

NOTES.

Under this heading the Editor will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to discoveries and other matters of interest to the history, archæology, botany, folklore, etc., of the County. The Editor appeals for the assistance of the "Local Secretaries" to enable him to develop this section of the Proceedings.

THE ANCIENT YEW TREE IN SOUTH HAYLING CHURCHYARD.

BY JOHN GLAS SANDEMAN, M.V.O., F.S.A.

The oldest expert description of the ancient Yew Tree in South Hayling Churchyard that I have come across is that by Mr. H. E. Evershed which appeared in "Woods and Forests" of the 7th of May, 1884. Mr. Evershed writes that this tree "affords a curious example of the rejuvenating power which yews possess beyond all other trees." The lapse of thirty-three years has done much to corroborate this statement, as well as to prove what an accurate observer he was. A careful examination of this interesting tree, undertaken in September, 1917, by my neighbour, Mr. E. S. McEuen, and myself, fully confirms Mr. Evershed's observations. We recognised without difficulty "the hollow trunk in which you find yourself encircled by the rugged shell which alone remains of the original tree and which is still furnished with sufficient living bark to feed and support a large and leafy head of branches." Within the hollow of this old trunk of the original tree springs a separate stem of doubtful origin, a stem of probably more than a century old, which may be a seedling or a sucker of the older tree from which it is separate at the foot, but is united with the old yew's living envelope some ten feet from the ground. There is another somewhat similar

growth of apparently greater age about a yard to the south of the growth just described, but this may possibly form a part of the original tree, from which it seems impossible now to distinguish it. These two apparently, comparatively more recent growths occupy that portion of what must formerly have been the north-eastern part of the shell of the ancient tree, which part has now completely disappeared. The difficulty experienced by Mr. Evershed in determining the boundaries between the ancient and the more recent wood are, of course, exaggerated after a lapse of thirty-three years. He describes it as "a gigantic tree ruined once and dead and now alive again, though the exact method of rejuvenescence can hardly be traced." The interval of a generation has considerably accentuated this difficulty.

In the Shore Memorial of Hampshire Papers, on page 304, in an undated paper we read, in an account of Hayling Island, "The yew tree in the Churchyard is certainly many centuries older than the Church. It is near the south door, which is the usual situation of the most venerable churchyard yews in Hampshire, as for example that at Corhampton, which is close to a Saxon Church and certainly as old. The yew at South Hayling is apparently older than that at Corhampton, and it appears to me the oldest in the County. The existence of such an ancient tree in the usual position may be explained by the site having been selected for the site of the 13th century Church while the yew was already growing."

In 1884, according to Mr. Evershed's report, the circumference of this tree was thirty-three feet. It is now thirty-six feet, including the two growths above mentioned as having replaced part of the original exterior shell, but according to the same authority this affords no foundation for an estimate of age, however one might think to the contrary. Beyond the propping up of three of the heaviest limbs on the north-east of the tree, thereby relieving the strain on the trunk on the side opposite to the prevailing winds, nothing seems to have been done until now in the way of restoration or preservation.

Some years ago one of my neighbours suggested that the restoration of this ancient tree should be undertaken, and very generously offered to provide the amount necessary for the work, an offer that it appears was not favourably received until the Archdeacon of the Diocese was appealed to, but the subject remained in abeyance until 1916, when Mr. W. Goldring, of Kew, was consulted and asked to inspect and report upon the best means of preserving the life of the tree. This was done, and a report with directions for the necessary treatment was furnished. These recommendations, after some delay owing to the scarcity of labour, have been carried out by Messrs. Cheals, of Crawley, with some modifications, such as the substitution of lysol for crude carbolic acid, which Messrs. Cheals considered too drastic, and they added a copious dressing of 'Stockholm tar' after the spraying with lysol for the extermination of the fungoid growth. This application appears to have effectually eliminated the fungus with which the hollow trunk was infested. More than a ton and a half of dead wood was cut away, and several large and straggling limbs which jeopardised the stability of the tree were lopped off, with the result that the true proportions of the imposing trunk, which had hitherto been obscured, were opened out to view. A substantial unclimbable iron fence now surrounds the ancient trunk; this is by no means an eyesore, whilst it protects the hollow tree from being the dumping ground of refuse by thoughtless people. There are sixteen younger yew trees in this churchyard. I have had Mr. Goldring's report printed and have a few copies remaining, which I will gladly send to any member of the Club who would care to have one.

THE HOODED OR ROYSTON CROW.

By JOHN GLAS SANDEMAN, M.V.O., F.S.A.

In former years the south coast of Hayling Island was invariably visited during the late autumn months by considerable numbers of the Hooded or Royston Crow, and the Beach Common, as it is now called, though it was sold by Act of Parliament in 1825 as in fee simple, was this interesting bird's favourite resort, the numerous empty mussel shells on which indicated perhaps the principal reason for its presence. They were seldom seen elsewhere in the Island, probably because they prefer the mussel to the cockle, which abounds on the mud lands of the harbours and creeks by which it is surrounded.

It may be noteworthy that none of these birds have appeared in their accustomed haunts in this Island for the last two or three winters. They used generally to leave it before the breeding season, which is said to be early, and I am not aware of any instance of their having bred in the Island. My experience is that the Royston Crow is a shy bird, for when they are congregated in any numbers behind a bank on the sea shore, at short intervals one amongst them will fly up with the probable object of warning the others of the approach of any person or thing likely to disturb them in their search for food, so it is possible that the presence of the members of a School of Instruction now established in the Island since the commencement of the war may have driven them away from their accustomed feeding grounds.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that the Royston Crows have completely deserted this part of the Island for the last two or three years, and one rarely comes across an empty mussel shell. I am curious to know whether any similar circumstance has happened in other parts of the County that these birds affect.

I may add that nightingales, which formerly bred in great numbers on Sinah Common, have almost entirely disappeared since the golf clubhouse was built in the immediate vicinity of their nesting places in the high old gorse bushes.

NOTES FROM THE NEWPORT LEET RECORDS.

Re "Curfew," "Watch and Ward," &c.

BY J. L. WHITEHEAD, M.D.

Not the least interesting among the valuable muniments now in the possession of the Corporation of Newport are the nine volumes of Court Leet records, the survivals of an institution of immemorial antiquity. Although the records now extant do not go back to Norman times, yet the rolls of the "*curia leta cum visus francplegii*" cover a period of over two centuries, from 1620 onwards. Documentary evidence that will be referred to later alludes to leet and lawday assemblies held in 1568 and 1462.

It was the custom for the "lawdaie to be kept twyse in the yere, viz., after Michelmis and after ye feast of th' Annunciacon of owrie blessid' ladie," when it is incumbent on all male resiants between the ages of 12 and 60 years, who had lived within the boundaries a year and a day to attend; and as late as 1689, take an oath of allegiance to the King. The jurors, twelve or fifteen as the case may be, were chosen by the Steward who presided, from the more respectable and substantial residents. Many items of varying interest are to be found in the jury presentments made from time to time, but especially so the ordinances relating to "Curfew" and "Watch and Ward" &c.

