the fruit of so many years' painstaking research, at once took a foremost place among our county floras, and has held it ever since. One of its conspicuous excellences is the frequency of brief critical notes, breaking the monotony of locality lists and proving of great help to less skilful botanists than the authors. The *Flora* was followed by the publication in this Journal of numerous supplementary papers by Ley, those in the 1894 and 1896 volumes being of especial interest. He also contributed the greater part of the botanical section to the *Victoria History of the County of Herefordshire*. His large and valuable herbarium now goes to the University of Birmingham.

In addition to his frequent botanical rambles in most parts of Wales, and his very exhaustive exploration of his own county, Ley made expeditions from time to time to widely separated parts of the British Isles. His travels on the Continent—in Normandy, the Tyrol, Switzerland, Normandy and Brittany, and the Riviera—were frequent, though chiefly in earlier years. To Norway his first visit was as early as in 1863, when, with his father and brother, he explored neighbourhoods so unfrequented by tourists and under such primitive conditions that they were glad to eat the dog-biscuits which they had taken with them for their unfortunate dogs. But in his case, as of course with all vigorous natures,

discomforts and hardships out of the common only added zest to the pleasure of exploration.

In 1908, little more than two years before his death, conscious no doubt of somewhat failing health, he resigned his incumbency, and with his stepmother (always his zealous fellow-worker in the parish) removed to a cottage near Ross. At the same time he placed himself on the Bishop of Hereford's Emergency List, and so to the end was constantly employed in helping his neighbours; often taking the full charge of a parish, as he did last winter up to the middle of February.

One of his most intimate botanical friends in recent years writes of him: What a delightful companion he was! . . . not only a botanist, but a thoughtful and well-read man; and men and women who knew nothing of botany always enjoyed his conversation." It could hardly have been otherwise. He was so frank, so refreshingly vigorous and unconventional, so outspoken and yet considerate, and under all circumstances so full of cheery optimism, that none could altogether miss the charm of his companionship. He was so ready also to let you share in his ripe knowledge. When he could not agree with you, he lost no time in letting you see it, but always courteously and in such a way as to give you an impression of his readiness to learn anything that you might be able to teach, however contrary it might be to the conviction he had previously reached; so that to many who knew him well intercourse with him was as cheering and bracing as a tonic. And all the more when one learned, as one soon did, that his breezy optimism was the reasoned outcome of candid consideration and real experience. It was not that he failed to see difficulties and dangers ahead in matters of deepest moment, but that he realized to the full how common a thing it is for the most satisfactory results to be thus reached. Hence the hopefulness which nothing damped, and the patience which often shamed one.

"In many ways an ideal parish priest of a rural parish," as was said of him at a large gathering of churchmen in Ross Church the day before his funeral, "kindly and generous-hearted, yet withal shrewd and practical, his was one of those lovable natures which attract to themselves all who come in contact with them." "The restored church of St. Weonard's," to quote yet one witness more, "and the bridge over the Wye built by his exertions 'to the honour of God, the lasting union of the two parishes'—of Sellack and King's Capel—and the use of all," testify to his care for the spiritual and general welfare of his parishioners; but those who knew him personally will be helped most by the recollection of his

example of 'plain living and high thinking,' and of the purity and sunny simplicity of a life wholly dedicated to the service of the God of redemption and of nature."

His body was laid to rest among his people in Sellack churchyard, and this was the comment of a friend who was present, "I never saw so many persons at a country funeral before."

W. MOYLE ROGERS.

#### THE REV. AUGUSTIN LEY.

To write an account of the life and work of a personal friend for a scientific journal is no easy task. In the case of Mr. Ley, it has been successfully accomplished by the Rev. W. Moyle Rogers in the *Journal of Botany*, July, 1911. My task, that of writing a notice for a Club, all the members of which are in a relation of personal indebtedness to Mr. Ley, is a far easier one. So well, however, was Mr. Rogers's work done that little is left to be said here beyond personal reminiscences, and a grateful estimate of Ley's work in connection with the *B.E.C.* I shall, however, with Mr. Rogers's kind permission, draw here and there on his article. My reminiscences are derived from a constant acquaintance, maintained by correspondence and by personal contact in his home and in the field, and based upon a friendship dating from 12 to 14 years back.

Ley's bent for natural history, effectively encouraged by his Father, as Mr. Rogers shows, was derived in great part from his Mother's family. His uncle, Augustin Prichard, helped it; but it came to him also in a more direct line. For his Mother was the daughter of Dr. Prichard of Bristol, the "eminent ethnologist," as the English Cyclopædia calls him. A story is told of the elder brother, Clement, who, in reply to a remark about the time spent in scientific pursuits, retorted with a boy's directness, "If Father does not like having scientific sons, he ought not to have married the daughter of a scientific man." It was accurately put, for the Mother herself had no scientific tastes.

Though Ley was never sent to school, yet his career at Oxford testifies to the thoroughness of the education given him by his Father. The latter took advanced pupils for the Schools at Oxford, and educated his sons along with them. Ley thus received a sound classical training: the record of his performances at Oxford (1st in Mods., 2nd in Lit. Hum., and the Gaisford prize for Greek verse) proves it. In connexion with the Gaisford, Mr. Rogers tells a story

well worth repeating:—"Dean Liddell, while complimenting him on his composition, objected to one word in it as incorrect and was met by the rejoinder, 'I got it from your Lexicon, Sir.'"

The chief events of his life are told by Mr. Rogers. To most of his botanical friends his life as a clergyman was little known: but no one who did know it at all could put him down as anything short of an enthusiastic and self-sacrificing Parish Priest. A man so conscientious and at the same time so affectionate as Ley could not fail to leave a permanent mark for good on his parishes. His clerical duty was always far ahead of everything else in his mind; a fact which might escape those who saw only his botanical work.

For Ley put into his botanising, when the time came for it, the same energy and thoroughness that he put into all that he did. His energy in getting about, and in doing his critical work, was wonderful. It was not restlessness, or anything akin to it: no one could be more restful than he, when he had done for the day, and sat down quietly to a theological book (he always refused to play games). He went far afield in his search for plants. Mr. Rogers notes "that in addition to his frequent botanical rambles in most parts of Wales, and his very exhaustive exploration of his own county, Ley made expeditions from time to time to widely separated parts of the British Isles. His travels on the Continent, in Norway, the Tyrol, Switzerland, Normandy and Brittany, and the Riviera, were frequent, though chiefly in earlier years. To Norway his first visit was as early as in 1863, when, with his father and brother, he explored neighbourhoods so unfrequented by tourists and under such primitive conditions, that they were glad to eat the dog-biscuits which they had taken with them for their unfortunate dogs!" Out of the visits to other parts of Britain—the Lakes, West Yorkshire, Lincoln, Hunts, Shropshire, &c.—arose some of the most valuable and permanent work left behind by Ley: e.g. in *Hieracium*, *Rubus*, *Rosia*. In his earlier days he accomplished much in making the flora of more out-of-the-way counties better known, especially in Wales: the reports of the Botanical Record Club bear witness to this. No one could go for an outing with him, without realising his powers of steady persistence through a day's walk, whatever difficulties arose. Nothing daunted him. In August, 1909, we went, accompanied by a Doctor friend, over May Hill, hunting *Rubus*. The rain poured down, much more than 'steadily,' the whole 7½ hours we were out. Ley just covered his shoulders with a cape; and with umbrella, vasculum and field-press, and the satchel for papers and maps—his usual preparations for a day's botanising—went steadily on, utterly oblivious of the weather. We others followed, in a

whispered admiration which deepened as the day went on, and with occasional digressions into the business of *Rubus*. The concentration on a set purpose in spite of all difficulties was what held our admiration: and no doubt it is this that accounts for his power of getting through the work he did. For his visits to various counties of Mid and East England of late years, or to West Yorks were always undertaken with the purpose of working up some special feature of the flora: "I want to work up the Rubi of Hunts.—or Lincoln—this year: can you join me?"

But another reason why he was able to do so much work as he did is to be found in his courage. Though always interested in anything new—a variety or form unknown to him in any genus—he deliberately, and more and more closely as years went on, confined his own serious labours to certain special tasks. But within the limits thus set, his courage in attacking any problem that offered itself was most inspiring. One of the few criticisms I have ever heard of his passing on persons—this most charitable of men—was that a certain botanist had not enough confidence. Ley would face the most difficult problems, even the hopeless-seeming Rose-tangle, with joyous and serene courage. "His breezy optimism was the reasoned outcome of candid consideration and real experience. It was not that he failed to see difficulties and dangers ahead in matters of deepest moment, but that he realised to the full how common a thing it is for the most satisfactory results to be thus reached. Hence the hopefulness which nothing damped, and the patience which often shamed one." Mr. Rogers's estimate, so given, exactly agrees with that of others who had much experience of Ley. To him nothing was worth neglecting: everything was worth trying. His courage and persistence undoubtedly led others to attempt things they would otherwise have left alone: his companionship and co-operation were to such workers a great stimulus.

There is, of course, another side to this. One undoubted fact about Ley's work—I am sure he would have said this himself—is that, owing to this very excellent quality of courage, the most valuable part of it was what he executed in constant collaboration with others: *Hieracium* and *Rubus* are the two genera that leap to mind at once. Where he had aids, checks, discussion to help him, there he did work which will last longest. And yet, even in genera like *Rosa* and *Ulmus*, where he has been most adversely criticised, there can be no doubt that he served as a stimulus where a stimulus was wanted.

To balance his courage, he possessed a large share of the virtue of humility. \**Ἀρχομαι μαθητῆς εἶναι* was his motto to the last.



If it was somewhat disconcerting to botanists to find that his views on the Roses of the *mollis-tomentosa* group soon received his retractations, yet the teachableness of the man was shown by the gladness with which he received fresh views from his critics, and in turn collaborated with them in their enquiries.

My own reminiscences of Augustin Ley date from my residence in South Wales, when for the first time I began to find Hawkweeds in profusion and variety. His generosity in giving time to the determination of specimens, and in filling up gaps in one's own collection, was unfailing. The walks and holidays we took together stand out among my memories as some of the pleasantest things on the botanical side of life: days on the Gower Coast, the limestone cliffs of Breconshire, the borders of Hereford and Gloucester, or on his most favourite spot of all, the Dowards. In the last locality we found together only last June twelvemonth, nearly 100 specimens of the *Epipactis* of the neighbourhood (apparently *atroviridis*) which had not been seen there for some 60 years. Ley would talk on any subject introduced, and take interest in it; but he never introduced the subject of himself; and that is why his accomplishments were either little known, or else only discovered accidentally.

What this Club owes to him can best be gauged by a reference to past Reports, from the very early numbers onwards. Year after year he sent in very large parcels of plants for distribution, usually very beautiful specimens too. The Reports were enriched by his criticisms in those genera where he had a knowledge shared by the very few. He was never able to undertake the work of distribution, for he had not at his disposal the space necessary for dealing with a large number of parcels. But in the ways indicated he was second to none: his energy and generosity never flagged, though the return parcels sent from the Club could never be an adequate recompense for what he sent in. In all those ways his loss will be severely felt for a long time by the Club: but it is as certain as anything can be that Ley would himself have felt that the highest tribute that could be paid to his memory would be that the Members of the Club who survive him should make haste to fill his place in every way. For, though a man of strong individuality, he never worked for his own hand; what he did he did for the Club, and through it for the advancement of botanical science.

H. J. RIDDLESDELL.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FIRST FIELD MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 30TH, 1911.

### WILD WALES.

### VISIT TO RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE.

### INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Not for many years have the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club toured the wild and charming surroundings of Rhosgoch and Painscastle, and there was small cause for wonder that the field meeting of Tuesday to this district was so largely attended on the occasion of the first field day of the season. The visit was made by kind permission of Captain Walter de Winton.

The major portion of the party, numbering about 60, boarded the 9.22 a.m. Midland train, on which compartments were set apart for the club, at Barrs Court Station, Hereford, and other members were picked up en route to Hay, where on their arrival they were met by this year's President, Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips. The President, unfortunately, was unable to accompany the members on their tour owing to a professional engagement, and Mr. Henry Southall, of Ross, acted as president during the itinerary. Conveyances having met the party at the station, they proceeded over the Wye Bridge, where toll was demanded and promptly paid—fourpence for each horse and a halfpenny for each person—to Clyro. The weather was glorious, a cool breeze tempering what would otherwise have been the hottest day of the year. There was every promise of the atmospheric conditions continuing, and in this the party was not disappointed. At Clyro, the road to the right, past the Baskerville Arms, was taken, followed by a turn to the left past Cwm Evan Gwyn. Clyro was traversed on foot, many of the travellers felt constrained to remove their jackets, and some their waistcoats as well, during the ascent of this steep and long hill. Once more the conveyances were boarded, and the famous Rhosgoch bog was reached at the eastern end, where there is a Castle tump and some tumuli near Doleycanney. Driving along the northern side

of the bog, Rhosgoch Inn was reached at the scheduled time of 12.15. Rhosgoch meaning "red bog," it is appropriate that the name of the landlord should be Gore.

At the inn the members partook of luncheon, after which the Hon. Secretary read a few notes on the "Black Headed Gull," which frequent the bog, as follows :—

The black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) is one of the most generally distributed species around the coast of Britain. A more appropriate name would be the brown-headed gull, for the adult male, in spring, has a dark brown hood, which is lost in winter; the mantle is French grey, tail and under parts white, the latter with a pink tinge; outer primaries characterised by white centres, and dark margins to the inner webs. The length of the bird is 16 inches, wing 12 inches. Gulleries such as we are visiting to-day are common inland in the Eastern Counties and also in Wales, and extend as far north as Northumberland. The farthest inland, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are those of Norbury and Aquilate Mere in Staffordshire, which have been celebrated for centuries. The nests are built of sedges and flags on clumps of rushes, etc., or on the bare ground. The eggs are generally three in number, and vary from an olive brown to pale green, blue or salmon colour, with blotches of black and dark brown. They measure 2.2 by 1.5 inch. The laying season begins about the middle of April.

They are omnivorous feeders, nothing seems to come amiss. They take fish when they can get them, but as they are unable to dive, they only catch those that are near the top of the water. On the other hand, they are a true friend to the farmer, devouring large numbers of grubs, daddy-long-legs, cockchafer, etc.

In olden times, in Staffordshire, the young were counted good eating. They were caught by driving them into nets before they could fly. As many as fifty dozen were captured alive at a drive, and sold for 5s. per dozen. They were then fattened on offal. Three drives were made in the season, and the profit was from £50 to £60. The eggs of the bird were also taken as human food for centuries past. Fifty years ago as many as 16,000 eggs were collected in a single season at Scoulton gully in Norfolk. Yet the gulls seem to hold their own in most districts.

I am indebted for these few notes to "Saunders' Manual of British Birds," "Bewick's British Birds," and to an interesting article entitled "Wild Country Life" that appeared in "Country Life" of June 25th, 1910.