The leet ordinances "sett downe for observance by the inhabitants" at the Court held in 1620, "for the government of the Towne to be observed untill the end of the next lawday," it may reasonably be conjectured were based on ancient lines. Half-a-century later, in 1670, the jury were in the habit of formally presenting at each Court the different ordinances and customs of the town. Corroborative evidence is supplied in the Ledger Book, or "old Ligger," as it is styled in contemporary records, a book commenced by the town bailiffs, who, in "*ano nono Regine Elizabethe*," caused all the charters and documents of interest in their possession to be copied into this Book, "gatherid out of divers old auntient Recordes." The work of

the originators ends with the view of the ancient records by the Lawday Jury, October 25th, 1568, as entered :—

“Newporte. At the lawe day holden there the the xxvth daie of October, 1568, Thomas James and twenty-three other burgesses being sworn, saieth y^t they have diligently perused (inter alia) the Copie of y^e ancient usage and old customes of the borough and they say these deeds are truely recorded, reposing and lockinge them upp fast in the chest of this Ligger and as it were from hand to hand deliveringe them to our posterite for their understanding safekeeping maintenance and defence of ye rights Liberties and Commonweal of this the Quene's Maj'ty towne and borough sf Newporte a forsaied.”

A still earlier account, of a Court Leet held a century earlier in 1462, is entered in the same depository. The minutes, occupying four pages, are as follows :—

“Newporte. The lawday holden there the eight daye of Octobre the second yere of the reigne of Kyng Edward the iiijth. The jury having been sworn declare on oath that ‘these bythe and hathe benne the constitutions, uses, and old customes of this Towne yn tyme passed by the discrecons off oure olde fladers and predecessors before the brynnynge and distruccon off the seid Towne,’ &c., &c.”

The latter paragraph refers to the raid made by the French in the year 1377.

THE CURFEW.

The ringing of the Curfew bell is a subject of especial interest to the capital town of the Isle of Wight, since Newport is one of the few towns in England where this link with the historic past is maintained. With the return of the bells of the Parish Church of St. Thomas à Becket to their old home in the stately tower of that edifice, the ringing of the grand old tenor bell, which for many generations has announced the coming of peaceful eventide, may still be heard “tolling the knell of departing day.”

Although there is no evidence to support the widespread and

popular notion that the couvre-feu law originated with the Norman Conqueror, yet it appears certain that, in the year 1068, the Conqueror ordained that all people should put out their fires and lights at the ringing of the eight o'clock bell and go to bed. This was a provision of martial law, and not a badge of infamy, since it was obligatory alike upon the foreign nobles of the Court as upon the Saxon serfs.

It is equally certain also that this bell law in England was an established institution in King Alfred's time, A.D. 900. At that time the Curfew was rung in towns and villages at eight o'clock, or immediately after sunset, and called the "cover fire bell," because the inhabitants, on hearing its toll, were obliged to cover their fires and go to bed. Thomson evidently refers to this tyrannical law in the following lines:—

"The shiv'ring wretches, at the Curfew sound,
Dejected sunk into their sordid beds,
And, through the mournful gloom of ancient times
Mus'd sad, or dreamt of better."

Though the couvre-feu civil law, of ringing the bell at eight o'clock, was abrogated by Henry I. A.D. 1100, the Curfew, notwithstanding, continued to be rung through many centuries, and is still rung in some places at the present time. Macaulay, writing in 1791, says: "The custom of ringing the Curfew, which is still kept up without intermission since the days of the Norman Conqueror, but now, in this eighteenth century, is, in the majority of instances, looked upon almost as a custom of the past."

On the people finding that they could put out their fires and go to bed when they pleased it would appear, that the time of ringing the Curfew-bell in many places was first changed from eight to nine o'clock. In the old play of "The Merry Devil of Edmonton," in 1631, the Sexton says:

"Well, 'tis nine o'clock, 'tis time to ring Curfew."

Later, the hour was ten, and afterwards to the early hours of the morning. Thus we find in "Romeo and Juliet":

"The Curfew-bell has rung, 'Tis three o'clock."

In other works Shakespeare makes allusion to Curfew, as in "The Tempest":

"You whose pastime
Is to make midnight mushrooms—that rejoice
To hear the solemn Curfew."

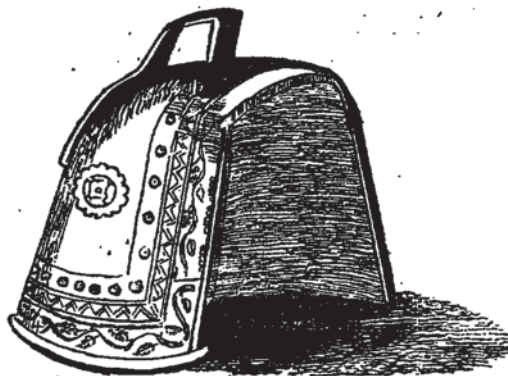
Longfellow has written a poem—"Curfew." The first stanza is as follows:

"Solemnly, mournfully,
Dealing its dole,
The Curfew bell
Is beginning to toll."

It is also recorded that when a great American Statesman—Mr. Webster—was on his death-bed he requested that far-famed "Elegy" of Gray:

"The Curfew tolls the knell of parting day"
should be read to him.

The word Curfew is derived from the old French word "carrefeu, or cerre-feu," which afterwards became couvre-feu, and lastly curfew, each of these terms, meaning to cover fire, indicates the intention. The utensil with which our ancestors were wont to place over their domestic fires, at the sound of the bell as the watchmen went their nightly rounds, came to be called by that name from its use. Hone in his "Every-Day Book" gives a drawing (see sketch) of the utensil.



It was made of metal, usually copper, rivetted together, 10 inches high, 16 inches wide, and 9 inches deep, somewhat resembling a shield in form. It was of great utility in those days when the houses were constructed of wood and thus extremely likely to take fire when fire was carelessly used.

The Court Leet ordinance reads :—" Ringing for Cover-flewe. Item, it is ordayned that the clarke shall ringe y^e greate bell for cover flewe att eight of the clocke everie evening y^e space of half an hour."

Several edicts, intended to safeguard the town from this ever present danger of fire, are entered on the Court Leet minutes ; the more important of these read as follows :—" It is ordained from this time forth no p'son or p'souns shall erect, build, or sett upp in this Towne anye house or tenement but therein shall make a sufficient stone or brick chimney, 3 foote at the least above the topp of the house, and that it shall be made sufficiently within for the avoiding of danger by fire." "That no landlord shall let any tenement but that there shall be a sufficient chimney or flewe for the avoiding of danger by fire, and for default, his chimney or flewe shall be pulled down." "That everye house so built or to be built within this towne shall be healed (that is roofed) with blew stone (slate) or the like, and not with straw or such like combustibile stuffe." "And it is further ordered that everye householder shall keep their chimneys swept, see that they be not sett on fire by a default of not being clean swept." "It is ordered that no potter, lyme burner, nor brick burner, shall burn any crockery ware, bricks, or lyme, on anye hill within the liberty of this towne, being found to be verie dangerous in respect of the fire."

At intervals, various presentments, such as the following, are made by the jurymen for non-observance :—" J. H. for laieinge of his furzes verie daungerouslie in his howse haveinge noe other place to laie them therein—his poeple, passinge to and fro with a candl much daunger mite ensue to fier all the towne."

As a further precaution a fire engine was provided. It was

kept in the west end of the north aisle of the Church, and was looked after by the overseers of the poor, it being agreed and ordered in 1687 :—

“that for the time to come, the engine standing in the Church to be used in time of Fire in this towne shall from time to time be repaired and kept in good order for that purpose by the overseer of the poore of this towne for the time beinge, it beinge a publiqk instrument provided for the benefitt and advantage of all the inhabitants of this Towne in case of Fire.”

The “greate bell” mentioned in the leet ordnance was, in all probability, the church bell the casting of which is alluded to in the following extracts from Dr. S. Andrews’ excellent report on the old Registers of St. Thomas’s Church. With various other payments made by the parish wardens and entered in the vestry accounts for 1589-1590, are several sums paid to the bell-founder, along with other payments : “For mending the way to have (heave?) up ye gr^t bell.” “For mending y^e ringing y^e greate bell.” “To Goodman Steele for newe stoking ye great bell.”