Following the reading of this paper the members proceeded, under the guidance of Mr. James Price, gamekeeper to Captain de Winton, to the bog, which was entered at the western end, and they soon found themselves amid the haunts of the black-headed gull and the curlew. They were conducted along the southern side of the bog for some distance, and then a few of the more enterprising members of the party proceeded through the bog knee deep to inspect the nests of the gulls, curlew, and snipe. Some photographs of the nests were obtained. A return was made to drier ground, and the tour was continued in Indian file, owing to the somewhat treacherous nature of the ground, to the place where the *Osmunda regalis* was to be found. The greater part of the members then returned through the fields on the southern side of the bog, whence they obtained a glorious view of its whole length, the profusion of cotton grass in full flower adding considerably to the charm of the scene. During the walk over the bog at least 50 or 60 of the black-headed gulls were seen, and several nests containing eggs were visited. The curlew (*Numenius arquata*) were also in considerable numbers, as well as common snipe (*Gallinago coelestis*), and the nests of both, containing eggs were found. A young teal (*Nettion crecca*) was seen, which proves that they nest on the bog, and there was a moorhen's (*Gallinula chloropus*) nest containing a number of eggs. There were also wild duck and other birds. The following is a list of the plants observed on the bog :—

List of Rare Plants found between Hay, Rhosgoch and Painscastle,  
May 30th, 1911.

By Donald Mathews.

<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	<i>Veronica scutellata</i>
<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>	<i>Scutellaria minor</i>
— <i>lingua</i>	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>
<i>Trollius europæus</i>	<i>Chenopodium Bonus-Henricus</i>
<i>Corydalis claviculata</i>	<i>Salix repens</i>
<i>Viola lutea</i>	<i>Triglochin palustris</i>
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	<i>Habenaria chlorantha</i>
<i>Montia fontana</i>	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>
<i>Comarum palustre</i>	<i>Calamagrostis epigeios</i>
<i>Rubus Idæus</i>	<i>Phragmites communis</i>
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
<i>Ænanthe Phellandrium</i>	<i>Ophioglossum vulgare</i>
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	<i>Chara vulgaris</i>

Rhosgoch abounds with species of carex, but the time was too hurried to search much. The list above gives a very poor idea of the plants to be found in the neighbourhood.

Rhosgoch Inn was again reached about 2.15.

The HON. SECRETARY, holding in his hand a bronze spear-head, said Mr. Griffiths, late of Portway, and now of Hereford, had lent it to him. It was unearthed near a tumulus on Dolebedwyn Farm, near the eastern end of the bog, about 70 years ago, and an uncle of Mr. Griffiths gave a bushel of wheat for it. The head was sent up to the British Museum, and they wrote a description of it, which Mr. Griffiths had unfortunately mislaid, but so far as his recollection served him, it was said to belong to the Bronze Age, 4th or 5th century.

Mr. PARKER said he had something to say to supplement that. The late Mr. Richard Banks, of Kington, read a paper upon three celts, one of which was the one produced, and one which he possessed. They were found in Radnorshire about the year 1865, and the one he possessed was found at Bleddfa, and was covered with green patina. In it was a place for a cleft stick at the end, and it was about two inches broad at the cutting part.

Before 2.45 the party was on the way to Painscastle, which was reached in about twenty minutes. Here they were met by Mr. Tuck, the tenant, and conducted by him to the top of the mound, where the keep stood. From this point a fine view of the surrounding country was obtained, including the Brecon Beacons, the Radnorshire Hills, the Black Mountains, and the higher Herefordshire hills. An interesting diversion in the day's proceedings was the fact that some field operations by yeomanry in camp at Brecon were being engaged in, and the party had an opportunity of seeing modern tactics of war. Here and there on the road to Painscastle the party had passed by a soldier alone but for his horse, watching a bridge, a lane, a gate, or otherwise, as the case might be. At the Maesllwch Arms at Painscastle they saw a small party mounted washing down the dust collected during the operations, and above, on the site of the old castle, a machine gun was in position ready for the fray. The members were given to understand that an invading army was attempting to cross the river Wye into Radnorshire, and it was the duty of the defending force to prevent them from doing so, if possible. As the top of the castle mound was reached, the enemy's scouts were sighted, by means of field glasses, on the Begwyns, quite a short distance away. A Maxim gun, borne by a heavy horse, was rapidly brought into position, from which these scouts were fired upon, but nothing appeared to happen.

While on the site of the castle, Mr. Mortimer Baylis read a paper written by Mr. Edmund Cheese, and which appears in the Club transactions for the year 1879, page 181. From this it appears that the site of the castle was formerly a British camp, on which a Norman knight named Paine built the castle about the year 1136. Leaving Painscastle on the return to Hay, via Clyro, the members had to walk over a considerable portion of the Begwyns, which at the top reaches a height of 1,361 feet. On the way a scout of the invading army was in imminent danger of being made a prisoner by a party of horsemen numbering about 200, who were on the march. Seeing his predicament, the party found him a place in one of the vehicles and conveyed him through the oncoming troop to safety.

The Crown Hotel, Hay, was reached about 5.5 p.m., and the members at once sat down to an excellent dinner prepared by the management. Here they were met by the President. The party during the day was as follows: Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips (president), his Honour Judge Ingham, Lt.-Col. J. E. R. Campbell, the Rev. P. H. Fernandez, Rev. Preb. W. H. Lambert, Rev. A. G. Jones, Rev. F. J. Lansdell, Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. W. Marshall, Rev. R. T. A. Money-Kyrle, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Rev. M. R. S. Onslow, Rev. L. W. Richings, Rev. W. O. Wait, Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, Rev. Preb. H. T. Williamson, Rev. R. Hyett Warner, Rev. F. S. Stooke Vaughan, Rev. Claude Lighton, Dr. H. E. Durham, Dr. C. S. Morrison, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Messrs. W. Mortimer Baylis, J. H. Berrow, George Child, R. Clarke, W. E. H. Clarke, P. Leighton Earle, J. B. Fowler, R. H. George, G. H. Grocock, E. J. Hatton, F. S. Hovil, A. G. Hudson, J. J. Jackson, F. R. James, John Lambe, A. H. Lamont, W. G. Lloyd, C. E. A. Moore, Alfred Parker, J. T. Pitt, H. H. Quilter, A. Simpson, Henry Southall, J. W. Stephens, Alfred Watkins, W. M. Wilson, Truman C. Cook, and T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary). The visitors were Mr. Edwyn C. Gurney, Mr. J. M. Hutchinson (Natal), Mr. Matthews (Redditch), Rev. H. H. Gibbon (Glasbury), Rev. G. A. Hopkins (Kington), Mr. Campbell (Kingsland), Mr. Henry Griffiths, Mr. W. Watkins, Mr. W. Carman (*Hereford Times*). Mr. J. B. Pilley, assistant secretary, was prevented from attending, Mr. R. Clarke acting as deputy.

The PRESIDENT having proposed the loyal toast, Mr. HUTCHINSON said Mr. Southall had a few words to say.

Mr. SOUTHALL said he wished to speak of the very great loss the club had sustained within the last month by the death of one of the most active, valued, and useful members, the Rev. Augustin Ley, late of Sellack, and who recently lived in the neighbourhood of Ross. It had been his privilege to work with him on behalf of that society



for a great many years, and, as they knew, he (Mr. Ley) mingled with them at their meetings and outings on many occasions. Since almost the origin of the society they had been lamenting now and again the loss of valuable members. He knew, without attempting to depreciate the characters of any of these, that there was no one who had done greater service for that club, had performed more self-denying, more earnest, and more laborious work on its behalf than their late friend Mr. Ley (hear, hear). There were few persons who could show that there was nothing to be said against their characters, but in Mr. Ley there was not a single item in his character which seemed to be in any wise lacking in the high standard which he made. He did his best in everything, whether in Church work—working two very difficult parishes, which he never neglected—or in the work of that society. He did not think they could have had such a valuable book on the flora of Herefordshire without Mr. Ley's knowledge and persistent help, and there was no book on flora in the country as complete as that of Herefordshire. As regarded his botanical work, he was only the other day talking to the chief of the ovarium at the Kew Gardens, and asked him how Mr. Ley stood amongst botanists in England. He (Mr. Southall) was assured by him that there was no one who had done as much as Mr. Ley had in that respect. Mr. Ley had wanted to place on a much more satisfactory basis than at present existed, the species of roses in this country, and to ascertain the varieties of elms, which were at present believed to be about three. Mr. Ley told him there were eight at least which should be separated and separately noticed. Personally, he (Mr. Southall) was glad to have met the members of the club once again, and he did not remember a meeting which had been more pleasantly favoured in every respect, and a more comfortable party he never went out with. It might be that he might not again meet them, but if he did not he hoped the club would preserve its character first of all as a literary agency, and secondly that the social element of good fellowship which had graced the society from its foundation would be maintained (applause).

Mr. HUTCHINSON said those who were at the annual spring meeting would remember that he was asked to write to Mr. Ley expressing the sympathy of the club with him in his illness. This letter reached him a few hours before he died, and he dictated acknowledgment to Mrs. Ley.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. John Stooke-Vaughan, a son of a very old member of the club, was unanimously elected.

Mr. HUTCHINSON said the following were nominated for election at next meeting:—Rev. H. H. Gibbon, St. Peter's Vicarage, Glas-

bury, proposed by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, seconded by the President; Mr. Arthur Stewart Williams, Pontywall, Talgarth, proposed by the President, seconded by the Rev. W. E. T. Morgan; Mr. Robert Griffiths, solicitor, Cusop, Hay, proposed by the President, seconded by Mr. T. Hutchinson; Mr. H. Davies, Putson, Hereford, proposed by Mr. T. Carver, seconded by Mr. J. T. Pitt; Dr. H. B. Dickinson, Greyfriars, Hereford, proposed by the Rev. C. H. Stoker, seconded by Mr. T. Carver; Mr. W. Cecil Gethen, St. Nicholas Street, Hereford, proposed by Mr. J. T. Pitt, seconded by Mr. W. M. Wilson; Mr. Frank T. Carver, solicitor, Hereford, proposed by Dr. H. E. Jones, seconded by Mr. T. Carver; Mr. T. A. Matthews, solicitor, Hereford, proposed by Mr. W. M. Wilson, and seconded by Mr. W. Garrold Lloyd.

Preb. LAMBERT said they were all aware that the new volume of the Transactions now ready had been edited by Mr. Hyett Warner. The preparation involved great labour on the part of those performing it, and a great debt of gratitude was due to those who so ably filled the office. The present editor was Mr. Warner. They felt, he was sure, very grateful to him for his work in this direction. Among the good deeds and useful services which the late Mr. Ley performed for the club was the rendering of assistance in the preparation of those volumes. That being so, they were all the more grateful to Mr. Warner for continuing alone.

Mr. WARNER, in reply, said that when, several years ago, they did him the honour of asking him to edit the Transactions, and the material accumulated during the editorship of Mr. Moore, he hardly realised the extent of the responsibility he had accepted. He endorsed what Preb Lambert had said of the Rev. Augustin Ley, in saying how keenly interested he was in the work. All the sheets passed through his hands, and corrections were made by him. He had lost a very valuable, able, and enthusiastic colleague. The first part of the volume lately issued included botanical papers by Mr. Ley, which he alone could correct for the press.

The HON. SECRETARY said that since they met in April he had received from Mr. J. G. Wood a volume on "The Lordship, Castle, and Town of Chepstow, otherwise Striguil," with an appendix on the Lordship of Caerleon. He proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Wood for his addition to the library. This was the gentleman who had given so many papers on Offa's Dyke (applause).

The motion was carried.

Rev. W. E. T. MORGAN then read the following paper:—

## RHOSGOCH AND PAINSCASTLE.

You all know that Hay station is in Herefordshire. Leaving the station yard we crossed the Dulas brook and entered Breconshire and Wales. On the left we see traces of the old town walls and then ascended the Ship pitch. Is not this more correctly the Sheep pitch? There is a Ship-street in Brecon, which is generally supposed to be really Sheep-street. After we had entered the town of Hay we turned to the right towards the bridge crossing the Wye. It is interesting to notice that in the garden of the last house on the left there once stood a Friends' Meeting-house. I have also heard that burials have taken place here. We crossed the Wye, a little above the old ford, and entered Radnorshire. There is an amusing account of this ford in Jones's "Breconshire," describing Leland's tour through Breconshire: "Descending from some part of the Blake Mountaine he saw on the hither side of Wy, a good mile from the Hay, the Castle of Clereho, after passing over Wy river, the which for lack of good knowledge yn me of the fourde did sore trouble my horse and I cam in crepusculo to the Hay." Commenting on this, Jones remarks: "He should have said noctu, for no man in the daylight with his eyes open would have crossed the Wye in his journey from the Black Mountain to Hay, as they are both on the same side of the river." To the right, as we ascended the pitch on the Radnorshire side, is Boatside. Here is a well-defined Roman camp of considerable dimensions, covering about forty acres. For over three hundred years the ninth Roman legion was stationed here. The farm is now called Boatside, but formerly it was known as Carnaff Grange. The present Wyecliff was the old Boatside. Mrs. Dawson suggests that it derived its name from *Caer*, a camp, and *Naff*, probably the name of one of the Roman generals. Some tessellated pavement and a few Roman coins have been found here. About a mile from Hay we came to Clyro village. Lewis's Topographical Dictionary gives the derivation *Claer*, clear, and *Wy*, water. On the right we passed Peter's Pool, probably at one time the old bed of the river, and once the fish pond of the monastery, and just above it the Castle tump. May not this originally have been a British encampment, used later by the Normans? It is a circular camp with moat all round. Williams in his "History of Radnorshire" speaks of this eminence as containing about two acres of land with remains of extensive buildings which appear to have once covered the whole area. To-day no traces of masonry can be found. Is it not the old story that here as in so many other places all the stones have been removed for building purposes elsewhere? On the outer side of the moat to the east there still remain traces of masonry. Mrs. Dawson says:—"Here stood Clyro

Castle, or rather Royle, as the castle was then called. In 1397 it belonged to Thomas Earl of Warwick, whose ancestor, Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, married the heiress of Rob. de Tony, and had with her the Cantref of Elvael." I do not quite understand how Williams should suggest this as the site of the monastery, and the buildings at Clyro Court Farm as the old Clyro Court mansion. I feel more inclined to accept the latter as the site of the monastery. There is a tradition that there was a subterranean arched passage from the Castle to the Wye. Clyro Court Farm is on the left of the road leading to Llowes. There is a fine arched gateway leading into the yard, or may it not be the Cloister Garth? To the right there are some interesting buildings. In the first room that we come to—probably the refectory—there is an old oak blade running from the base to the apex. The next compartment is the kitchen with its large fireplace, stone jambs, and oak beam resting on them. To the right there is what appears to me a very distinct buttery hatch, opening from the kitchen to the refectory. Beyond there are two door archways, one 6ft. broad and 8ft. high. There are also two windows with four oak mullions. A few years ago the old well, 60ft. deep was discovered, but has now been filled in. Many years ago it is said that a number of old wooden figures were found in a room here, but what has become of them I cannot discover. Close by is a meadow called the Saints' Meadow. I have also heard it called the Saints' Rest—probably the burial ground of the monastery. There is a farm near Boatside called Tirmynach—Monksland. These lands were given by Ein on Clyd to the Abbey of Cwmhir.

The church is a modern building, and contains nothing of interest. The base of the tower is the oldest part, probably 13th century. In the Vicarage grounds there is the old church stoup, with the date carved on it, 1687. There must be some history attaching to an old house opposite the south entrance gate to the churchyard. There is a porch with a stone seat, and two recesses on the right and left, and doors leading to two cottages. Above the porch is a stone with two carved niches. Near the lychgate was the stocks, and just beyond, the village pound. There is a house in the village called the Sacred Cottage. At Pentwyn, once the property of the Brynons, an old Radnorshire family, it is said that John Wesley and Fletcher of Madeley, stayed and preached in the kitchen from the hearthstone. For years this old stone was held in much veneration, and when alterations were made in the house, it was taken up and removed to the cottage opposite, Paradise, where it now lies at the entrance door. Is not Paradise a name given sometimes to a monastery garden?

Leaving the village, we passed Cwrt Evan Gwyn, an ancient farmhouse with a tumulus near surrounded by a moat. The road

leading from Tirmynach by the Lower House to Cwrt Evan Gwyn is called the Monk's road, and is defined by the yew trees growing in the hedges. At Gwernffyddau, just opposite, I am told that there are traces of fish ponds, said to have belonged to the monks. This property once belonged to the Whitney family, and probably they gave its name to Whitney on the Wye. In a field adjoining the road at Crossway there stands an upright stone of considerable dimensions.

There was nothing of further interest until we reached the Castle Tump near Talybedwen. At the base I noticed some sunken stones which might be examined. Near this ground some years ago there was found a bronze spear-head which is now in the possession of Mr. T. Griffiths, Prior House, Prior street, Hereford. There is another tumulus at the back of Pontfaen, a third at Dolcannau, and a fourth at the head of Rhosgoch. I have been told that the soil of this mound is not similar to the adjoining ground. On the Little Mountain at the back of Castle Tump there is a camp, which I have not seen, but from a description given is probably Roman. There are two streams issuing out of Rhosgoch, one flowing into the Arrow, the other the Backwy, into the Wye. I cannot discover the name of the first stream unless it be the Millo. There is a Caemillo—Millofield and Cwmgwillo—Millo-dingle. About a mile east of the Rhos is an interesting old farmhouse, now known as Llanshiver, really Llys Ifor, Ifor's Court. Williams says that it is encompassed by a deep trench of considerable depth, and by a high rampart or vallum. Tradition says that this property once belonged to a chieftain, or regulus, named Ifor. Ifor was the father of Cynhyllyn, from whom descended Ellistan Glodrudd, regulus of Moelynaidd and Fferllys; or, perhaps, Ifor, the son of Idureth, and younger brother of Madoc, Lord of Moelynaidd and Elfael. He goes on to suggest that it was never of any military importance except as a position from which an enemy attacking Painscastle,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant, might be in turn attacked in the rear. Before we leave Rhosgoch I would just like to allude to Bryngwyn Church, over a thousand feet above sea level, which is well worth a visit. There are some interesting sculptured figures in the church, and in the churchyard a cross. The register books are, I believe, the oldest in the rural deanery (Hay), dating back to 1614.

We now arrived at Painscastle. Camden speaks of Castell Pain which was built by Pain, a Norman. As we have already had a paper on the castle by Mr. Edmund Cheese, published in the Transactions for the year 1879, and as there is a chapter on Painscastle in Mrs. Dawson's "Antiquities of Radnorshire," I do not propose saying anything further on the subject.

In Symonds' "Record of the Rocks" there is an allusion to the geology of this district, in which he says: "Nowhere in the neighbourhood are the relations of the Upper Ludlow Shales with the Passage beds better shown than about Painscastle, but the difficulty here, as elsewhere, is to show a conformable passage upwards into the Old Red proper above the Passage rocks, which in this county are of considerable thickness." The members will have noticed the shell fossils in the stones of the castle. About 30 years ago, when a portion of the castle walls was taken down, a number of cannon balls were discovered embedded in the masonry. There are two of these here for inspection, kindly lent by Mr. Price, King's Head, and Mr. Cartwright. It is sad to see the traces of decay all around the village, deserted cottages falling into ruin, the sign of the tendency of the age, families leaving the country, and flocking into the towns, to find better wages in the iron and coal districts of Glamorganshire and Monmouth. Formerly there were two fairs held here, on May 12th and in December. At Upper House, the farm adjoining the castle, the porch is interesting, with its chamber above, and also a nice staircase. Allusion may be made here to the late vicar of Llanbedr Painscastle, the Rev. John Price, a strange character, whom I knew well. The Rev. D. Edmondson Owen, rector of Llanellwedd, has given a fair description of this eccentric man in an article in the "Treasury." This reminds me of a prior memorable vicar of Painscastle, Parson Button, as he was called. For years he was vicar and schoolmaster combined. The school was held in the church, as it so often was in those days. He was a bachelor, and spent much of his time in the village alehouse. Often he set the children a task while he adjourned for refreshments. The consequence was that frequently the children got tired of waiting, and despairing of the return of the master deserted the school and made tracks for their respective homes. Sometimes it happened that they were confronted by the returning pedagogue, and sternly ordered to come back. Bidding one of their number to cut him a hazel twig, he drove them back to the church, and soundly trounced them for their disobedience. Once he was discovered by the children removing his possessions from one lodging to another, and carrying his bed on his back. This was too great a temptation, and so one of the more daring of the boys approached him from the rear, and giving the bed a good tug, down goes the bed, Parson Button, and all. On another occasion, having partaken of his favourite beverage a little more freely than usual, he was discovered asleep on the roadside not far from the castle, wholly oblivious to all things mundane. This put it into the head of one of the more ingenious and venturesome of the lads to summon his companions together, and tie the hapless victim to the axletree of a pair of old cart wheels, bowl him to the top of the ramparts and then send him



careering madly down the steep descent of the mound, amidst the approving cheers of the interested spectators, but to the imminent peril of the life of poor Parson Button. One of the girls, a good conscientious child, who resented this rough treatment of her master, soon acquired the sobriquet of Mistress Button. Another celebrity of the village demands a short reference, namely, our ignorant school-mistress, who possessed a strong partiality for the gin bottle. Too illiterate to write the copy book headlines, she invariably awaited the arrival of the itinerant Nonconformist minister, who very kindly performed this part of her duty for her. Afraid of venturing upon the orthography of the difficult place names in the neighbourhood, she used to send her pupils to copy the spelling on the signboards of the carts and waggons around, and this was transferred to those marvellously ingenious pieces of workmanship generally called "samplers."

Not many years ago a strange sight might be seen in the village, some of the old men walking about in military red coats. The solution is this. These discarded uniforms were bought up in London by Mr. Thomas Phillips, a successful West Indian planter, and founder of Llandovery College, my old school, and sent down to some of his relatives who lived at Painscastle, for distribution among the poor.

Not far off, just over the hill to the S.W. is Llandewifach Church. About 35 years ago, when I was curate of Glasbury, I once took duty here, and to my great astonishment I found all the men sitting on one side and the women on the other. The Rev. Preb. T. Williams who was then in charge of the parish, tells me that it was a regular custom there, and also that the women curtsied as they entered the church, relics probably of pre-Reformation days. The curtseying was doubtless not intended as "making obedience to the parson," but bowing to the altar. One sees both these practices in some of our churches even in these enlightened days.

Leaving Painscastle on our return journey we crossed the Bachwy at Rhydlydon, "the broad ford," where a sword was unearthed some years ago, and is now in the possession of Mr. Thomas P. Lyke, Lodge Farm, Crosswood, near Aberystwyth. I am told that it has a basket hilt, and is probably of English make, circa 1650. A cannon ball was also found here. On the shoulder of the Beacons to the right, so it is said, were once placed the guns for an attack on the castle.

A little further we passed Crosfaelig—Maelig's Cross. Maelig was the son of Caw, Prince of Strathclyde. He was originally a soldier, but afterwards devoted himself to a religious life, and studied

in the great College of Llancafau in Glamorganshire, under the famous Cadoc. Ultimately he is said to have settled in Llowes, and built a monastery there, probably on Llowes Common. Llowes Church is dedicated to St. Maelig. Llowes is derived from "Lloches," (a cell, or retreat).

Not far distant is Llowes Hall, or as it used to be called Tybeddau, or Tyrbeddau, "the house" or "the field or land of the graves." About 100 years ago, I am informed, two old swords were found here, and a great number of skulls, pointing to the fact that a battle was once fought on the spot. And tradition corroborates this.

Just opposite Penforest, on the side of the old road leading to Llowes, is a stone, which in company with the Rev. Preb. T. Williams and Mr. C. J. Lilwall, I recently examined, but found nothing to indicate its original use. It has evident marks of the chisel on it. The prose of the stone I take to be this, that in the uncertain past some one attempted to cut off the round portion from the rest of the stone in order to convert it into a font, or trough, or grindstone, but for some reason or other gave up the task. The poetry or romance of the stone is told by Mr. Portman in his "Sacred Stones of Hay," and is as follows: "The 'folklore' of the district connects this stone with a spirit that used to ride behind anyone on horseback, who passed by there after sunset, and at the present time few would care to pass this place at night." Unless some member of the Club can offer any reasonable solution, I must leave the mystery as the showman generally leaves any difficult problem or awkward question of the children, with these suggestive words: "You pays your money, and you takes your choice."

The HON. SECRETARY said he had a paper by Mr. John Hutchinson, late Librarian of Middle Temple, who expressed his regret at being unable to be present, on "Charles I. in Breconshire and Radnorshire," also some verses by the same author on Rhosgoch and Painscastle, which appeared in the Transactions for the year 1879, page 187, but these could not be read owing to want of time.

The party then left for Hay station, arriving in Hereford at 8.40 p.m.

The paper referred to by Mr. Hutchinson was as follows:—

#### CHARLES I. IN BRECONSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE.

In an interesting account of the district of Talybont given some years ago in the pages of the "Brecon and Radnor County Times," speaking of the old road by Llanfigan, the writer remarks:—"This is said to be the road along which Charles I. rode . . . over

the hills by Aberdare to Brecon, where the Governor, Colonel Herbert Price, entertained his King at the Priory on the night of the 6th August, 1645."

This is an interesting statement, but may I be permitted to ask your contributor, or any antiquarian reader, whether there be anything beyond tradition in support of it. From the sole accounts of the King's travels which are accessible to me, and which, I believe, form the only contemporary authoritative records of them—the diaries, namely, of Manley and Symonds—all I can learn is that Charles, leaving Cardiff on Tuesday, the 5th August, 1645, "went that night over the mountaynes to Brecknock." This is all Symonds says. Manley adds that his Majesty stopped at Glancayah, Mr. Pritchard's, to dinner, and had supper at Brecknock, with the Governor. Jones, in his Breconshire, says, like the writer of the above account, he slept on the night of the 6th August at the Priory, Herbert Price's, and refers to "Hearne's Collectanea Curiosa" (vol. II., p. 443) as his authority. This, I suppose, is a mistake for Gutch's book of the same title, but turning to the reference there, there is nothing about it. Gutch, in the volume and at the page mentioned, merely reproduces Manley's account of the King's movements as given above. There is not a word about the Priory or Mr. Price. By "6th August," Mr. Jones must have meant the "5th," for on the morning of the "6th August," Charles started on his way to Radnor. The details of this journey, as given by Symonds and Manley, are little less meagre than those of his Breconshire route. Symond's entry is: "Wednesday to Radnor; by way dined at Sir (Henry) Williams, Baronet's house and fair seat in Brecknockshire, (Gwernyet)" and Manley's is the same in substance, though he says "Old" Radnor, and adds that the King had supper at a yeoman's house; the Court "dispersed," that is, being scattered about to find accommodation. The next day, Thursday, the 7th, the march was continued to Ludlow, where, according to Manley, the King stayed at the Castle with Colonel Wodehouse, but had "no dinner." Symonds specifies the troops who accompanied him, in number, about 3,000. This is all we positively know of the King's journey through these parts, unless we add an incident of his stay at Old Radnor related by Sir Henry Slingsby. "In our quarters," that writer says, speaking, however, from memory, "we had little accommodation; but of all the places we came to the best (query, the worst) at Old Radnor, where the King lay in a poor chamber, and my Lord of Linsey and others by the kitchen fire on hay. No better were we accommodated for victuals, which makes me remember this passage. When the King was at his supper, eating a pullet and a piece of cheese, the room without was full, but the men's stomachs were empty for want of

meat; the good wife troubled with continual calling for victuals, and having it seems but one cheese, comes into the room where the King was, and very soberly asks if the King had done with the cheese, for the gentlemen without desired it."

We are left quite in the dark as to the road which the King took from Old Radnor to Ludlow; but tradition (carefully placed on record in Mr. Webb's "History of the Civil War in Herefordshire") would indicate that it was by way of Knighton, not the somewhat nearer route by Presteign, for he is said to have taken shelter during the shower, at a house known as "The Bush," and which he is said, in reference to his forlorn condition, to have called the "Beggar's Bush," a name which the place still retains; whilst Rails Yat (Royal Gate) close by still marks the spot where the King left the road for shelter. From Gwernyfed to Old Radnor the King is said to have had for his guide Sir Henry Williams of that place, and the road taken was the narrow lane, narrower and rougher then even than it is now, by Painscastle, Rhogsoch, Newchurch, and Gladestry. A tradition communicated by the Rev. R. F. Kilvert to Mr. Webb relates that so narrow was the way by this route that the army marching two abreast stretched more than a mile in length, extending at one time from Pont Fane in Newchurch to Blaencardi. At Blaencardi all the farm people came out to see the King pass. He was on foot, and, stopping opposite the gate, was served with a cup of milk by the mistress, Mary Bayliss, whose descendants possess the jug out of which he drank.

Such is the account so far as I have been able to gather it, of the King's journey on this occasion through Breconshire and Radnorshire, and I have been induced to summarise it in the hope of eliciting additional information, if possible, on so attractive a topic. I have already said I should like to know what further light your contributor can throw on the Breconshire part of the journey. I should also like to know whether any further Radnorshire traditions still survive. Whose, for instance, was the "yeoman's house" where the King supped, and who was the "good wife" who was so troubled about the "cheese"? Has she any representative now in those parts? Also is the "cup" out of which the King drank in existence, and, if so, where? And are there any representatives of the Bayliss family still in the neighbourhood? Imagination can picture the picturesque but mournful pilgrimage and all its incidents—the King, patient and dignified, bearing, amongst all his troubles and privations a gallant outward show to his followers, most of whom must have long ago seen the hopelessness of his cause, and what the end would be, the respectful but pitying homage of the onlookers gathered along the route—all these things we can conjure up, but what I am

desirous of gathering is any further facts or traditions useful in filling in the picture. If any one knows any and would communicate them, he would, I think, be doing acceptable service in the field of research.

JOHN HUTCHINSON.

This appeal has elicited no reply from that day to this. I hope the Woolhope Field Club will be able to discover some further particulars.

J. H.

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United Counties Bank, Ltd.,  
175, Hockley Hill,  
Birmingham.  
12th June, 1911.

J. Hutchinson, Esq.,  
c/o Woolhope Naturalists Club,  
Hereford.

Dear Sir,

In the Brecon and Radnor Express of the 8th inst. I notice an account of a paper read by you before the Woolhope Club on "Charles I. in Breconshire and Radnorshire," and your appeal for further facts and traditions on the subject.

An uncle of mine has told me the following :—

Charles I on leaving Cardiff stayed at Llancaiach to dinner with a Mr. Pritchard, and from there followed the old road up over the mountains, passed the "Waren" (near Dowlais Top Station) and so on to a place known as "Croescallan." From thence the King crossed the Glyn Collwm Valley and up to the mountains on the side nearest to the Beacons and finally coming down by the Tregaer Farm, Llanfrynach. From here, presumably the road ran by "Dinas" and so into Brecon from Llanfaes side.

Near the small church in the Glyn Callwem Valley there is a field, known as "Cae Capel" in which tradition states that Cromwell's army camped.