The following year the Churchwardens report that “the Churche is in detted to the bell founder for the macking (casting) of the greate bell, thes parsells under writen and is all redey ansored by thes parsones who ar to Resseve It from the churche wardones of the first mounney that can be Resseveyd.”

Payments are entered “for mending of the mydell bell” and “for hanging of ye littel bell.”

Church bells were often used for civil purposes, as instanced, and thus we find the eighth bell of the famous Coventry peal, of 1470 date, is inscribed :

“I am and have been call’d the common bell
To ring when fire breaks out to tell.”

“In old times”—quoting from R. Chambers’ “Book of Days”—“few people possessed watches or clocks ; and any implement for measuring time was rare, and belonged to a public body or institution. The only means of imparting to the public the

knowledge gained from it was by ringing a bell at certain hours of the day. This practice was first introduced in the monastic establishments, where the inmates required to know the hours for celebrating the various services. Entered in the old registers of St. Thomas's Church, vestry accounts, are sundry payments made by the wardens, 'pay'd to the pryst for a yeaere wagys dewe at Ester for kep'g ye clock iijs. iiijd.'"

In the Middle Ages, owing to the want of any effective police, there was no safety out of doors at night. It was attempted, in towns especially, to meet this evil by making it criminal to be found out of doors after a certain hour; and as offenders otherwise might plead ignorance, it was ordered that the hour should be publicly sounded, generally by the town bell, and when that was heard all people were compelled to shut the doors of their houses, put out their fires, and retire to bed, those who were out of bed after the sounding of the bell being liable to punishment.

OF "WATCH AND WARD."

Apart from Curfew the great bell was rung at other times, as instanced in the Leet Ordinances relating to the defence of the town :—

"The watchman for the greate bell. Alsoe it is ordayned that the watchman shall ringe y^e grate bell everye morning one quarter of an hour in wynter tyme att four of the clocke and in the somer tyme att three of the clocke uppon paine in hefaulte of being imprisoned by the constables and for defaulte of not beinge soe punished by the constables that doe charge them, the said constables shall forfeit 2s. 6d. for everye time of soe doinge."

In ancient days, when the seas were infested by pirates, and especially so during the French wars, Newport, on account of its low-lying position, was open to sudden forays from the sea. The countryside, too, swarmed with valient thieves, beggars, and the like, so that the problem of local defence, night and day, was not an easy one for the authorities to solve. No special memoranda relating to local defences, however, are to be found entered on

the Leet Records, except the following somewhat vague reference thereto in the "Auncient Usags and Olde Customes of the Borough of Newport dewlie continued fro ye tyme y^e memorie of man is not to the contrarie," that apart "from keeping 'watch and ward' the inhabitants of ye toune to be free from other dewties and chardges whatsoever they be, except onlye pylinge at the bulworcks fro the bendinge of their chaine in ye Est side of ye Haven mowth of Newporte for ye defence of ye haven, towne and country," or, in other words, the inhabitants are to be free of all foreign service except repairs to the bulwarks where the chain stretched across the haven to defend the approach by water to the town.

Though the town plan depicted on Speed's map of "Wight Island" in 1611 shows only one gate called the Town Gate, situate at the north end of St. James' Street, it is more than probable, says the writer of the article "Newport" in the "Victoria County History," that other gates existed prior to the French descent in 1377, when the little town was burnt to the ground. Yarmouth, distant a few miles only, was made a walled town after the raid, having four gates, the entrance being across a moat and drawbridge. On the other hand, it is just possible that since the Constable of the Castle of Carisbrooke had the little community under his care, the ruling authorities might think no further provision for local defence was called for on the part of the town.

The keeping of watch by day entailed the provision by every man between the ages of 15 and 60 years of arms suitable for his condition, likewise the readiness to come out equipped at any moment to defend his town. The Leet Ordinance reads :

"It'm. Ye custome ys and hathe been of leeke tyme all and sing'ler the inhabitants are to be reddie with clubbes, and Billes, and helberds, at everie ringe of ye watche bell, as well in war as peace to attend upon and swarme abowght the office forthw'th for ye conservacon of the Quene's peace and for ye speedie helpe to be had to suppress foreine enemies, tumults, fier, &c."

Further, in order that the constables should be supported by their fellow townsmen, it was enacted :

"That for the better keepinge and preservinge of the publique peace within this Towne, every householder therein shall have a sufficient clubbe, or weapon, to come forth with the same for the adinge of the constables and sergeants for the suppressinge and pacyffinge of all affrayes, uppon paine of 2s. 6d. anye tyme soe offendinge contrarie to this order."

The night watch was kept, in most of the larger towns, at this period, A.D. 1620, by twelve men, and in the smaller towns and villages by six or four, according to the number of the inhabitants. For instance, at Southampton "it is ordained that the sergeant that warnithe the houses for watche do bring to the constable in writing the names of those six warned by him, those for the night being required to appear before the Mayor at eight in the evening, to be relieved by the day watch at six in the morning."

A further order required "two to keep the walls and the other four to go about the streets, the gates of the town being closed from sunset to sunrise."

A minute entered on the Newport Leet records states that prior to 1686, the night watch was kept by four men ; that later the number was reduced to three, "one of which shall be Flower, who is to walke the rounde with his Bell twice everye night; and while he attends in the markett the other two watchmen are to walke the rounde once everye night." Among the jury presentments is the following :—

"T.L. and T.M., watchmen by the order of the chief constable, were abused and assaulted with headstaves and other weapons, att 12 of the clocke att night and wee present . . . (names given) for a riott committed by them and for assembling att such an unlawful hour wee refer the penaltie to Mr. Maior, &c."

Not the least onerous of the duties imposed on the town constables was seeing that "watch and ward" was duly kept from the setting of the sun to the rising, beginning at the feast of the Ascension.

It may be well to explain here that the constables were exclusively Leet officers and their appointment rested with the jurors. A list containing the names of suitable persons for the various offices was handed from the jurymen to the steward presiding over the assembly, and from it he would select the individuals who were to serve as constables.

At a Court Leet holden 2 Edward IV. (1462-3), the jurors declare "that the governing body of the town consisted of the bailiffs, constables, and eight burgesses." For some centuries the office of constable had to be served in rotation by all qualified parishioners. "People," says Chief Justice Holt, "are to be constables by house-row, or rotation from one householder to another."

In early days, prior to 1620, every street had its two vintoners, or petty constables, but in the year 1653 it was ordered "that in future there shall be onely eight vinteners elected and chosen for the whole Burrough, half for the east and half for the west division of the town, each division being sub-divided north and south." At first, no difference existed as to their status, but in 1626 mention is made of two chief and eight petty constables.

Jury presentments are entered from time to time stating that: "the watche of the towne is not sufficiently kept; that everye howseholder under suche degre as y^ror worships shall thinck best, to watche in proper person, or to get good honest men in their steade."

Another, is to the effect:—"that the watche is kept by poore sillye ould men who are often to sicke, weake, and unable to be of anye service, since they come late, and then geve over the watche at two or three, of the clocke in the morning, an intollerable abuse."

In the year 1654 it is decreed:—"that everye house is to provide a watchman at the householders expense,—the minister and schoolmaster excepted,—or to paye double watche for every defaulte."

Another presentment is to the same effect:—"Wee desier the

ould and auntient order of this Towne may be revived and continued concerninge the watch which is, everie man to watch for himself, or to finde a sufficient watchman in his steade."

Attention is drawn to the fact that: "the watche bells are not rung as they should be. Wee dessier that ye ringing of ye watche bells may be resumed and put in use againe, for that yt was a comfortable hearinge and for more comfort and better assurrance of the inhabitants of this towne."

A query arises — how many watch bells were there? A stationary one was probably fixed in and gave its name to Watchbell-lane. Here the prison—called otherwise "the clink" and "Petit Judas"—stood. A town ordinance reads: "no p'son or p'sonns shall carry or lay any filth in the Watchbell-lane, somers brook, or neere the church, or within 8 feet of the walls thereof round about the churche &c." . . . "one



halfe of the fine thereof to him that taketh the offender, the other halfe to the towne."

AN UNRECOGNISED CHARTER OF ALVERSTOKE.

By REV. J. C. HUGHES.

Of the many places in Hampshire which bear the name of Stoke, usually with the addition of some distinguishing epithet, it is sometimes difficult to determine which is referred to in an ancient document. In the great collection of Anglo-Saxon Charters made by Mr. W. de Grey Birch,—*Cartularium Saxonicum*, III. 7,—is a charter by which King Eadred, in the year A.D. 948, grants to Ælfric his thegn for eternal inheritance xi hides of land at Stoke (æt Stocé). This is assigned by Birch to Bishopstoke.

Kemble, who also has the charter in his *Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici*, gives the place simply as Stoke. The Victoria County History of Hampshire follows Birch in attributing the charter to Bishopstoke. But on reading the boundaries of the land granted, which are set out in detail in Anglo-Saxon, we see that it cannot refer to Bishopstoke, for the boundary runs out to the sea (útt on saé) and the Solent (on solentan). And when further we find that on the north it touches the boundaries of Rowner (oth ruwan oringa ge mæro), it becomes clear that the Stoke referred to is Alverstoke.

Though the name Alverstoke dates from Saxon times, being given in the Domesday Survey as Alwarestoch, and involving an Anglo-Saxon personal name,—according to mediæval tradition that of a noble lady Alwara, by whom it was given to the Old Minster at Winchester,—the place long continued to be called simply Stoke. In the chart of the Isle of Wight, surveyed by Capt. Greenville Collins, R.N., Hydrographer to King Charles II., it is marked Stoke, and on its S.W. coast is marked Stoke Bay, since corrupted to Stokes Bay.

The boundaries of Stoke as given by the charter are as follows :—This synt tha land ge mæro to Stocé. Ærest of saé ofer thone Stan hricg on thonæ easteran weg thonon on gagol mor. thonne north and lang thæs mores oth ruwan oringa ge mæro. thonne east on tha ealdan dīc oth idel hiwisce easte weard. thonne north 7 lang mearcæ on tha withegas weste weard. thonne east be tham ealdan herpothe to Æthelswithe tuninga lea. thonon suth on tha ealdan dīc. 7 lang dīc útt on saé thonon útt on solentan west on midne stream. oth hit cymth upp thær mon ær onfeng. Which may be rendered into modern English :—“These are the land boundaries to Stoke. First from the sea over the Stone ridge onto the eastern way, thence to Gale Moor. Then north along the moor to the bounds of the men of Rowner. Then east onto the old dike to the empty house eastward. Then north along the border [of Rowner probably] to the withies westward, then east by the old military road to the meadow of the men of Æthels-

witheton, thence south to the old dike, along the dike out on the sea, thence out on Solènt west on mid stream till it comes up where one first began."

One or two points of interest in this description may be noted. The Charter carries back the name of Rowner, as of Alverstoke, to an earlier date than the first mention otherwise known, that being, as with Alverstoke, in 'Domesday Book, where it is given as Ruenore. It is also found in the A.S. Chronicle, at the date 1114, as Rugenor. The Rev. Jas. B. Johnston in his *Place-names of England and Wales, 1915*, gives the meaning as "shore of Ruga,"—an A.S. personal name. Recent research has shown that very many English place-names preserve the name of some early settler. It would be interesting to know if the name of the hamlet called Æthelswitheton still survives in altered form. Elson seems possible,—*Æthel* is frequently contracted to *Al* or *El*,—but without evidence as to intermediate forms it would not be safe to assume it. Æthelswitha was the name of Alfred's Queen, and of other ladies of the royal house of Wessex.

The Charter contains one of the early mentions of the Solent, though more than two centuries later than the earliest known, in Bede's Ecclesiastical History.

The word *herepath*,—"army path," or "military road,"—is a frequent designation of main roads in A.S. charters.

The Charter gives us the explanation of the curious name Gomer. Gomer Pond is given in Collins' map of the time of Charles II. as Gamer Pond. Mr. Martin Snape, in a paper on the Flora of Alverstoke and Rowner in the Proceedings (Vol. VII., Part II., 48) of the Hampshire Field Club gives the name as Gamooore Pond on a map three centuries ago. This suggests that the name contains the word "moor"; and the Charter of Eadred gives us the original name,—Gagol mor, i.e. (Sweet) Gale Moor,—the moor where the Sweet Gale or Bog Myrtle¹ grew a thousand years ago.

¹ We Hampshire folk know the Myrica Gale. L. as Golden Withy.

"Beneath their feet, the myrtle sweet
Was stamped in mud and gore."

Kingsley: New Forest Ballad.—EDITOR.

BISHOP MORLEY'S PORRINGER.

It may, perhaps, add to the interest of Sir Ernest Cassel's generous gift to the Red Cross Fund if some further details respecting the silver two-handled porringer are supplied.

George Morley (1597-1684), Bishop of Winchester, to whom it belonged, was the godson of Lady Anne Clifford, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery.¹ By her will, dated May 1, 1674—the original of which, a magnificent document, is still preserved at Appleby Castle—she made the following bequest:—"To the Right Reverend Father in God, George, now Bishop of Winchester, my first godson, £40, to buy a peece of plate to keepe in memorie of me."

She had always stated that it was due to her that Morley took up a religious career, becoming eventually a very devoted clergyman, and later one of her own chaplains. When he was at Christ Church, to which college he was elected in 1615, she made him the very handsome allowance of £40 per annum, and used all possible persuasions that he should take Holy Orders. For a while it was doubtful whether her wishes would have effect, as Morley was a man of remarkably witty conversation, exceedingly popular, and somewhat given to extravagance in food and costume; but eventually he took the step which she had desired, and Lady Anne (as she was generally called) introduced him to her cousin, Robert Dormer, Earl of Carnarvon, who gave him his first rectory, Hartfield, and made him his chaplain. She is believed to have continued his allowance almost throughout his life, until he became Bishop of Winchester, when he succeeded to a very large endowment, by means of which he rebuilt the episcopal palace of Wolvesey, and spent large sums on Farnham Castle. He made generous bequests at his death to the diocese.

It is evident that he spent the £40 on buying the piece of plate that has now been sent to Christie's. For some years past

¹ Only daughter and heir of George Clifford, third Earl of Cumberland. She married first Richard Sackville, second Earl of Dorset, and secondly, as his second wife, Phillip Herbert, fourth Earl of Pembroke and first Earl of Montgomery.—EDITOR.

efforts have been made to trace this cup, with a view to an allusion to it in a book on Lady Anne that is now in the press ; but it passed away from the diocese many years ago,

In Lady Anne's funeral sermon, Bishop Rainbow alludes to Morley thus :—"She would tell, that her family had furnished this diocese with one Bishop (Vipont), and that by her assistance an eminent Prelate now living was made a Christian, of which and of whom she would often make mention with great contentment."—*The Times*, Feb. 19th, 1918.