My uncle has told me he can follow the old road above referred to practically the whole way from Llancaiach to Llanfrynach and that it is a very direct route between the two places.

The above has been handed down, as a tradition, by word of mouth in that district, but I know of no written documents to support it.

If you consider the subject worth following up I shall perhaps be able to find out something more or place you in communication with my uncle.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS MEREDITH THOMAS.

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## Moolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

SECOND FIELD MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH, 1911.

### BACHE CAMP, KIMBOLTON, AND BERRINGTON HALL.

To a great extent Tuesday was the hon. secretary's day, and a very profitable and enjoyable one it proved to all of us. We do not wish to suggest that Mr. T. Hutchinson is not indispensable at other gatherings, for he is always an important unit, not only in regard to making the preliminary arrangements, both socially and intellectually, but also as "guide, philosopher, and friend" on the actual day, with the result that everything runs smoothly and to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. But on Tuesday we travelled over the scenes of Mr. Hutchinson's boyhood and early manhood during a portion of the day, inclusive of a visit to Grantsfield, the home of the Hutchinson family, where Mr. Hutchinson's sister now resides, and here many were astonished at the wealth of the possessions displayed, from a sentimental, an archaeological and a lepidopterical point of view. William Wordsworth, the great English poet, married Mary Hutchinson, a great aunt of Mr. T. Hutchinson, so that the latter is a great nephew; and some of the poet's letters, besides those of many other persons remembered in history, are amongst the proud possessions of the Hutchinsons. Moreover, the collection of butterflies and moths made by the late Mrs. Hutchinson is a very fine one. We will deal with these matters, however, in the order of the day's proceedings.

The programme of this the second field meeting of the season included visits to the Bache Camp, Kimbolton, and Berrington Hall, the seat of Sir Frederick Cawley, Bart., M.P., and for this purpose we left Hereford for Leominster by the 9.20 train, and at the latter town carriages were in readiness to convey us by Tickbridge Lane and Brockmanton Mill to the foot of the Bache Camp, a distance of about five miles. It was a delightful day, the warm rays of the sun being most comforting after the recent cold wet weather, and the whole of the surrounding country looked refreshingly sweet, and was fragrant with many perfumes. On the road we passed by Hennor, Hamnish Church, and Mr. Gibson Dyson's house, catching sight of Bircher Common and the Black Mountains and Radnorshire Hills

in the distance. Alighting near a pretty dingle, we walked to the Camp, and here met Mr. J. Hutchinson, of Natal, and Miss Hutchinson, Grantsfield, the brother and sister of the hon. secretary.

It was now seen that the party was constituted as follows: the President (Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips), Mr. H. C. Beddoe, Mr. J. H. Berrow, Mr. R. Clarke, Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, the Rev. P. H. Fernandez, Mr. J. Bucknell Fowler, Mr. R. H. George, Mr. E. J. Hatton, the Rev. W. Ireland, Judge R. W. Ingham, Mr. G. H. Jack, Mr. J. J. Jackson, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Preb. W. H. Lambert, the Rev. R. T. A. Money-Kyrle, Dr. Scudamore Powell, Rev. C. H. Stoker, Mr. J. H. Wale, Mr. Alfred Watkins, Dr. J. H. Wood, Mr. Hudson, Preb. H. T. Williamson, Mr. J. T. Pitt, Mr. T. L. Parr, Rev. C. A. Money-Kyrle, Mr. Henry Gosling, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), Mr. G. B. Pilley (assistant secretary), Rev. H. Evans (Kimbolton). The visitors included Mr. J. and Miss Hutchinson, Mr. Donald Matthews (Redditch), and the representatives of the Press.

About the Camp the moon-wort (*Botrychium Lunaria*) grows, but it is local. Badger holts were also observed; they are common in the neighbourhood.

Mr. T. Hutchinson read the following notes on the Bache Camp (pronounced Bayche), Kimbolton, which were prepared by Mr. Robert Clarke. He said the area of the camp is about 11 acres, following the natural form of the hill. It has three entrances, one on each side of the northern and southern ends, and one on the west side. The position of the camp is most exposed towards the north, and here the embankments are very bold and strong, with a broad internal ditch or space, which is large enough to hold many men, and also cattle. The north-west entrance is well protected and guarded with strong embankments inside. The south entrance is also well guarded and seems to have admitted entrance in single file from each way, with a triangular vallum hollowed out to receive special guardians for the entrance. The camp within has been cultivated as arable land, and a portion of the vallum on the east side has been destroyed for a considerable length. There are two streams flowing through the valley, on the east and west sides of the camp, forming boggy places, and no doubt added to its defence in early days. The area is now laid down in grass. There appears to be no history attached to the camp and as it formed one of the many strongholds held by the British as camp and town combined, large enough to hold many men and cattle, it had to give way to the Roman invasion and then ceased to be used for defensive purposes. On the ordnance map the fields on the eastern side are called "The Walls."

We examined a big holly tree, 6ft. 10in. in girth measured 5ft. from the ground. There were also some old yew trees in the vicinity which came in for attention, whilst further on we could see where the woodpeckers had been at work, and how the starlings took advantage of their industry. Subsequently a move was made to Grantsfield by the Upper Bache Farm, a typical Herefordshire home-stead, where there was a pigeon house of the old style of construction and Gorsty Hill coppice, a distance of two miles. In the coppice was seen Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*). It was in flower a month ago and has been at this particular spot about 50 years. On the route were pointed out two thorn bushes, being grafts from the Holy Thorn at Gloucester Cathedral, which it is believed was obtained from Glastonbury. A few days ago it was in good berry. It blossoms in February, and is in full flower in March in early years. We were informed by Miss Hutchinson that it was brought by an old inhabitant of the parish some 50 or 60 years ago, and grafted on to a hawthorn tree. A manservant in the employ of the Hutchinson family experimented in grafting some 40 or 50 years ago, with the result seen. It is much longer in growth with a glossier leaf than the ordinary thorn.

#### A MAGNIFICENT VIEW.

From the top of Gorsty Hill a very fine view was obtained. We were able to see the Brecon Beacons, the Hay Bluff, the Graig, Garway Hill, Orcop Top, Aconbury Hill, Skyrrid, the Black Mountains, the Carmarthenshire Van, a distance of sixty miles, the Brilley Mountain, Hergest Ridge, the Wimble, Wapley Camp, Shobdon, Bircher Common, and Croft Ambery.

On arrival at Grantsfield a very similar view was obtained from the lawn. Here the company partook of light refreshments and Miss Hutchinson was very careful to see that all had their wants supplied.

Mr. T. Hutchinson read the following notes on *Eupithecia Consignata*:—This brood, which is referred to several times in the Transactions, has come to an end this year, and a few final notes thereon may be of interest.

It was at the end of April or beginning of May, 1874, that my late mother found a female at rest on an apple bough in the Whitty Brook Orchard. Many eggs were obtained, and 64 moths reared the following year. Two pairs were kept for breeding, and the brood has gone on ever since without the introduction of any fresh blood, with the exception that in the year 1887 my friend, Dr J. H. Wood, of Tarrington, captured a larva which he sent to my mother. The

following year it produced a male, which was introduced into the breeding cages. Below I append a summary of the result of the 37 years in-breeding, including the number of pairs kept each year so far as I have been able to obtain records of them, but unfortunately they are not quite complete.

Last year (1910) 86 moths were obtained and eight pairs kept. It will be remembered that the month of April was cold and wet and not favourable for breeding purposes. Four pairs were forced in a warm frame, and over 100 eggs were obtained from them. From the four other pairs only 20 eggs were obtained, owing to a cold spell. My sister, being about to leave England for Canada, Mr. Farn kindly undertook to take charge of some of the ova, and the 100 eggs were sent to him. Unfortunately disease attacked the larvæ when nearly full fed, and many died, and only 11 moths were reared in 1911, seven males and four females. Ten of the 20 later eggs were sent to the Rev. A. H. Snowden, who reared four larvæ, which produced one male and one female in 1911. The other ten eggs were taken by my sister to Canada, and nine larvæ were fed up, but some pest got into the case, and only three escaped destruction, and these produced three males in 1911. All the five females, four from Mr. Farn and one from Mr. Snowden, were kept, and four of them laid ova, but all infertile, owing probably to the spell of exceedingly cold weather that we had in April this year. The following is the list above referred to:—

- 1875— 64 moths were reared from them, two pairs being kept for breeding.
- 1876— 63 moths bred, and two pairs kept.
- 1877— 42 moths bred (?)
- 1878— 70 moths bred, several pairs.
- 1879— 90 moths bred, four pairs.
- 1880— 100 moths bred, many pairs.
- 1881— 134 moths bred, many pairs.
- 1882— 70 moths bred, six pairs.
- 1883— 32 moths bred, no record.
- 1884— 13 moths bred, three pairs.
- 1885— 18 moths bred, four pairs.
- 1886— 25 moths bred, several pairs.
- 1887— 19 moths bred, three pairs.
- 1888— 41 moths bred, many pairs.
- 1889— 82 moths bred, many pairs.
- 1890— 90 males one female moth bred, laid about three dozen eggs infertile, alas! alas! (Note by Mrs. Hutchinson.) Note added, "Joy, the ova hatched!"
- 1891— 46 moths bred, four pairs.

- 1892— 92 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1893— 63 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1894—190 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1895—204 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1896—282 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1897—169 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1898—203 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1899—152 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1900— 54 moths bred, many pairs.  
 1901—220 moths bred, of which 10 were crippled and 24 kept for laying.  
 1902—No record to be found.  
 1903— 91 moths bred.  
 1904—No record. 300 to 400 eggs were obtained, but the majority were killed by a spell of very cold weather when hatching.  
 1905— 70 moths bred.  
 1906— 60 moths bred, and six pairs kept.  
 1907—Over 100 (?) moths bred, and eight pairs kept.  
 1908— 9 moths bred, only two females.  
 1909— 37 moths bred, and six pairs kept.  
 1910— 86 moths bred, and eight pairs kept, four of which were forced in warm frame, and over 100 eggs were laid. Four later pairs only laid 20 or so eggs in very cold weather.

The lesson to be drawn from this, which must be a record case of in-breeding, is, I think, that climatic influences at the breeding season have more to do than anything else with number of insects that occur in the following year. No doubt the banding of apple trees does some good, but I think that in years when the weather is favourable, the common species, such as the winter moth and others, will always be prolific, and I feel sure that the best banding that fruit growers can have round their fruit plantations is the good old-fashioned hawthorn hedge, which is the natural food plant of all species that feed on apple, plum trees, etc., the hard cropping of the hedges driving the moths on to the fruit trees.

#### VALUABLE COLLECTIONS.

Subsequently Mr. T. Hutchinson produced a large volume of letters, manuscripts, and other documents. Letters were shewn and read from Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge, Sam Rogers, Charles Lamb, and many others. Mr. Hutchinson also brought forth some manuscripts of Wordsworth's poems and sonnets, a letter by B. R. Haydon, the painter, referring to his financial difficulties, with an acknowledgment signed by an etching of his own head. A letter from Richard Cobden regretting his inability to attend the

laying of the foundation stone of the Crystal Palace, a note by Mrs. Dew, of Whitney Court, to John Monkhouse, giving information of Bonaparte's surrender to Captain Maitland of the "Bellerophon"; a copy of the "London Gazette," dated April 24th, 1746, giving an account of the victory of the battle of Culloden; a letter from Samuel Taylor Coleridge, dated August 19th, 1801, in doggerel verse to two ladies; a hymn composed by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in his own handwriting for his two sons, Hartley and Derwent, and a print, giving full particulars of every round (there were 76 of them) in the fight between Tom Spring, of Herefordshire fame, and Nat Langan, for the championship and one thousand pounds at Chichester on Tuesday, June 8th, 1824. Wordsworth's stick was also shewn, with his name on it, and in the house were seen Carruthers' original picture of Wordsworth, a couple of horse-shoes which were found in the old Roman road in the neighbourhood, one of which Mr. Jack pronounced to be Roman, and many works of art. Outside on tables the members were invited to inspect a wonderful collection of Lepidoptera made by the late Mrs. Hutchinson. There are four cabinets of 68 drawers, and the collection numbers about 15,000 specimens. Many of the butterflies were pointed out by the Secretary, including the *Pieris crataegi*, the black-veined white which is now extinct in the neighbourhood, several of which were caught at Grantsfield years ago; specimens of *Polyommatus Dispar*, the large copper, the *Hycæna acis*, one of the blues which was recorded by Edward Newman, as occurring sixty or seventy years ago at the Lower Bache, close by where the members of the Club had been that morning, but of recent years it has not been found; the *Sphinx Convolvuli*, with regard to which Mr. Hutchinson mentioned that he had caught as many as twenty-five in the garden of Grantsfield in one year, but in recent years they had not been observed; the *Deilephila Galii*, which he took in the garden; the *Deiopeia Pulchella*, which has occurred near Hereford; *Eupithecia Consignata*, and *Ysotrophia Asperella*, perhaps the rarest moth in the collection, which it is believed for many years has only been taken in the neighbourhood of Grantsfield. Altogether the long stay at Grantsfield was a most profitable one.

The PRESIDENT said before they left Grantsfield the least he could do on behalf of the members was to thank Miss Hutchinson for her extreme kindness in welcoming them that day. They had not only seen a beautiful collection of moths and butterflies and other valuable and interesting possessions, but as one member had happily observed, Miss Hutchinson had prepared for them the most beautiful view they had seen up to the present. He alluded to the view behind him (the refreshment tables).



Mr. T. HUTCHINSON acknowledged the thanks on behalf of his sister, and said this was not the first time the members of the Woolhope Club had been to Grantsfield. They first visited the place in the year 1854, and on that occasion almost the same route was taken. A curious stone, with traces of the footprints of some antediluvian animal, was then found in a quarry at Pudleston, and that stone was at the present time in the museum at Worcester. That was the first time he (the speaker) went with the members of the Woolhope Club. The members again had a visit in 1884, and he hoped they would meet at Grantsfield on future occasions (applause).

#### ADAM DECORATIONS.

At 2-15 the members left Grantsfield and proceeded through Stockton along the Ride and by Rakefield Barn to Berrington Hall, a distance of three miles. By the kind invitation of Sir Fredk. Cawley, Bart., M.P., we were allowed to inspect the interior of the Hall, the entrance hall and reception rooms of which contain some beautiful examples of Adam decoration. The floor of the entrance hall is laid with marble, and on the walls were four pieces of exquisite tapestry work. The company were hospitably entertained in the absence of Sir Frederick Cawley by his housekeeper, and we were seated on some very fine Chippendale chairs, while attention was called to some grand oak furniture and oil paintings depicting scenes associated with the life of the great Lord Rodney. He and his descendants occupied Berrington Hall until Sir Frederick Cawley became the purchaser. Outside on the lawn we measured an ash tree. It was fifteen feet in circumference five feet from the ground and covers a large space, being well formed. Afterwards we proceeded through the park to an immense lake and were conducted by a keeper to the island, which contains the largest heronry in the county. A few herons' nests were observed and also one heron was seen in flight. The keeper said there were eight or nine nests this year, and that after the young birds had flown 38 herons were seen at one time by the side of the lake. There were twenty-two nests the last time the Club visited the heronry. As a rule a heron lays about five eggs. The keeper also informed us that there had been five common sand pipers on the lake and that they had bred there this year. One was observed on the footbridge leading to the island, attention being called to it by the Secretary. After leaving the island we proceeded to the Park Farm, about a mile away, where the carriages were in waiting to convey us to Leominster. It was decided to send a letter of thanks to Sir Frederick Cawley. The whole route was a rich field for the botanist and entomologist.