BIRDS AND INSECTS.

The following letter originally appeared in *The Times* last June, and was subsequently reprinted in the issue of the *Hampshire Chronicle* of 13th June, 1918. Sir William Portal, Bart., has circulated copies of it to all the members of the Hampshire County Council, as well as to officials of other County Councils and to some of the members of our Club. It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to reprint it in this number of our "Proceedings," and express the hope that all our members will do their utmost to prevent the ruthless destruction of wild birds by people totally ignorant of the habits of the birds of our country side.—J. HAUTENVILLE COPE.

"SIR,—The alarming increase of insect pests in all parts of the country should call the attention of the authorities to the wholesale destruction of soft-billed birds that takes place every spring. This has been particularly in evidence during the past two years, owing to the formation of numerous village clubs, composed of enthusiastic but generally ignorant people, who have been offering prizes to children for collecting the eggs of sparrows and the heads of nestlings. Now, this action would be useful if it resulted in the destruction of sparrows only, but I venture to say that 19 out of every 20 of the heads collected do not belong to this species, but include members of our most valuable insect-eating birds, such as robins, hedge-sparrows,

white-throats, willow-warblers, wrens, flycatchers, blackcaps, wag-tails, etc., all of which are fond of building their nests near villages and gardens, and in other places easily discoverable. On the other hand, the house-sparrow's nest is generally found in buildings and adjacent high trees inaccessible to children, and, in consequence, is rarely molested. The Wild Birds' Protection Act, except in certain instances, is practically a dead letter. I have constantly asked Police Inspectors if they have ever known of anyone being prosecuted for having protected eggs in his possession during the close season, and the answer has always been in the negative; and it is no uncommon thing to see a boy with a string of eggs in his hand, and a smile of well-doing on his face, walking unconcernedly past the village policeman. In this letter I have only touched on the destruction of insect-eating birds, about which there is no controversy, but I am strongly of the opinion that all birds, with the exception of the pigeon and sparrow, more than earn their keep, and should be judiciously protected.

"I am, etc.,

"Castleford, Chepstow,

"W. R. LYSAGHT.

"June 13th, 1918."

REPORT OF SUBJECT SECRETARIES COMMITTEE.

Correspondent—J. HAUTENVILLE-COPE.

All members of the Hampshire Field Club will hear with regret that Dr. Andrews has, on account of ill-health, been obliged to resign the position of Correspondent of the Subject Secretaries Committee. At his request, contained in the following letter, I have collected the reports :—

8th January, 1918.

DEAR MR. COPE,

I am sorry to feel obliged to leave in your hands the collecting of annual reports from Subject Secretaries. My health keeps me away from Hampshire, even from the Field Club Annual Meeting, so that I cannot be among the members of Field Club and those especially interested in this work.

I am sure you can give it much more impetus and make it more useful than I can, and that in your hands it will be a great strength to the Club. Trusting that Mrs. Cope and you have had a happy season, and with all New Year wishes,

I remain, yours sincerely,

SAMUEL ANDREWS.

The most grateful thanks of all members of the Field Club will follow him in his retirement, with the earnest hope that he may be speedily restored to better health and will once more be able to take part in our meetings.

At the Annual Meeting on May 6th, 1918, the Club were kind enough to elect me as successor to Dr. Andrews. I take the opportunity of returning my best thanks to the members of the Club for their kindness. It will be my earnest endeavour to push this side of our work, but I can only do so by the various Correspondents being so kind as to give me their support.

Mr. Hooley, F.G.S., Earlsclcroft, St. Giles' Hill, Winchester, has been so good as to undertake the duties of correspondent for Geology; for the future will those who wish to send any information on that subject forward their reports to him. Botany reports should be sent to the Rev. Canon Vaughan, The Close, Winchester; those on Fungi to Mr. J. F. Rayner, F.R.H.S., Swaythling, near Southampton; Architecture to Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett, A.R.I.B.A., 45, Jewry Street, Winchester; Ornithology to Capt. P. W. Munn, Stourwood Avenue, Bournemouth; Field Archaeology to Dr. J. P. Williams-Freeman, Weyhill House, Andover. The Rev. J. E. Kelsall, The Vicarage, New Milton, Hants, will be glad to receive reports relating to the Natural History of the New Forest. In the Isle of Wight Mr. G. W. Colenutt, F.G.S., Hanway Lodge, Belvedere Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, will continue to report on the Geology of the Island, while Mr. Frank Morey, F.L.S., Wolverton, Newport, Isle of Wight, is, I am glad to say, kind enough to look after the Natural History.

Secretaries are still needed for Entomology and Metereology. I should like it to be thoroughly understood that I only consented to take Dr. Andrews' place on the understanding that the Committee filled up these two vacancies. Should they not be filled, then my acceptancy of the position will naturally cease.

FIELD ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION, 1917.

J. P. WILLIAMS-FREEMAN, M.D.

Dr. Williams-Freeman has forwarded the following information from Mr. Willis, honorary local secretary for Basingstoke.

FLINT IMPLEMENTS.

Considerable additions to the collection of local flint implements have recently been made. The area around Kempshott Lane has proved unusually rich in certain types, yielding some six or seven arrowheads of exquisite workmanship with the interesting addendum of the pointed and well-worn fabricator, which had evidently served to work out the barb hollows. The fields

west of the lane have also produced an abnormal number of scrapers, some 40 or 50 of good quality having been secured, including several of the best class. An unusual polished fragment from this site shewed two distinct processes of finish; the first, the usual grinding on a hard sandstone bed giving several faces on the same curve, and secondly, a subsequent polishing on some pliable substance, *e.g.* leather, whereby the remaining hollows in the implement had also received a high polish. Among the abundant Neolithic flints of the Dummer Clump Site a long ochreous implement was picked up. On reference to the British Museum this was identified by Mr. Reginald A. Smith as a "Thames pick" of well-known late Palæolithic pattern.

Considerable work has been done during the year (1917) in "flinting" and several new sites have been observed, viz., the S. slope of the ridge to the S.E. of Ford Farm, Greywell; Deane Down and Winslade Moor, which have all yielded implements, scrapers, etc. Three workers have now been in the field for some years, their efforts resulting in a total annual average—including elementary types—of over 450 specimens. The actual figures for the last six months, compiled from a detailed record of all finds prepared and kept by Mr. Rainbow, comprise the following:—Arrow and spear-heads, 10; ground and polished fragments, 4; chipped celts, 23; scrapers, 200; fabricators, 17; picks, hammer-stones and miscellaneous implements, 77. Among the more noteworthy finds was a very patinated white ovate implement of distinctly Palæolithic type from White Hill, also an adze with a very well marked "neck" from Kite Hill; a long "pick" with the end worn conical by long and hard use from Kempshott; and a small celt shaped by pounding instead of flaking from Ford Farm.

The known flint areas at Popham have been considerably extended and have yielded some 10 or 12 implements, etc. Several having been ingeniously contrived so that the curved end of the natural flint forms a "pistol shaped" handle to the tool. A new area to the S. of the Farleigh-Hatch Warren Lane has

produced several parts of polished celts, a parti-polished chisel, well-used fabricators, two rough arrowheads and many scrapers.

By the courtesy of Mr. H. Rainbow, a detailed record has been obtained and forwarded to the Committee of the British Association of a fine bronze socketed celt found some twelve years ago by a shepherd on Isnam's Farm, Odiham. This celt, which is in good condition and is decorated on both sides with parallel raised lines, is in the possession of Mr. H. Thomas of Palace Gate Farm, Odiham.

EARTHWORKS.

Within the last two or three years some twenty Tumuli sites, not marked on the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Maps, have been located and duly placed on the Field Club maps, as follows :—

DUMMER.—On the N. edge of Inwood Copse, 200 yards E. of Dummer Parish boundary is a wide low mound covered with many large flints, and shewing traces of a circular ditch under certain conditions of ploughing. Also $\frac{1}{4}$ mile due E. of Clump Farm, 200 yards N.W. of the Clump Chalk Pit is another low mound of chalky soil, without flints, but shewing a distinct tumulus outline when seen on the skyline from Farleigh Lane. Both these lie close to the very prolific area of Neolithic flint work round the "Clump."

WORTING.—On the ridge 200 yards W. of Buckskin Farm are two low mounds shewing many large flints under the plough. Several flint implements have been picked up from the actual tumps and in the near neighbourhood ; while several other tumuli are visible from this site.

UPTON GREY.—Along the S.E. corner of Privett Copse, Hoddington, is a row of four large mounds shewing a few flints, with one smaller and rather indefinite mound at the E. end of the row. A little to the N. of the same ridge occurs a very rich flint implement site.

Quarter-of-a-mile due S. of Brickhill Cottages, N. of Humbly Grove Farm, is a large mound, apparently excavated, with a

smaller one to the N. of it. Well worked scrapers have been found on the mounds and an implement in the field just below.

HACKWOOD PARK.—Close to the site of the mapped tumulus, S.W. of the Tunworth Road Bridge, is a low tree-covered mound apparently excavated, shewing ditch all round, cut back into the side of the hill.

ANDWELL.—At the corner of the field N.W. of Little Tunnel Bridge is a large mound, covered with bushes, yielding many fine flint flakes and several well worked scrapers. In a strip of wood to the W. is a small circular depression surrounded by a low bank, possibly a pit dwelling.

NORTH WALTHAM.—200 yards N. of Waltham Trinleys and 100 yards W. of North Waltham Parish boundary, is a low much degraded mound shewing many large flints under plough.

BULL'S BUSHES, OAKLEY.—Crossed by a hedge 300 yards E. of Berrydown Copse is a low mound, under grass, possibly associated with the three well marked tumuli on Bull's Bushes Farm.

POPHAM.—In the field S. of Popham Down Copse are three large obvious mounds shewing a few large flints. Part of a polished celt, a flaked "knife" and various scrapers have been obtained from this area.

WOOTTON.—In Cowdown Copse, 20 yards N. of Pack Lane, is a low mound covered with bushes shewing many fine flakes, together with a tiny fragment of early Celtic (?) pottery.

WOODMANCOTE.—In the copse at the angle of road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile W. of Lane Barn are two mounds, both shewing well defined ditches, one mound being still symmetrical, the other much excavated by rabbits. On the latter was found a well worked but broken flint arrowhead.

Other possible sites where the evidence is not entirely satisfactory are :—

WHITE HILL.—200 yards N.E. of White Hill Dale is a low barely perceptible mound, but shewing many large flints. Several implements have been obtained from the same field.

BATTLEDOWN FARM.—A little to the E. of the mapped tumulus nearest to the Roman road is a very low mound, the whole neighbourhood yielding many flint flakes.

BROWN, CANDOVER.—Above the mapped tumulus N. of Totford is a large low mound under pasture.

The tumulus at Sheerdown near Malshanger Park, opened some 20 years ago by Sir Wyndham Portal, Bart., not shewn on the Ordnance Map, has been located and recorded on the Field Club map.

A small tumulus has also been identified 300 yards E. of Popham Beacons and 200 yards N. of the Stockbridge road. It is a low grass covered mound about 3 to 4 feet high and some 25 feet in diameter, with very faint traces of a ditch.

Between the two pairs of high mounds comprising Popham Beacons a possible fifth can be distinguished of very low altitude, but well defined by its circular ditch, which practically reaches to the two adjacent tumuli.

On Winslade Down, overlooking the Chapel, a low circular mound of rather darker earth than the surrounding field, with abundant large flints, probably denotes a tumulus; contributory evidence being the finding of flint implements round it.

To the N. of the two large tumuli on the N. edge of Freefolk Wood, Micheldever, is a long mound which in general shape and size conforms to the usual type of a Long Barrow. It is 46 yards long and 28 yards broad, and the occurrence upon it of flint flakes and a scraper suggest its early origin.

Some $\frac{3}{4}$ mile W. of Axford on the N. side of the Axford-North Waltham Road is a large patch of black earth with abundant burnt flint shewing under the plough. As this would be close to the stream that once flowed along this valley it suggests a parallel with the very large area of burnt earth and flint under Penrith Road, Basingstoke, on the banks of the River Loddon.

An apparent tumulus on the Kempshott Hatch Warren Road has been duly noted on the Field Club maps as the site of a cottage burnt down in 1880, while a large mound near Herriard

House marked on the Ordnance Map has been ascertained to be the "out-throw" from the sinking of a well.

The name of "Cadbury" in Ashe Park led to an examination of the area so named, with the result that traces of earthworks were found. In a small belt of copse on the hill-top W. of Deane Gate a double bank and ditch are discernable, which, however, end abruptly with the copse and are not traceable on the open meadow beyond. Approximately in line with these banks, but some 300 yards nearer Ashe House, a footpath runs along the top of a bank, about 200 yards long, which forms the segment of a large circle. The field level within the circle is about 7 or 8 feet above the outer level. If this formed part of an entrenchment, successive rebuilding of the house which stands on its apparent circumference has doubtless obliterated the larger part.

ROMAN REMAINS.

The traces of Roman pottery, etc., that are frequently coming to light in this district, suggest that the local population in Roman times was both numerous and well distributed. The following new sites are here recorded :—

SOUTH HAM FARM.—A large midden hole section in chalkpit, shewing thin of charcoal, burnt flints mixed with abundant fragments of pottery, including Samian, many of which could be reassembled; one large handworked Celtic pot crushed flat at bottom of pit.

WELLOCK'S HILL.—A large midden hole 40 ft. long by 2 ft. 6 ins. deep section in chalkpit, an occasional line of charcoal up to 3 ins. in thickness, many bones of ox and sheep, few fragments of Roman pottery, several pieces of large Celtic vessel $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick.

MONK SHERBORNE.—A deep hole section in chalkpit yielding burnt flints and bones, and fragments of thick Celtic pottery, hole fast weathering out. Fragments of Rom. Brit. pottery on debris all round chalkpit, and abundant in corner of field S.E. of pit.

BATTLEDOWN FARM.—A definite area between the large tumulus and the line of the Roman road shews abundant traces of Roman pottery, Samian, etc. Coin of Tetricus Minor. Two midden holes were located yielding bones and pottery. The strategic position of site at crossing of the Roman road and the Harrow Way and commanding maximum views of both suggests a guard or toll-house, although no foundations or permanent work have so far been found.

PARK PREWETT.—In sinking the foundations of the County Asylum several complete Roman vessels of plain reddish unglazed ware were uncovered; together with a cinerary urn about 10 ins. high filled with burnt bones and earth. Road cuttings also shewed sections of cooking or midden holes containing abundant burnt flint with fragments of pottery; that also occurred in the tree planting along the Sherborne-Rooksdown Road.