#### CLUB BUSINESS.

Dinner was provided at the Royal Oak Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford's catering giving every satisfaction.

The PRESIDENT gave the health of the King.

The SECRETARY reported that the following members had been elected: Mr. F. T. Carver, Hereford; Mr. H. Davies, Hereford; Dr. Dickenson, Hereford; Mr. W. C. Gethen, Hereford; Rev. H. H. Gibbon, Glasbury; Mr. R. Griffiths, Hay; Mr. T. A. Matthews, Hereford; and Mr. Arthur Stewart Williams, Pontywall, Talgarth, Chief Constable of Breconshire. Others proposed were Mr. A. Weaver, Leominster; Mr. W. T. Kerr, Hereford; and the Rev. Canon Griffiths, Clyro. Proceeding, the Secretary reported that on May 28th he saw a curlew fly across his house on Aylstone Hill, Hereford, and on June 5th he saw five curlews at the same time and heard another in the meadows close to Leominster. A new bloom had been found in Kimbolton—at least it was new to the district. It was known as the Frog orchid. He had been asked a question with regard to the heronries of Herefordshire, and understood that the one at Moccas was not going now. He was also afraid that the one at Tyberton was now extinct. There might be one on the Shobdon marshes, and he understood there was one at Rotherwas.

Mr. R. H. GEORGE read the following paper:—

#### NOTES ON KIMBOLTON, STOCKTON, AND BERRINGTON.

##### KIMBOLTON.

Kimbleton, or, as it was originally called, Kenelmbaldton, is said to have been founded by Kenembald, a descendant of the Kings of Mercia, soon after the accession of Edward the Confessor. The castle on Eaton Hill is attributed to Merowald, King of West Mercia, circa 675-680, the hero of the legend of the lion, the founder of the Nunnery of Leominster, and probably of the town also. The traditional name Comfordt or Comfor Castle has been corrupted into Comfort Castle. Like most early Saxon fortresses, it was probably a wooden structure protected by earthworks and timbers, but it appears to have been a place of considerable strength when Griffiths, Prince of Wales, assaulted and took the town of Leominster in 1055. Prince Griffith, after defeating the English at Leominster, marched to Hereford, which he sacked, burning the relics of St. Ethelbert and slaying the bishop and his canons. He was soon after defeated

by Earl Harold (afterwards King Harold), with the assistance of Ranulph, Earl of Hereford, and the men of Leominster who had risen against the invaders.

#### STOCKTON.

Stockton was one of the sixteen members of the great Manor of Leominster. As its name shows, it was one of the stockaded towns or fortified places of which there are so many instances on the borders, and which bear such designations as Stoke, Stockton, Stocking, etc. "The Bury" was anciently used as a grange for the Priory of Leominster, and one of the four Courts Baron was held there. The house referred to is that which has recently been known as "Stocktonbury," and not that called the Little Bury.

#### HAMNISH CLIFFORD.

Hamnish Clifford was one of the possessions of Sir Walter de Clifford, father of Fair Rosamond, the mistress of King Henry II. Their two sons, William and Geoffrey, greatly distinguished themselves on the side of the King in the rebellion in the north raised by Queen Eleanor against her husband. William, surnamed Longespe married the heiress of the Earl of Salisbury, and became the ancestor of the Longespees, Earls of Salisbury. Geoffrey was elected Bishop of Lincoln, although he was only twenty years of age and a layman. He was unable to obtain confirmation of his election on account of his youth, but he, nevertheless, received the revenues of the see for seven years, when the Pope ordered him to resign the see to take orders.

He resigned the bishopric and acted as Chancellor up to the death of King Henry, but he must have taken orders subsequently, for he was chosen Archbishop of York in the reign of Richard I.

#### BERRINGTON.

Berrington is in the parish of Eye, which parish had some very unusual peculiarities. Eye is the name of the ecclesiastical parish, but there is no village bearing that name, which can only properly be applied as a place name, to the church, the vicarage, and the adjoining farm. The parish is divided into two distinct manors, and is so divided for all purposes except matters ecclesiastical: one containing Eye, Ashton, and Moreton, of which Sir Frederick Cawley, Bart, M.P., is the lord, and that of Luston, of which Mr. Kevill Davies, of Croft Castle, is the lord.

#### BERRINGTON HALL.

Berrington Hall is situated in a beautifully timbered park of about 400 acres, in which is a lake about twenty acres in extent. From the 14th century it belonged to the Cornewall family, a member of which was created Lord Fanhope, who had a leading command at the battle of Agincourt, and whose praises were sung by Drayton in his "Polyolbion" and "Battle of Agincourt." Berrington was sold to the Right Hon. Thomas Harley, Alderman of London and afterwards Lord Mayor, in 1787, who built the present Berrington Hall. His eldest daughter married the second Baron Rodney and so brought it into the possession of the Rodney family. It was sold by the late Lord Rodney to the present owner, to whom we are indebted for permission to visit Berrington to-day.

The first Lord Rodney, who was then Sir George Rodney, was the victor in the great naval battle against the French and Spaniards on April 12th, 1782, when, for the first time, the idea of breaking the line was acted upon, and which was adopted with signal success by Collingwood and Nelson. For this victory Sir George Rodney was raised to the peerage and received the thanks of Parliament. It was at a period when the fortunes of England were at their lowest ebb, and it is not too much to say that Rodney saved his country.

The American Colonies had recently defeated us and won their independence, and Jamaica and the West Indies would have been at the mercy of the French and Spaniards had they won the battle. They had already taken possession of many of our Colonial possessions, and their ships had even sailed to and fro in the English Channel and threatened our shores and coast towns. Our position was so hopeless that we had sued for peace and our enemies thought they could dictate their own terms to us. From this humiliating position the country was saved by Rodney's victory—largely due to his tactics of breaking the enemies' line.

The Spanish guns which used to be in front of the Hall were, I believe, removed to Brampton Bryan Hall.

#### EYE.

Eye, which means a place of waters, belonged at one time to the Abbey of Reading, under whose Abbot it was held by the family of De Eye in the reign of Henry III. Walter de Eye in the reign of Henry VII. left a daughter and heiress, who married a Blount, so carrying it into that family. In Tudor times it was taken possession of under a mortgage and afterwards sold to Sir Ferdinando

Georges, who was one of the custodians of Mary Queen of Scots. It remained in the possession of the Georges until it was sold to the Right Hon. Thomas Harley, of Berrington, in 1787.

There are several monuments in Eye Church to the knightly family of Georges, and some of this family represented Leominster in Parliament.

A curious error has arisen in the statement that a priory of canons was removed here from Shobdon, where they had been introduced by Sir Oliver de Merlimond, chief steward to Lord Hugh de Mortimer, of Wigmore, in the reign of King Stephen. As the place to which they removed is described as near Aymestrey and the river Lugg it is obvious that it could not have been this Eye. In my paper on "Wigmore and West Border" I have gone into this question fully, and I think there can be no doubt that the place described in the Norman-French as L'Eye is that which we now call Lye, near Aymestrey. The following is a translation of the passage in the Norman-French History of the Foundation of Wigmore Abbey:—

"As soon as Brother Henry peaceably possessed the town of Shobdon, he began to find out that the place was a great distance from water, of which they needed much, so he decided to remove from there to Aymestrey in a place called Lye (L'Eye) close by the river Lugg, which seemed to be a very convenient place for them to live."

From this it is quite impossible that the place could be Eye, near Berrington, while Lye exactly fits in with the description. It is strange such a very manifest error has not been corrected before.

The SECRETARY asked if the Blounts were, until a few years ago, the owners of land at Orleton, and being answered in the affirmative, he said arising out of Mr. George's paper there were three Burys—Forbury, Bury, and Little Bury. The Bury was a farmhouse, celebrated of late years as being the birthplace of the renowned Hereford bull Lord Wilton, which was knocked down for 4,000 gs., but there was a mistake, and it was resold for 1,000 gs. The Little Bury was the house they had passed.

#### THE CROSSBILL

The President read a paper on the breeding of the Crossbill in Radnorshire. He said—This bird has generally been regarded as a winter visitant only. It comes over some years in great numbers whilst in other years it is very scarce. It arrives very early in the

fall and singularly enough leaves us very late. In the winter of 1887-8 there were great flocks all over the county of Brecon, some staying until quite late in the spring of 1888. In 1866 they were very plentiful near Brecon and one hen stayed about my house until April, the others having left long before, but I don't think she bred. I expressed the hope at the time that at some future date the late stayers may breed with us, especially as the late Howard Saunders says they frequently breed in February or March; and at last it seems there is no doubt that my wish has been gratified. As it is possible, though not probable, that some of my hearers may not know the bird, I hope I may be pardoned for describing it. It is a small bird about the size of a hawfinch, with a short tail like that bird, and very like a parrot in its movements when feeding; it takes its name from the ends of its powerful bill being crossed at the extremity, which enables it to extract the seeds on the fir cones which is its usual and principal food. The adult cock is a dull crimson, which varies much in different individuals and sometimes, though rarely, a beautiful orange; the female is much quieter in colour, being a dull grey green with a very slight touch of orange. Last year I received a letter from that very good naturalist Mr. C. Venables Llewellyn, of Llysdinam, Newbridge-on-Wye, Radnorshire, stating that the crossbills had nested and reared their young near the bog at Newbridge-on-Wye. As this was the first accredited instance of their breeding in South Wales I was naturally anxious to verify it in every particular before making it public, and I therefore wrote to Mr. Venables Llewellyn for further particulars; he replied that he and a friend visited the bog in May, 1910, about the 10th, and saw both the old birds and their young, four or five in number. He added it was quite easy to distinguish the young from the old birds, in fact a slight awkwardness drew his attention to the difference between the old and young, and he should say the young were as nearly full grown as possible. He watched them about 25 feet away with a strong binocular for 20 minutes or more. The young birds showed some nestling feathers and he added "there is no manner of doubt but that they were young." Although I was quite satisfied of the absolute correctness of these particulars, still as he had mentioned that the Rev. Mr. Edmond Owen, of Llandwedd, near Builth, had also gone up to the bog and observed these birds, I thought it best to write and ask him to give me his experience, and he was kind enough on January 31st this year to write me the following additional particulars. On May 20th, 1910, he said he went to the fir plantation south-west of the bog at Newbridge-on-Wye, and soon observed the birds; he counted six but he thinks the whole party was seven. With the exception of the cock bird, which was highly coloured, they were all like the female, a greenish grey; they were nipping the cones which fell in numbers,



and paid little heed to my presence, but went on persistently with their work, calling out "sip," "sip," "sip," Mr. Howard Saunders gives the note as "gip," "gip," "gip," "chi," "chi," but both evidently describe the same note. He went on to say the young flew with confidence and vigour, and must have been at least a month on the wing. Allowing, he adds, another five weeks for building, laying and incubation, the birds must have commenced building operations about March 10th. The birds were afterwards observed in this locality by several other naturalists. Mr. Edmondson Owen is well known as an ornithologist, and his additional evidence must, I am sure, seem to you most satisfactory. In sending the above in a much shorter form to the "Field," a correspondent said that although there was no doubt that young Crossbills were seen there, still that was no evidence that they nested there. That is correct as far as it goes, but I wrote to Mr. Venables Llewellyn and Mr. Edmondson Owen and they are both of opinion from the size of the young birds and from the state of their plumage that they must have been bred in the immediate neighbourhood, and that it was impossible for the young birds to have come any distance, and although the nest was not discovered, taking all the facts into consideration I think, and I hope you will think, that the old birds nested close to that locality. The Naturalist Editor of the "Field" informs me that two or three pairs nested in some larches in Penmaenmawr, Carnarvonshire, in 1890, and is recorded by Mr. Pentland in the "Zoologist," 1899, p. 182; and Mr. Forrest, who is the hon. secretary and curator of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, states in his "Fauna of North Wales," on the authority of the late Mr. W. E. Beckwith, a very good observer, that in 1880 a pair of these birds nested in a fir tree at Llanyblodwell in Montgomeryshire. Naturally I felt very interested to know if the birds had revisited their old haunts this year, and on inquiring from Mr. Venables Llewellyn I got a letter from him, June 25th, in which he states: "I am sorry to say I have nothing to report this year as to the Crossbills; I kept a good lookout and went all round quite six different times during April and May, to see if I could find any, but with no result whatever, and I am satisfied that those birds were not present in those fir woods of which there are several (chiefly strips) within half a mile of Newbridge bog. There are, of course, other fir woods in the district, and one can never be certain that such birds as these may not have been present unobserved, but I have heard no rumour of any sort or kind as to their presence this year." In conclusion, I hope nevertheless that this locality may be again revisited next year, and that some of these birds may again be observed nesting there, and I am sure the above somewhat meagre account will be interesting to the club, not only because it is the first known instance of the Crossbill having bred in South Wales, but also from the fact

that the place is within the radius of places which can be visited by our club.

#### PREHISTORIC BURIALS.

Mr. JACK (the Herefordshire county surveyor) said it would be within the recollection of the members of the club that he was asked some time ago to investigate and report as to prehistoric burials in the neighbourhood of Mathon, near Cradley. It was some little time before he could get to the place, and unfortunately when he did get there, he found that several gentlemen had been before him and had almost obliterated what remains there were. He was sorry to find this because he felt sure that the discovery was one of the most important yet made in Herefordshire in connection with pre-historic burials. He had sought diligently through the records but could only find two other instances of ancient burials described, one at St. Weonard's and the other at Howton, near Pontrilas. These two mounds were undoubtedly sepulchral mounds. He had had the pleasure of examining other mounds in the neighbourhood of Brampton Bryan, and one of these was undoubtedly a tumulus. An amusing incident occurred here. An old man hobbled along, and said, "I know what you are looking for. The gentleman you are looking for has been found before [loud laughter]. He was found when I was a boy," and I had his spear." That was sufficient evidence to show that it was a bona fide tumulus. The burials at Mathon were somewhat extraordinary, from what he could gather. The bodies were buried in two parallel lines, the feet to the East. The bodies were three feet apart, and three feet six inches from the surface. An interesting point was that with each body was discovered an urn, and the urn fixed the period at which the burials were made. It was somewhere between 400 and 500 B.C. The urns, or what was left of them, were particularly interesting. He could only find small fragments; they were apparently sun dried and distinctly British in character. About half an inch from the rim was a rudely ornamented band. Mr. Hodges, the tenant, assured him that the skull bones were placed inside the urn, or rather, as he put it, that the man's head was inside the urn. He (the speaker) found no evidence of that. From what he could gather from the size of the urns, he should think that could not possibly be so. That the urns were placed there with the heads was certain. They were surrounded by roughly hewn stones. He could not find any trace of weapon or spear, but there was a small ornament of bronze found. It seemed to him a great pity that a discovery of this kind could not have been closely investigated, so as to obtain every detail, because had such detail been obtained, he felt sure that the information would have been of greatest interest. Seeing that they had this

Club, which had done so much good work in the past, it made one feel very jealous as to the future; and he thought that if anything was found some member or members should have an opportunity of making close investigations before the remains were disturbed. If such a course was not followed, he was afraid that many more interesting discoveries would be lost to them.

The PRESIDENT said he had seen tumuli opened in Wiltshire, and in every case they found there large stones, generally three arranged like the letter H, with fragments of horns of red deer. There were also fragments of skulls. If he remembered aright there were also bones of the wild boar or swine. He had seen bones out of middens in Scotland, they were those of the Great Auk now extinct, and they all showed symptoms of burning.

Mr. JACK said Herefordshire was not very rich in tumuli, but what there were should be carefully examined, because it was the only means of forming a correct idea of some of the habits of their ancestors.

Mr. WATKINS said that recently when excavating for the purpose of making additions to the Free Library, they came to what was known as the King's ditch, and in it were found some tusks of wild boar, and some pieces of deer's horns, but he did not know whether they were those of the Red deer or Fallow deer.

The PRESIDENT said he thought the horns must have been those of a red deer, because fallow deer were introduced into this country, where he could not say, whilst the red deer was indigenous.

Leominster was left at 7.30 p.m. and Hereford reached about eight o'clock, the day having been one of the most enjoyable in the history of the club.

## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

THIRD FIELD MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 1911.

### A DAY IN THE LAND OF SHAKESPEARE.

The Third Field Meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, which took place on Thursday was Ladies' day, and Stratford-on-Avon was visited. Lowering clouds threatened the party numbering just over 30, when they left Hereford in a special coach attached to the 8.43 a.m. train, and the mist-capped Malverns did not look inviting as we passed beneath them. Worcester was reached about 9.30, and there was a rather tedious wait of about 45 minutes. Eventually we were carried on through the beautiful fruit-growing districts of Pershore and Evesham, which were bathed in glorious sunshine. We saw in the distance the stately English home of the exiled Orleans family, and arrived at Honeybourne about 11.8 o'clock. There again our coach was disconnected, and we were taken up by another train which landed us at Stratford at 11.50 a.m.

On alighting from the train we were met by Mr. Oliver Baker, a resident of Stratford, and owner of one of the oldest, one of the most charming, and one of the most interesting houses from all points of view in the delightful town of the bard. Quiet and dignified as became a town which gave birth to such a genius, it appeared as though nothing could ruffle its serenity. Visitors coming, visitors going, visitors in the streets, on the river, in fact visitors everywhere, were there, including many Americans eager to honour the memory of the great poet of the Home Land.

To go back a little, we were conducted by Mr. Baker, first of all, to the house where Shakespeare was born. Here everyone was struck with the excellent preservation of the building. In fact, everything Shakespearean is wonderfully well preserved in the town. This house has even a further claim upon the interest of the visitor than the fact that Shakespeare was born there, for is it not a wonderful connecting link of the present with the days of the great Elizabeth? Upstairs there is a room of entrancing interest, the walls, roof, and leaded window-panes being covered with the autographs of visitors, the most notable including those of Robert Browning, Sir Walter

Scott, and Carlyle. Below is the museum, containing relics of untold value. The garden forms a delightful retreat. Leaving here the visitors walked through the town to Sheep Street, where, at the Golden Bee Tea Rooms, they enjoyed an excellent luncheon in an old, timbered and low-roofed room, and furnished with solid and carved oak tables. The members present were as follows: Mr. Cambridge Phillips (president), Mr. H. W. Apperley, Mr. E. J. Baker, Mr. W. Mortimer Baylis, Mr. F. C. Brown, Mr. W. M. Brown, Mr. G. Child, the Rev. W. S. Clarke, Mr. H. Easton, Mr. R. H. George, Mr. G. H. Jack, the Rev. Preb. W. H. Lambert, Mr. A. H. Lamont, Mr. W. M. Wilson, the Rev. C. A. Treherne, Mr. T. Hutchinson (hon. secretary), and Mr. James Pilley (assistant secretary). The visitors included Mrs. R. T. Griffiths, Mrs. W. Mortimer Baylis, Mrs. E. J. Baker, Miss Berrow, Mrs. A. H. Lamont, Miss Easton, Miss Hatton, Mrs. W. M. Wilson, Mr. W. Boycott, Mrs. C. A. Treherne, Miss Spender, Mr. R. S. Clarke, Mr. Oliver Baker, and Mr. W. Carman (*Hereford Times*).

Luncheon over, the PRESIDENT announced that the following had been elected members of the club: Mr. Alfred Weaver, Leominster, proposed by Mr. C. E. A. Moore, and seconded by Mr. G. J. Abell; Mr. W. Talbot Kerr, Hereford, proposed by Mr. H. E. Jones and seconded by Mr. G. H. Jack; the Rev. Canon Griffiths, Clyro Rectory, Hay.

The HON. SECRETARY next stated that the following had been nominated for membership, and would come on for election at the next meeting: Mr. J. C. McKay, Aylstone Hill, Hereford, proposed by Mr. T. Hutchinson and seconded by Mr. G. H. Jack; the Rev. G. H. Powell, Dorstone, proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. T. Hutchinson; and the Rev. Gwynne Vaughan, proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. T. Hutchinson. He went on to say that he was sure the members of the Woolhope Club would like to accord the heartiest possible vote of thanks to Mr. Baker for meeting them, and so kindly conducting them over the places of interest (hear, hear). 'What they would have done without his assistance he was unable to say. On his own behalf he also wished to thank Mr. Baker for the assistance he gave him when he came over to Stratford to make arrangements for the visit (applause).

Mr. BAKER, in reply, said that everything he had done he did with very great pleasure indeed.

The party recommenced their peregrinations, and skirting the public gardens and passing the Memorial Theatre, came to "The Dower House," which was bought by Mr. Baker from Mrs. Flower. Part of it is of the twentieth century, and in it is an exceedingly fine

14th century staircase. It is one of the oldest houses in Stratford, and Mr. Baker is of the opinion that it was formerly the Manor House. Unfortunately, the party were unable to inspect the interior of the house owing to it being occupied by some American visitors. We afterwards entered the church between the avenue of fine lime trees over a century old. The resting place of Shakespeare's remains within the chancel was visited, and the font at which he was baptised, and the church register in which his birth is recorded were inspected. Returning, while a small section of the party went to Shottery to visit Anne Hathaway's cottage, the major portion went through the delightful gardens of the vicarage by the kind permission of the Rev. Canon Melville. We entered the Memorial Theatre, and feasted the eyes on the many treasures the library contains, and afterwards visited Glopton Bridge, which spans the Avon by 14 pointed arches, the Grammar School, the site of "New House," where Shakespeare ended his days, Harvard House, Miss Marie Corelli's beautiful residence, the Guildhall and the Townhall. Returning to the station, we left by train about 4.45, and arrived at Hereford about 7.40 p.m., after a most enjoyable and instructive day, and one to be long remembered by those who formed the party.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

FOURTH FIELD MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 1911.

### WELLINGTON HEATH AND BOSBURY.

The members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club are sorry the field meetings of the present season have been brought to a close. The last took place on Tuesday, Wellington Heath and Bosbury being the appointed places. Said one enthusiast, "I could do with an outing similar to this once a fortnight." He did not say whether he was alluding to the winter as well as the summer months. In any case there is a growing feeling that a season's outings might very well be extended from four to six. Mr. C. J. Lilwall, who resides in the Hay district, thought that an early visit should be paid to the ruins of Crasswall Priory, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and was subordinate to the order of Grandmount, in Normandy. Since the last field meeting at this historic spot, Mr. Lilwall has been busy excavating, and he reports a number of interesting finds, which should receive the attention of the members in general. Perhaps the suggestion will be borne in mind for next season. Tuesday's programme provided the greatest enjoyment, from educational and health-giving points of view. We crossed some of the county's most fertile land, in which there were many scenic beauties mixed with archaeological and geological attractions.

Our company included the President (Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips), one of the vice-presidents (Preb. H. T. Williamson), several members of the central Committee (Mr. R. Clarke, Preb. W. H. Lambert, and Mr. A. H. Lamont, the hon. secretary (Mr. T. Hutchinson), who works so hard for the welfare of the club, and the following: Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Rev. P. H. Fernandez, Mr. J. Bucknell Fowler, Mr. R. H. George, Rev. Hugh A. Gillow, Mr. C. J. Lilwall, Rev. H. B. D. Marshall, Rev. W. E. T. Morgan, Captain R. Morgan, Mr. J. T. Pitt, Rev. W. H. Murray Ragg, Mr. H. Southall, Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan, Mr. J. H. Wale, Mr. H. A. Wadworth, Rev. L. W. Richings, Rev. A. H. McLaughlin, Mr. A. P. Small, Mr. J. J. Jackson, Mr. Ralph Cox, Mr. Geoffrey Cox, Dr. Readman, Mr. J. W. Hewitt, Mr. W. H. Woodcock, and Mr. Parrott.

We left Hereford by the 9.55 a.m. train and landed at Ledbury about half-past ten. The weather conditions were very promising, although the forecast was, "Wind between south and west, fresh and gusty at times; changeable, some rain; cooler, but air close." At Ledbury we at once took the road under the guidance of the Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan, vicar of Wellington Heath. Proceeding in Bosbury direction, the walk had not been far when a turn was made to the right, by Messrs Bickham and Richardson's fruit plantations, past Hope End Farm, the residence of Mr. J. W. Hewitt, the well-known Herefordshire barrister and cricketer, and on to the ruins of Hope End Mansion, formerly the residence of the late Mr. C. A. Hewitt, father of Mr. J. W. Hewitt, by whose permission this beautiful estate was crossed. There was only one jarring note, and that was the present pitiable and deplorable state of the one-time elegant mansion, in its well-wooded park of about 900 acres. A fire in April of last year had played terrible havoc, and only the blackened, bare walls, with huge heaps of debris, remained, except for the kitchen and servants' quarters, which were intact. Hope End is partly in the parish of Colwall, and is famous as the scene of many of the writings of Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the greater part of whose girlhood and early life was spent here. We find reminiscences of this district in her "Aurora Leigh" and in some of the minor pieces, especially "The Lost Bower."

The terrace overlooks the lovely dingle where Elizabeth Barrett Browning's house formerly stood, and in the distance can be seen Clive's monument at Eastnor. Hope End is distant about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Ledbury. At the time of the fire the damage was estimated at between £30,000 and £50,000. The late Mr. Hewitt purchased the estate about forty years ago, the house being built in 1874. A member of the party stated that the cost of building was £23,000, and it was insured for £20,000. The fire broke out in the roof and went downwards, the origin being unknown. The mansion was of modern Jacobean design. The lovely mother-o'-pearl doors which formed part of the house built by Mr. E. A. Moulton Barrett were removed to the new mansion and perished in the fire. With regard to the rebuilding of the mansion, Mr. J. W. Hewitt, who kindly took us over the ruins, said the family were at present undecided. The gardens contain some beautiful timber trees and conifers.

Promptly at twelve o'clock the members proceeded from the back of the house by a path leading to the top of Oyster Hill, commanding a magnificent view of the surrounding country. It is about 800ft. above sea level, and we saw Cradley, Bosbury, Coddington, Clee Hill, Radnor Forest, Bromyard Downs, Colwall, the Malverns, the Herefordshire Beacon, the Water Tower at Hereford,

and so on. The following seven counties can be seen from this spot: Worcestershire, Shropshire, Radnorshire, Breconshire, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, and Herefordshire.

At 12.30 the signal was given to commence the walk back through the fields to the lodge gate, and thence by the road to Wellington Heath Vicarage, which was reached about one o'clock. Here we were warmly welcomed and promptly regaled with light refreshments by the kindness of the Rev. F. S. and Mrs. Stooke-Vaughan, assisted by their daughter. A favourite dog seemed almost overjoyed at the visit, going to almost every member of the party and insisting on shaking a paw and being petted.

Before leaving the dining-room, the PRESIDENT said he did not think they ought to leave the hospitable manse of Wellington Heath without returning their grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stooke-Vaughan for the kind way in which they had received them, and for the way in which they had been entertained (hear, hear and applause). He was very proud to call them relations of his, and it was a great pleasure for him to stand there and propose a vote of thanks to them on behalf of the club for the warm reception and excellent luncheon they had received.

Mr. STOOKE-VAUGHAN said on behalf of Mrs. Stooke-Vaughan and himself it was a great pleasure to see them, and he hoped they would all enjoy themselves.

Afterwards the grounds were inspected.

The members of the party seated themselves under shady trees and Mr. Stooke-Vaughan read as follows:—

#### THE CHARMS OF WELLINGTON HEATH.

I have put a few notes together about Wellington Heath, but first of all I should like to give a hearty welcome to the members of the Woolhope Club to Wellington Heath and the great pleasure it gives Mrs. Stooke-Vaughan and myself to see you all here. Wellington Heath may well be called Kirjath Jearim—a place of woods, for whichever way you look you are faced by woods, which add much to the beauty of the scenery. It is 517 feet above the sea—that is, the arrow mark on the church is that height. Some part of it is higher. Next as to its name, Wellington Heath. About one mile from here is Prior's Court, which was formerly called Wellington Court. Quite possibly its oldest name was Prior's, and then became Wellington, and lastly reverted to its old name. That may have given the name to the Heath, or it might have been that the Heath

gave the name Wellington to Prior's Court. On a brass in Ledbury Church, copied by Mr. John Ballard, is the following:—

Here lyeth buried the Body of  
John Hayward, of Wellington Court,  
Alias Prior's Court in Coventy of Heriff,  
Esqr., who deceased the XXIII.  
of April, ano Domine, 1614.

The brass represents a figure in armour, with ruff and with sword and clasped hands. So here we have both the names, Prior's being probably the older. It is said that there are signs of a burying place on one side of the Court. Next as to the Heath; it was formerly a Heath, though there are not many signs of it left now, but in the churchyard, on the top of some of the graves, you will see some heath growing from the soil that has been got out and put on the top. It was once common-land, and the main road through the village is still called the Common. Squatters came from Wales to help in the harvest and then remained and claimed possession of their land, as was the case with the Malvern Hills, and finally their land was secured to them by the Enclosure Act of 1814, and now what was once a common has, by the industry of the people, been turned into a garden, for Wellington Heath has always been noted for its good gardens, although this year they do not present their usual appearance owing to the drought. Again, it is noted for its roses, some of the best roses being grown here by Dickson & Co., under the superintendence of Mr. Walter Drew, a native of the place. Wellington Heath was formerly a part of Ledbury both for ecclesiastical and civil purposes. The church was built in the year 1840 through the efforts of Mr. Heywood, a former owner of Hope End, who is buried in the churchyard, and to whose memory a brass has been placed in the church. Until the year 1878 it was a very plain building, rectangular, with a small recess for the altar, without any vestry, chancel, or arches, when it was improved, being too well-built to be taken down. It is said to have been the first church in the diocese with open seats, and I believe it was the first to have tubular bells (eight) and an installation of petrol gas. It is built of red sandstone from the immediate neighbourhood. One hill in Wellington Heath bears the name of Ochre Hill, from the colour of the soil. Wellington Heath was separated from Ledbury for civil purposes in 1894. Although Hope End is not in the parish of Wellington Heath, yet it has always been closely associated with it, and Mrs. Barrett Browning was a frequent visitor at the cottages in Wellington Heath, and it was only last year an old woman of 94 died who remembered her visits very well. The former house, Hope End, was built by her father, Mr. Barrett, an Eastern merchant, with minarets and

crescents. Mrs. Barrett Browning well describes the scenery of the parish in these words:—

Green the land is where my daily  
Steps in jocund childhood played,  
Dimpled close with hill and valley,  
Dappled very close with shade ;

Summer-snow of apple-blossom running up from glade to glade.