COLLEGE WOOD, WOODMANCOTE.—Where the Popham-Woodmancote footpath enters the N. of College Wood an undoubted villa site has been identified (or re-discovered). Just within the wood to the W. of the path is a large low irregular mound surrounded by ditches. Excavations by rabbits shew, in addition to the inevitable pottery, many tiles marked with intersecting rows of parallel scratches, small pieces of Binstead stone, much Roman mortar made with pounded tile, and fragments of plaster with red fresco colouring on their flat surfaces. There are records by Prof. Haverfeld in the Victorian County History and by the Rev. G. N. Godwin, of Roman finds at Woodmancote, but the data given appear to refer to the Dunley Hill site.

Small surface finds of pottery have also occurred at Bidden Water, Marnel Dell, Ruckstall's Hill and Andwell Chalkpit.

The following sites, recorded by Dr. Andrews, have also been recently examined :—

WEST FARM, POPHAM.—A deep midden hole section in chalk-pit, with lines of charcoal, has yielded various bones, a large dog's skull, parts of a reddish brown vessel, abundant burnt flints, and a tiny fragment of bronze.

CHINEHAM BRICKFIELD.—Where the new railway siding cuts into Chineham Copse E. of the brickfield, many fragments of Roman pottery have weathered out.

DUNLEY HILL, WOODMANCOTE.—The Popham-Woodmancote Road at about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Vicarage corner crosses a very prolific pottery area. The open field on the bottom to the S. of the road is covered with parts of bases and rims together with a few tiles. This area has now been traced across the road into the S. edge of College Wood, where the pottery remains are very plentiful.

TRACES OF ROMAN OCCUPATION.

DUMMER.—About a mile S. of the Clump at the end of Basledean or Battledean Row, a well defined area shews abundant signs of occupation. A slight fold in the ground may indicate the actual site of a building. It is conspicuous by many large flints, interspersed with small slabs of Binstead and sandstone, limestone pebbles, etc., while the whole site yields fragments of pottery, among them part of a mortarum and the handle of a large amphora. The position, pleasantly situated at the head of a small valley of the Candover system, agrees therein with other villa sites in the neighbourhood.

BIDDEN WATER.—Just to the N.W. of the solitary cottage situated on the footpath from Greywell Mill to Bidden Water, a few large flints are noticeable, associated with small fragments of sandstone and a few pieces of pottery, which also occur sparingly along the valley towards Bidden Farm. There is little to suggest prolonged occupation.

STEVENTON.—In the garden behind the School-house fragments of Roman pottery, including Samian, have been repeatedly turned up. The field adjoining the garden shews signs of disturbance, and has at some time been divided into three or four broad terraces.

BRITISH COIN.

This coin, of exceptional interest, which was found in the vicinity, is a specimen of the Pre-Roman British gold currency.

It is in good preservation and shews, on the obverse, a much exaggerated fillet covering a few conventional locks of hair, the face having entirely disappeared, and on the reverse, the figure of a disjointed horse composed largely of straight lines with a single chariot wheel. Similar coins of this early uninscribed type have been found at St. Mary Bourne and Mortimer.

ARCHITECTURE—N. C. H. NISBETT, A.R.I.B.A.

The restrictions placed on all work connected with buildings imposed by war conditions have very much reduced the opportunities of noting items of interest, but the following are worth mention :—

WINCHESTER COLLEGE.—During some necessary repairs to the stone tiling of the roof of the Cloisters some portions of the old timbers, having decayed, were replaced by new oak. The roof of these Cloisters is very similar in construction to that of the Cloisters at Chichester, and like it was asserted to be constructed either of chestnut or Irish oak. The use of either of these timbers was supposed to prevent spiders forming cobwebs in the roof. I forward a report prepared by Mr. Herbert Chitty on the timber in the roof of the College Cloisters :—

“The Fellows who were at Winchester on the 22nd September last will recollect their visit to the Cloisters, in company with the Warden, to view the progress of the repairs to the roof, upon which Messrs. Collins and Godfrey's men are still engaged. In the course of the visit the question arose as to whether the original timbers of the roof, as constructed in our Founder's time, were of oak or of sweet (or Spanish) chestnut. Differences of opinion upon the point were found to exist, and Sir Frederic Kenyon therefore proposed that some pieces of the ancient timber, taken from partially decayed rafters or wall-plates (which were being renewed in oak) should be submitted to Dr. Rendle, the Keeper of Botany to the British Museum. This has now been done, and I have received from him a letter, of which the following is a copy :—

'BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
'CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 7.
'Nov. 8th, 1917.

'DEAR SIR,—I have examined the three pieces of old timber which you submitted to me as coming from the roof of the Winchester College Cloisters and I am of opinion that they are oak and not Spanish chestnut. I am of the same opinion with regard to the smaller pieces which Sir Frederic Kenyon previously asked me to examine. You are at liberty to publish this letter.

'Yours very truly,

(Signed) 'A. B. RENDLE,

'H. Chitty, Esq.,

'Keeper of Botany.'

'Bursar of Winchester College.'

"From statements which appear in modern books, some on trees and others on architecture, it would seem that the old idea, that mediæval roofs were largely constructed of sweet chestnut, is now regarded by experts as exploded. This idea was prevalent in the earlier years of the nineteenth century, and was popular, as it still in some degree remains, with the custodians and local guides to ancient buildings. But, as the result of careful investigation, there is now a general *consensus* of opinion among the experts, botanists and architects alike, that chestnut was not used in England in mediæval times for the construction of roofs. There is no known example in this country of an ancient roof which has been found on examination to consist of chestnut. The old error was due to a certain resemblance between the two woods, but experts are able to distinguish oak from chestnut.

"Among the books I have consulted before framing the foregoing paragraph I may mention 'The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland,' by H. J. Elwes, F.R.S., and Augustine Henry, M.A. (Edinburgh, privately printed), vol. iv. (1909), p. 852; 'Way-side and Woodland Trees, a pocket guide to the British Sylva,' by Edward Step, F.L.S. (Fk. Warne & Co. 1907), p. 135; and 'The Dictionary of Architecture' (issued by the Architectural Publication Society; no date, but begun in 1853), vol. ii., p. 42.

"The belief that roofs were of chestnut was frequently accompanied by the belief that such roofs had properties which kept spiders away. At Winchester we seem to have enjoyed the second of these creeds, but with a difference of opinion about the wood to which it applied :—

" 'The spider hangs her light net-work between mullion and pier, but no web ever touches the rounded rafters of the roof, which is vaulted with dark beams of Irish oak.'—Walcott's 'Wykeham and his Colleges' (1852), p. 257.

"It is stated in Messrs. Warren and Son's excellent 'Hand-book to Winchester' 'that the absence of cob-webs (which is a fact) has been attributed to the circumstance of the timbers being Irish oak ; but the spiders are kept down by the bats and swallows which haunt the place, and there seems to be no great occasion to ascribe to Irish oak a virtue which the oak of the sister island is not known to possess.'—Kirby's 'Annals of Winchester College' (1892), p. 63.

"Being told by Hall, the tiler now on the job, and also by Bendle, the College carpenter, that there are plenty of spiders and plenty of cob-webs in the roof, I got up into the roof yesterday with their help, and was at once convinced by what I saw there myself. Spiders' webs abound in the tie-rafters, which, as one walks on the Cloister floor, are hidden from view by the curved beams beneath them. Whether swallows or bats care to eat spiders I do not know, but I saw yesterday a web in almost every angle of every tie-rafter, both in the west aisle and in the east ; and it may be added that the rafters of the east aisle were brushed clean when the stone tiling was relaid there in 1916.