Though not born at Hope End, but at Coxhoe Hall, Durham, yet she passed her childhood days here till the age of twenty. "Aurora Leigh" was written under a tree in the park. The memorial to her in Ledbury, containing a free library and public rooms, is a striking feature of the town, erected by the energy of Mr. Stephens.

Though not a botanist myself, our schoolmaster, Mr. Way, who does much to encourage the children in natural history, has given me the following list of scarce plants in the neighbourhood: Arrow Head (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*), Skull-cap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), Bird's Nest orchid (*Listera Nidus-avis*), Bee orchid (*Ophrys*), Butterfly orchid (*Hibernaria bifolia*), Twyblade (*Listera ovata*), Herb paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Viper's buglos (*Echium vulgare*), Helleborine *Epipactis*, Cat mint (*Nepeta cataria*), Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*), Money wort (*Lysimachia nummularia*) Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*), Good King Henry (*Chenopodium Bonus Henricus*), and one plant which he would be glad if some botanist present would name. Please excuse the imperfection of these few notes; I am an ignoramus as far as natural history is concerned, and although for many years I have enjoyed the benefits of the Woolhope Club, I am sorry I am unable to add anything to its knowledge.

As evidence of the mildness of the climate at this spot, it should be stated that a very large fuchsia grows out on one of the terraces, summer and winter, and it was seen in beautiful flower. Many choice trees were examined. The Vicar stated that the nightingale was frequently heard there.

The HON. SECRETARY said that this bird was spreading considerably throughout the county. Nests had been found even within the liberties of the city of Hereford.

MR. RICHINGS related an amusing story. A man was asked, "Did you hear the nightingale?" and he replied, "What's that, sir?" "Oh," answered the interrogator, "It's a bird that sings at night," and he was astonished by the answer, "We've caught lots of them, sir, but we mostly call them owls."

At 1.45 the walk was resumed by the road, and afterwards by a footpath through the fields to Bosbury. On the way we came across an oak 18ft. 4in. in measurement 5ft. from the ground. It was regarded as a very good specimen in the open fields. The distance to Bosbury was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the village was reached at 2.45. Here the members were met by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Harvey, and a visit was first paid to the Crown Inn, formerly the mansion of the Harford family. An inspection was made of the beautiful panelled room, a fee of twopence being charged by the landlord for admission.

#### A BEAUTIFUL OAK ROOM.

This room was part of a house occupied by the steward of the manor, Richard Harford, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The date 1571 was observed in the centre over the fireplace, with the initials "R.H." and "M.H." on either side. On the massive chimneypiece were originally four shields, but one is missing. Those remaining are (1) Arms of the Wrottesley family; (2) crest and arms of Scrope, Earl of Wiltshire; (3) arms of Fox, of Bromfield. Three bosses remain in the ceiling; (1) Arms of Bishop Skipp; (2) the Scrope arms; (3) arms of the first Marquis of Winchester. It was stated that Prince Rupert stayed at the Crown Inn on his way to the battle of Worcester, but a member thought a mistake had been made here, and that it must have been the battle of Ledbury.

The PRESIDENT observed that the family of Scrope now resided at Castle Coomb, Wiltshire. Some of the Scropes were writers of works on sport, such as deer-stalking.

#### WEATHER RECORDS.

MR. H. SOUTHALL thought the members would like to hear a little about the weather during the present and preceding years. His records went back a good many years. In the present year, during the 247 days ending August 20th they had 8.02 inches of rain, whereas in the year 1896 there were 8.41 inches. The present had been a remarkable year for great heat, which according to his experience had not been paralleled since the year 1868. In August, this year it registered 93 degrees, and on the same day at Greenwich it registered 100 degrees, whilst in several other places it was 97 degrees. It was very unusual for the heat to continue as long as it had this



year without a break. Almost the whole of the rain that fell was in thunderstorms. It had only rained on 76 days, and the previous smallest number was 94 for the same period of time. A dry year had followed a remarkably wet one. The twelve months ending December 16th last produced 39 inches of rain, that being for 365 days, whereas during the 246 days this year there had been only 8 inches of rain. This showed a remarkable difference, and how compensation took place, for when they had an excessive period of wet weather it was followed by a period of dry, and vice versa. Mr. Southall gave the following statistics:—

#### FIGURES RELATING TO DROUGHT AND RAINFALL AT THE GRAIG, ROSS.

Dry Summers, etc.		Days.	On which	
			rain.	inches.
1870—Feb. 9th to Oct. 6th	—	— 240	62	7.85
1870—Feb. 9th to Oct. 13th	—	— 247	67	9.16
1895—Dec. 17th to	—	—		
1896—Aug 19th — —	—	— 247	75	8.41
1910—Dec. 17th to	—	—		
1911—Aug. 20th — —	—	— 247	76	8.02
1844—April 7th to Aug. 28th	—	— 144	45	3.41
1868—May 29th to Aug. 4th	—	— 68	6	.77
1911—May 27th to Aug. 20th	—	— 86	16	1.62

#### Principal Falls in 1911.

March 12th	—	—	—	0.43
May 2nd and 3rd	—	—	—	0.46
May 10th	—	—	—	0.62
May 26th	—	—	—	0.96
August 21st	—	—	—	0.65

Most of these were thunder showers.

In the churchyard of Holy Trinity, built in the Transition Norman style, with a massive embattled detached tower of the 13th century, we saw the preaching cross near which "Edna Lyall" is buried. The stone was inscribed as follows:—

Ada Ellen Bayly,  
Edna Lyall,  
Feb. 8th, 1903.

"My trust is in the tender mercy of  
God for ever and ever."

#### THE VICAR ON THE HISTORY OF BOSBURY.

The REV. T. W. HARVEY, speaking from the steps of the preaching cross, said he had been asked to act as a sort of showman. He had only been in the parish about three years, so that he had not had time to make any original investigations into the history of the parish or the church. They might know of the book written by the Rev. Samuel Bentley, a former vicar and rural dean, giving the history and description of the parish, and this was a full and carefully prepared account, and his knowledge was entirely dependent upon the information which he gave. It seemed that there was originally a Saxon church at Bosbury, but all that remained now was a font at the west end which was found in the church during the alterations about fifty years ago. According to the Harleian MSS., upon which Mr. Bentley depended, it appeared to have been the See of the early Saxon bishops, and all that remained of the Bishop's Palace was just the ceiling of the Refectory, which was now part of Mr. Lane's residence, adjoining the church. Evidently until about 1075 Bosbury was the See of the diocese, when it was forbidden by a Synod that "Bishop's Sees should lye obscure in mesne and small townes." Bishop Swinfield made it his home for a great part of his time. They would find in a wall of the church the head of this famous bishop, who was appointed about the year 1282. Bishop Swinfield buried his father at Bosbury, but was himself buried in Hereford Cathedral. Thus in those days Bosbury was a very important place. It was evident that the church and the manors belonged to the Bishops. They would find a list of the clergy at the west end, dating back to the year 1200, when Master Swan, our clerk, was appointed by King John, during the vacancy of the Bishopric. He gave him the right to hunt the hare, fox, and wild cat, with dogs, through all the manors, both in forest and warren. The manors were in substance as ancient as the Saxon constitution, though perhaps differing a little in some immaterial circumstances from those that exist at this day. They were partly known to our ancestors even before the Norman Conquest. They had been to the Crown Inn, which was built by Richard Harford in 1571. He was the steward of the manor, and tombs were erected to his memory and that of his father. They were to be seen in the church. The visitors might have noticed the house known as Temple Court, the site of the Preceptory of the Knights Templars, a fraternity which held a position of much importance and influence in the Middle Ages. In country places the head of the house, who was called the preceptor, lived with two or three of the brethren, and usually they had a chapel and their own priest. The privilege of sanctuary was accorded to the Upleadon Preceptory, and instances were on record of criminals having fled for refuge to Temple Court.

The Order was suppressed by the Pope in 1312. The Pope's order was so far obeyed in England that the knights were sent to the Tower of London, and among them were Thomas de Tholouse, the Preceptor of Temple Court, and Thomas de Chamberleyne, one of the brethren. They were afterwards set at liberty and pensioned, and many of the estates of the Templars passed to the "Order of Hospitallers" or "Knights of St. John of Jerusalem." Temple Court was one of these, and was attached to the Commandery or Preceptory of Dinmore, in the county of Hereford. The Knights Hospitallers were a fraternity founded in 1048 by one Gerard. England was one of their most important stations, though, like the Templars, they were not an English order. At the suppression of the monasteries, in the time of Henry VIII., a great amount of unseemly trafficking in Church lands and property took place. However, one John Scudamore, gentleman usher of the King's chamber, one of the surveyors of divers abbeys within the county of Hereford and others appointed to be suppressed, became possessed of a portion of the tithes of Bosbury (those yielded by the Catley township), whether by gift, purchase, or exchange is not known. These tithes were alienated for about 100 years, and might have remained in that condition unto this day but for the considerate act of one of his descendants, John, Lord Scudamore, who restored them to Bosbury and to other parishes in the county by special Act of Parliament. It was rather interesting to find a man asking for an Act of Parliament to restore money to the Church. It was not the usual method. One of his descendants, the present Archdeacon Berkeley L. S. Stanhope, was once vicar of the parish. With regard to the church itself, there were no ruins of the Saxon Church that he could find. The detached tower was Norman, and was supposed to have been built about the beginning of the 12th century. It was almost impregnable at that time. There were six other such towers in the county, and were intended to ward off raiders on the borders. The walls were some six or seven feet deep. There was formerly a spire, obviously not a part of the original tower, and the spire remained until the early part of the 17th century, when it was struck by lightning and remained in a dilapidated condition for some years, subsequently being taken down. There were six bells, inscribed from 1650 to 1680. An immense piece of Silurian rock was discovered under the old cross, on the steps of which he stood, when it was removed about 100 years ago. There was a tradition, although he saw no ground for the assumption, that it was a stone of sacred import, and the cross had been built over it to consecrate it for a Christian purpose. The cross was erected probably about the 14th century. It was said it owes its preservation to the circumstance that a former vicar of Bosbury pleaded for it successfully with the captain of the Parliamentary soldiers who were sent to mutilate it,

the condition being imposed that the words "Honour not the Cross, but honour God for Christ;" should be engraven on it. The letters were not very legible now. Edna Lyall had told the story of the cross, and her grave was close by. Her brother, the Rev. Burges Bayley, was a former vicar, living at Bosbury some eight years ago. People came to Bosbury from all parts of the world because of the information which Edna Lyall disseminated. The porch was probably 14th century, later than the 12th century nave. There was a holy water stoup, which was rather unusual, but it seemed to have been rather clumsily inserted. They would observe the corbel table and 16th century chantry. The chapel was built by Sir Richard Morton, who lived close by. He endowed a grammar school, which was now the boys' school. There was an extremely interesting stone, recording the death of Bishop Swinfield's father, and below it a carved head of the Bishop. The screen was considered to be one of the finest specimens of wooden rood screens that could be seen in England. It was now being restored, and panels were being inserted as a memorial to Edna Lyall. The pulpit and reading desk contained specimens of carved oak panelling supposed to have been brought from Flanders. The first panel of the pulpit on the north represented the adoration of the Magi, the second the Agony in the Garden, the third the Crucifixion, the fourth probably the flight of Hagar and Ishmael. The panel of the reading-desk represented our Lord's baptism.

Subsequently the Vicar took the party over the church, and explained the numerous interesting points.

On leaving the church the members proceeded to Old Court, the site of the ancient Palace of the Bishops of Hereford, and, by permission of Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Lane, inspected the old gateway, the only part of the palace now remaining, and one of the rooms with a fine ceiling. The latter has very fine beams, heavily moulded. It was the roof of the old Refectory.

Afterwards we entered carriages and drove to Ledbury, dinner being served at the Feathers Hotel. The usual business of the club was transacted.

The following members were ballotted for:—Mr. J. C. Mackay, Rev. G. H. Powell and Mr. A. Gwynne-Vaughan. Candidates proposed included the Rev. Hermitage Day, D.D., F.S.A., proposed by Mr. George Marshall, seconded by Captain Morgan. Mr. Spyro Mavrojani, proposed by the President, seconded by the Hon. Secretary. Rev. T. W. Harvey, proposed by the President, seconded by the Hon. Secretary. Mr. J. W. Hewitt, proposed by the Rev. F. S. Stooke-Vaughan, seconded by the President.

The PRESIDENT read a paper on bird notes from Breconshire, Radnorshire and Herefordshire. He said some of the notes had appeared in the "Field," but he reserved the right of using them for the Club. They were as follows:—

#### BIRD NOTES FROM BRECONSHIRE.

A curious case of a blackbird taking possession of a thrush's nest has lately been reported to me. A thrush built its nest in a hawthorn bush at Scethrog, near Brecon, and laid two eggs. A blackbird then took possession of the nest and laid four eggs. What became of the thrush my informant does not know. The hen blackbird sat on the six eggs, hatched them, and reared the four blackbirds and two thrushes to maturity; they were all in the nest the day they flew, and the only difference in their size was that the two thrushes seemed slightly larger than the blackbirds. With regard to the scarcity of summer birds I think it may be taken generally that all warblers are much scarcer than last year. Even the willow warbler, which is usually so plentiful here, is far from common; of the chiff chaff and wood wren I have only seen one of each kind. Spotted flycatcher not nearly so plentiful as usual, whitethroat the same. Of the lesser whitethroat I have seen a solitary specimen, and I have not seen one redstart this year. I have only heard the land-rail in one field near here. Swallows and martins are about as usual, but the swifts are very plentiful. Plenty of bullfinches, but goldfinches are decidedly scarcer. I have seen only one garden warbler. On the other hand I am glad to say that the buzzard has greatly increased in one district of the county.

#### BIRD NOTES FROM RADNORSHIRE.

I have received the following notes from a resident naturalist in Radnorshire which he kindly permits me to publish. The pied flycatcher has much increased in the neighbourhood of Newbridge-on-Wye this year, and has been found nesting all along the banks of the Wye, nearly all of them by the river; this agrees with my observation of this bird near Brecon, where they were usually seen on the banks of the Usk. Nesting boxes have been put up in my informant's garden, and a pair nested in one of them a considerable distance from the river and reared their brood. In 1910 four pairs nested in the boxes and this year no fewer than nine pairs. One nest came to grief owing to the box being blown down, but on June 14th there were forty-five to forty-eight young pied flycatchers being reared by the remaining eight pairs in this garden. An interesting point is that they seem to have displaced the redstarts, for three years ago there were three pairs of redstarts in the boxes and one in a hole in the

wall in this garden; last year also about three pairs, but this year no nest nor has one redstart been seen nearer than 200 yards from the garden. It is also, he says, interesting to observe the different temperament of the tits in the nesting boxes. The great tit allows one to move the box about whilst she is sitting on the nest in it, and usually shows no concern of any kind; the blue and coal tits (both of which nest in the boxes) always go off if the box is moved; but the former sits there whilst one looks in and generally wants to fight, while the coal tit always slips away as soon as the box is touched. This year two coal tits' broods left altogether by June 10th, when none of the other families had left, although the eggs were not laid appreciably earlier. The coal tits' family is not so numerous as the blue, and therefore probably gets fed quicker. Owing to the absence of the redstart the number of species nesting in the boxes this year is reduced to five, viz., the pied flycatcher, the three tits above named and the nuthatch.

#### BIRD NOTES FROM HEREFORDSHIRE.

I have had a cock golden oriole reported to me from two different observers in an orchard at Cusop; whilst acknowledging that this bird has occurred several times in the county of Hereford I was not sufficiently certain in my own mind that it may not have been a bright coloured cock green woodpecker. Singularly enough since this paper was first written, yesterday morning about 6 o'clock, my youngest son, who is a very good field naturalist, was picking mushrooms close by the place where the bird was first seen and he saw a bird fly very fast by him which he is positively certain was a cock golden oriole; he noticed it particularly, not only on account of its singular flight and plumage, but also its comparatively short tail; it flew into the very same thick orchard where it was first observed and although he followed its line of flight he was unable to get a second sight of it; but it must be remembered that more than one practical ornithologist has alluded to the extreme shyness of this bird. I have, therefore, great pleasure in verifying another instance of its occurrence in the county of Hereford.

With regard to the occurrence of summer migrants in the county adjoining Hay during the past summer I consider them to have been very scarce indeed; I have seen very few willow warblers and no chiff chaffs or wood wrens. Even the spotted flycatcher and whitethroat are scarcer than usual, whilst I have never even seen a redstart and only one wryneck. Swallows are scarcer than in other years, but swifts were exceedingly plentiful; they arrived here a few days earlier than usual, but had all gone by the 12th, except one or two late birds. Martins were about the same



as usual. I have noticed one cock redbacked shrike only, which I saw feeding a young bird that could only just fly. Singularly enough I have only heard one landrail. Turtle doves, I think, are slowly increasing and the sandpiper or summer snipe is as plentiful as ever. Altogether I consider it a bad year for summer migrants in that part of the county of Hereford near Hay. It is interesting to note that some of the young birds of the blackheaded gull which the club recognised as breeding on Rhosgoch Bog on their recent visit there have been seen on the Wye near Hay railway-station. I noticed them myself, and I have been informed that the young have been observed in this particular spot for some few years past. With these rather scattered notes which I still hope may be of some little interest to the bird loving members of our club, I will bring my paper to a close.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT impressed upon the members the importance of not passing by occurrences. They should follow them up.

Mr. H. B. D. MARSHALL asked if the President had reason to believe that the curlew was coming to more cultivated land.

The PRESIDENT replied in the affirmative.

Mr. SOUTHALL said they had heard of some birds being scarcer. Were there any more plentiful?

Mr. HUTCHINSON said there was no doubt that nightingales were extending throughout the county.

Mr. HEWITT said some curlews had been shot and winberries found in their bills.

The PRESIDENT said that was very unusual, as they were insect-feeding birds.

Mr. HEWITT: What are the curlews we see at the seaside in May?

The PRESIDENT: Bachelors.

Mr. HEWITT: So bachelors still go to seaside resorts (laughter).

#### A RARE BRITISH BUTTERFLY.

The Hon. Secretary presented the following paper on "Vanessa Antiopa in Herefordshire":—

#### VANESSA AUTIOPA IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

I have great pleasure in recording the capture of Vanessa Autiopa, the Camberwell Beauty in the county by Dr. J. H. Wood, of Tarrington. It is one of the rarest British butterflies and so far as I am aware, this is the first record of its having been captured in Herefordshire. It belongs to the same genus as the Tortoiseshell Peacock, etc. It is a migrant and hibernates as do the rest of the same family. I believe hibernated female specimens occasionally arrive here from the Continent, lay their eggs and the species is bred in this County. Others arrive during the summer months from France and from as far North as Norway. I think I am right in saying that the Larva has never been found in England. Dr. Wood in a letter to me of the 16th inst., says:—"You will like to know that I took yesterday, the 15th inst. a Camberwell Beauty in the Dingle above Dewdales Hope, Bodenham. It was drinking at the stream and as I approached rose heavily and settled on an overhanging nettle. Its capture was the easiest thing in the world. The migratory instinct which while it lasts leads it to fly on and on, was spent and I was spared that frantic pursuit which might so well have ended in failure and vexation of spirit."

On receipt of that letter, I wrote and asked Dr. Wood, after congratulating him on his capture, in what condition the specimen was, if the border was white or cream coloured (a white border being typical of a British bred specimen) and I suggested that its heavy flight might have been caused by its being glutted by the amount of water it had drunk. I also asked him why he thought it was a migrated specimen and not bred in this Country. In reply he said: "The Autiopa has a white border on the wings, which shows I think that it must have been out sometime, it got a bit damaged on one side by my striking a bit too eagerly with the net while settled on the clump of nettles, or it would have been, but for the absence of the fringes perfect."

In a further letter he adds:—"I have looked up what Barrett says about Autiopa. He admits that it has occasionally been bred in this country, but that the great mass of individuals are immigrants. He says too that, many of the Scandinavian Autiopa have white borders (and it is from Norway that our insects are supposed to come) and that in other parts of the Continent the border fades during Hibernation."

Dr. Wood has most kindly entrusted me with the specimen, in order that members may have the privilege of seeing it, I may mention that although so far as I know this is the first time that this striking butterfly, which cannot be mistaken, has been captured in

the county, yet in the early fifties my father while in company with his friend the Rev. J. J. Miller (who was an entomologist) saw one in the rickyard at Grantsfield, and there is I believe an authentic record that another was seen at the same place about the year 1870.

T. HUTCHINSON.

August, 1911.

#### THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY.

The theory which some entomologists hold that the specimens of the Camberwell beauty (*Vanessa antiopa*) taken in this country are an English variety owing to the border being white instead of cream-coloured does not appear to me possible. I have before me specimens taken soon after emergence in the Black Forest, Germany, with the cream border, others taken later with white border. Also I have taken many scores of hibernated specimens in the South of Europe, all of which have a white border. I think this shows conclusively that the cream-coloured border is only found in the freshly emerged species, which turn white either by bleaching or loss of scales as the season advances.—P. HAIG THOMAS (Moyle's Court, Ringwood). [It is now a well-known fact that the white colouring of the marginal bands of the Camberwell beauty is due to fading. An illustrated article on this butterfly appeared not long since in these columns.—ED.]

Ledbury Church was afterwards visited, by permission of the Rector, the Rev. F. W. Carnegy. This church and that of Bosbury are two of the seven in the county having detached towers. There was very little time to spare, and Ledbury was left at 7.10 p.m., Hereford being reached at 7.35 p.m.

With reference to the statement above that Prince Rupert visited the Crown Inn on his way to the battle of Worcester, Mr. R. H. George has sent the following notes:—

Prince Rupert could not possibly have been at Bosbury in 1651 before or after the Battle of Worcester, which was fought on September 3rd, in that year.

The Battle of Naseby was on June 14th, 1645, and Rupert was soon afterwards banished by the King.

In 1649 he commanded the portion of the fleet which had revolted from the Parliament to the King, and was in possession of St.

George's Channel. He then commenced a general war against English commerce (in fact against the ships of all nations), and was declared a pirate in 1650.

His brother, Prince Maurice, died in a storm in the West Indies about 1651. Rupert returned to Nantes from his piratical expeditions in March, 1652—six months after the battle of Worcester. He is next heard of in 1666, when he, with the Duke of Albemarle (Monk), was in command of the fleet against the French and Dutch.

There was a battle, on a small scale, at Powick Bridge, before the battle of Edge Hill, and which was the first conflict in the Civil War. This is sometimes called the first battle of Worcester, and Rupert may have visited Bosbury then, but it is unlikely. In this skirmish Prince Rupert routed the cavalry under the command of Col. Sandys, who was wounded and died of his wounds. (For description of this engagement see my History of the Borderland page 30.)

The Battle of Ledbury, one of the minor engagements, took place in 1645, before the Battle of Naseby. Massey and Prince Rupert are said to have met each other in the streets of Ledbury and each had his horse killed under him.

It is more likely that Rupert visited Bosbury before or after this battle than after the skirmish at Powick. It is certain, however that he could not have been at Bosbury in 1651, because he was on the high seas as a pirate from 1649 to 1652.

Before the conflict at Powick, he came from Ludlow to meet a convoy of specie under the command of Sir John Byron, which had been sent for by the king, for his own use, from Oxford.

THE REV. S. CORNISH WATKINS writes:—(1) Some three weeks ago, at the beginning of November, a very fine stone axe-head was picked up on Bradnor Hill by the Rev. P. R. Butler, curate of Kington. It had been scratched out by a rabbit and was lying on the surface.

(2) Several hooded crows were reported to me from Wapley Hill, in this parish, in November.

(3) I found here, in October, two flowers that deserve notice *Galeopsis Versicolor*, in considerable quantities in a turnip field *Melildus Parviflora*, one or two plants in the same field.

(4) Here is also a very late date for the appearance of the Noctull, or Great Bat. One was hawking round the Church here, last night, Nov. 30th. I notice that Bell gives Sept. 18th as the latest date when he had observed it.

#### NOTES ON BIRDS FOR 1911.

A. B. FARN, BREINTON.

- 1911,  
 Jan. 3 Saw Waxwing again in garden.  
 „ 22 A few Wigeon, many Mallard and 1 or 200 Teal at Letton.  
 Apr. 7 First Willow-Warblers seen.  
 „ 12 „ Chiff Chaffs, seen and heard  
 „ 17 „ Swallow seen and Cuckoo heard.  
 „ 23 „ Wryneck heard.  
 „ 27 Heard Nightingale and Corncrake.  
 May 1 An injured Wild-duck swimming on pool below Dr. Chapman's Bungalow.  
 „ 3 Cuckoo's egg in Hedge-sparrow's nest and first Common and Lesser Whitethroats seen.  
 „ 7 First Swift seen.  
 „ 10 Red-back Shrikes seen.  
 „ 12 Spotted Flycatcher seen.  
 „ 16 Nightingale and Garden Warbler seen and heard at Haugh Wood.  
 June 2 Young White Owls leaving nest in turret of Bredwardine Church.  
 Nov. 9 Flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings flying very high going S.W.

Notes received from CYRIL MACKWORTH-PRAED ESQ., from Rotherwas:—

1911,			
Mar. 30	First Chiffchaff	noticed	
Apr. 5	„ Wheatear	„	
„ 6	„ Willow Warbler	„	
„ 10	„ Sandmartin	„	
„ 13	„ Swallow	„	
„ 17	„ House Martin	„	
„ 17	„ Common Sandpiper	„	
„ 17	„ Redstart	„	
„ 18	„ Ray's Wagtail	„	
„ 19	„ Whitethroat Common	„	
„ 19	„ Tree-pipit	„	
„ 20	„ Pied Flycatcher	„	
„ 22	„ Cuckoo	„	
„ 25	„ Swift	„	
„ 28	„ Blackcap	„	

#### QUAIL BRED IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

TILLINGTON COURT,  
 NR. HEREFORD.

Dear Sir,

Perhaps it may interest the members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club to know that a young Quail was bagged by Dr. Simmonds, on September 2nd, when shooting on Tillington Court Farm, which was certainly bred here, as when it was shot, about 6 or 8 of them rose, and the rest scattered in different directions, all flying strong and well, and they were disturbed in the same field at the beginning of August when the Barley crop was being cut, but escaped by running and hiding in the crop instead of taking to flight. I have since heard that a young Quail was shot last year at the beginning of September in this neighbourhood.

Faithfully yours,

R. A. SWAYNE.

#### TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL FOR JULY, 1911.

The weather for July, 1911, was remarkable for its low rainfall and high temperatures, the first 28 days were free from rain and on the last 4 days, 0.45 inch only fell. The average maximum temperature was 80.0 and the average minimum temperature 50.19. Below is given the daily maximum and minimum temperatures.

	min.	max.		min.	max.
1st	45	66	16th	47	71
2nd	43	65	17th	55	77
3rd	45	72	18th	54	73
4th	47	72	19th	57	73
5th	46	83	20th	57	81
6th	54	82	21st	57	87
7th	53	88	22nd	48	79
8th	55	91.5	23rd	47	78
9th	50	80.5	24th	45	76
10th	38	77.5	25th	53	81.5
11th	45	86	26th	57	80
12th	47	86.5	27th	53	82.5
13th	47	87	28th	58	89
14th	47	89	29th	60	91.5
15th	36	70	30th	50	72
			31st	55	80

WILLIAM R. BUFTON.



## Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

CHILLENDEEN RECTORY,  
CANTERBURY,  
Oct. 21st, 1911.

*To the Secretary of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.*

Dear Sir,

The Eighty-first Annual Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Portsmouth, from August 30th to September 6th.

Owing to some mischance at the Hereford Centre, the desire of our Club to be represented as one of the Affiliated Societies had not been communicated to the British Association's Office, in London. Consequently, my name as Delegate did not appear in the list. However, I attended the Conferences of the Delegates in my capacity as member of the Corresponding Societies Committee, and assumed, moreover, that the Club would also wish me to represent them.

The General President, Prof. Sir W. Ramsay, enjoys a world-wide reputation as a chemist. His name has been especially before the scientific world in connection with investigations into new gaseous elements.

The list of Sectional Presidents is given below—it will be admitted to be exceptionally strong:—

A. Mathematics .....	Prof. Turner.
B. Chemistry .....	„ Walker.
C. Geology .....	„ A. Harker.
D. Geology .....	„ D'Arcy Thompson.
E. Geography .....	Col. Close.
F. Economics .....	Hon. W. Pember Reeves
G. Engineering .....	Prof. Biles.
H. Anthropology.....	Dr. Rivers.

I. Physiology .....	Prof. Macdonald.
K. (a) Botany .....	„ Weiss.
K. (b) Agriculture .....	„ Bateson
L. Education .....	Bishop Weldon.

In the opening Presidential Address, Sir W. Ramsay—amongst other things, dealt with the highly important subject of the progressive rate of exhaustion of our coal measures, and of the difficulty of finding substitutes for coal which should be generally available, inexpensive and effective.

Amongst the Sectional Addresses, may be especially mentioned those of the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Prof. Macdonald and Bishop Weldon. The first-named drew upon his large colonial experience—the second dealt with the brain, the mind, the self—the third with the use and abuse of scholarships.

The usual Conferences of Delegates were held. At the first, the Chairman for the year, Prof. J. W. Gregory, delivered an opening Address dealing with the scientific misappropriation of popular terms. He adduced various instances to illustrate the frequent misuse of current words by various branches of science “in the hope that the members of the Corresponding Societies would use their influence to discourage this practice.” He likewise pointed out that “the casual adoption of current words with new meanings is often an attempt to secure specious simplicity at the price of subsequent confusion.”

Various other matters were discussed at these Conferences which bore upon the co-ordination which ought to obtain between the Corresponding Societies and the General Association.

Needless to say, the members were hospitably entertained by the inhabitants and municipality of Portsmouth. Further, the dockyard authorities afforded many facilities for the inspection of the dreadnoughts recently completed and others on the stocks.

On the Monday, a man-of-war was put at our disposal for the purpose of enabling us to witness the modes of torpedo attack and subsequent defence.

The number of members was not up to the average, and there were few subjects of discussion in the Sections of startling interest, but I think it will be found that much solid, substantial work was accomplished, and that the Annual Report will be a peculiarly interesting one.

It has been decided to recognize the importance of Agriculture by elevating that subject to Sectional rank.

Next year, the Association meets at Dundee, under the presidency of Prof. Schäfer in 1913, at Birmingham, in 1914, it wings its flight to the Antipodes, and finds a temporary home amongst our Australian brethren.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. BEVAN,  
M.A., F.G.S., Assoc. Inst., C.E., F.S.A.

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