"As to the localities from which oak was procured for the College in Wykeham's time, Kirby says (p. 29) that 'the timber used after the opening day [Saturday, 28th March, 1394] came from Ropley, near Alresford, or Allington, near Bishopstoke [or Eastleigh]. It does not appear that chestnut was used in any part of the fabric, and fir was unknown.' Piles for the foundations of walls were of beech.

"The community began to occupy the College before the buildings had been completed. Having lately looked at Warden Morys's accounts with Simon Membury and with John French, who succeeded Membury as the comptroller of the works on Wykeham's behalf, I subjoin some scattered entries relating to timber :—

(1395-6.) Et in CL. pylez apud Roppele proster-
nendis et ad collegium carian-
dis pro fundamentis
porte gardine faciendis, prout patet in dicto papira ix*s.* vii*d.*

(1396-7.) Et in sol. pro cariagio pilarum caria-
tarum [carried] de Roppele, prout manifeste patet
per predictum papirum lxxv*s.* viii*d.*

Et in solut. pro dictis piles faciendis, prosternen-
dis et acuendis, prout evidentur declaratur per
papirum eiusdem Simonis xxxvi*s.* iii*d.*

Et in solut. pro vi^{xx} [six score] tabulis vocatis
Waynscotes et xii Rigelbordis [boards with riggals
or grooves therein] emptis apud Southampton,
simul cum expensis eligencium et triancium eas;
necnon expensis cariancium illas de Southampton
usque collegium, ut in papiro eiusdem Simonis
continentur x*l*i. ii*s.* iii*d.*

(1397-8.) Et in sol. Stephano Oarre pro una
grava [grove] bosci ab eo empta et pro iii querc.
emptis pro ii somers [summers or main beams] et
ii bordstockes [pieces to be sawn into boards] ... xvi*l*i. x*s.*

Et in sol. pro cariagio ii somers empt. pro
camera ad finem Aule [now Chandler's hatch] ... viii*s.*

Et in sol. Willelmo Ikenham et sociis suis pro
factura tecti columbarii de Hamele [Hamble],
una cum cariagio meremii [timber] de Alyngton
usque Hamele, simul cum vadiis [wages] laborari-
orum iuvancium eos cv*s.* viii*d.* ob.

(1401.) Et solut. pro meremio empto apud

Schamulhurst [which, like Allington, is a tithing of
S. Stoneham] lxvis. viiid.

Et in scapulacione [scappling or rough planing]
eiusdem meremii apud silvam predictam xxxiis. iid.

"These accounts contain many details which would be of
interest to students of our ancient buildings. I could wish that
they were printed *in extenso*.

H. C.

14th November, 1917."

MICHELDEVER CHURCH.—During some work to the heating
apparatus a hole was accidentally made in the brick roof of an
adjoining burial vault. At the invitation of the Earl of North-
brook and the Rector I had an opportunity of inspecting this
vault, and although three sides of it, as well as the roof, appear to
have been largely re-constructed when the Church was re-built
(apparently early in the 19th century), the eastern wall is
evidently part of the old building. It is interesting from the fact
that it is of rubble masonry, principally flint, with fragments of
old stonework incorporated in it. These consist of portions of
architectural features, angle shafts, stonework of piers about
2ft. 6in. in diameter, and a small piece of cap or base moulding
from an octagonal member. I should be inclined to think they
are all of Norman date, and, as there are similar fragments built
into the stonework of the 16th century tower, it seems possible
that an older Norman Church was pulled down and a new one
built in the time of Henry VIII.

BOTANY.—The REV. CANON JOHN VAUGHAN, M.A.

I regret to say that owing to ill-health I was unable to superin-
tend any botanical excursions or studies last season (1917). Dr.
Dukinfield H. Scott, F.R.S., reports that he found *Daphne Mezere-
um*, L., April 21st, 1917; *Monotropa Hypopitys*, L., July 17th,
1917; *Orobanche elatior* Sutton, July 19th, 1917; *Cuscuta Tri-
folii*, Bab, July 19th, 1917; *Hieracium murorum*, L., July, 1917;
Hieracium boreale Fries, August, 1917. He says: "I should like
to add that *Crepis taraxacifolia*, Thuill. & *C. biennis* L., both appar-

ing to be rare, according to Townsend ('Flora of Hampshire'), are extremely common about Oakley, the former being the more widely spread of the two. The increasing frequency of these once scarce plants, now among the commonest weeds about here, seems very interesting."

NEW FOREST DISTRICT.—The REV. J. E. KELSALL, M.A.

I have been too busy to make a detailed report on the Natural History of the past year, but these few notes for 1917 may be considered worth recording. The winter of 1916-17 was exceptionally severe, more so than any season since 1894-95. The result on birds and insects was remarkable. The following birds seem to have suffered most:—Goldcrests have quite disappeared from my garden and from the "Ornamental Drive" at Rhinefield in the Forest, in both of which places they formerly swarmed¹; Common Wrens and Titmice; Thrushes, Blackbirds, Fieldfares and Redwings; Starlings, Robins, Lapwings and Green Woodpeckers. The summer birds appeared about their usual dates, with the exception of the Chiffchaff, which came late.

Insects, on the other hand, have been more abundant than usual, and butterflies more so than for many years past. White Admirals swarmed in the Forest and wandered some miles (four miles at least) beyond its borders. Cabbage Whites, large and small, were quite a plague; two thousand seven hundred caterpillars of these two, mixed, I believe, with those of the Green-veined White and the Cabbage Moth, were taken in a small garden in this parish. All common butterflies were abundant, and some comparatively rare butterflies and moths appeared, including the Clouded Yellow (*Colias edusa*), the Painted Lady (*Pyrameis cardui*), the Elephant Hawk Moth (*Chaerocampa Eumorphia elpenor*), and the Convolvulus Hawk (*Sphinx convolvuli*). The Buff-tip (*Phalerabucephala*) and the Common Burnet (*Zygaena Filipen dulae*) were unusually plentiful. I

¹ May not the recent extensive timber cutting partially account for this?
—EDITOR.

attribute the abundance of insects generally to the destruction of the small birds, especially the Titmice.

NEW FOREST FUNGI.—J. F. RAYNER, F.R.H.S., M.B. MYC.S.

In New Forest Mycology very little was done during the past season. The Hants Field Club held no foray, one projected by the Bournemouth Science Society was cancelled, and those of the Southampton Literary and Philosophical Society and the Southampton Rambling Club were held elsewhere. Nevertheless, by individual work, the following species were added to the list:—*Mycena pseudopurpurea* Cke., *Coprinus sterquilinus* Fr., *Boletus castaneus* Bull., *Polyporus fumosus* (Pers.) Fr., *Cordyceps ophioglossoides* (Ehrh.) Link.

ISLE OF WIGHT GEOLOGY.—G. W. COLENUTT, F.G.S.

In last year's report attention was called to the increasing rate of sea erosion at Whitecliff Bay, and to the consequent exposure of fresh cliff sections of some of the Beds of Oligocene and Eocene age. The erosion still continues, and the condition of the Bay forms a very striking illustration of the evils attendant on the removal of shingle accumulations from beaches, particularly where, as at Whitecliff Bay, the cliffs consist of easily eroded material. The attention of foreshore engineers might well be called to the former condition of the Bay before the shingle was removed, and to its present state, which clearly shews the far-reaching and continuous effects of an unwise interference with Nature's work.

Important changes are taking place on the foreshore between Gurnard and Cowes due to some work which has had the effect of permitting the shingle, held up in front of Gurnard Marsh, to resume its passage along the coast. It is hoped that this subject may be dealt with more fully later on, after the war, when the restrictions on the local use of the camera may be removed. It is almost impossible to deal intelligibly with a matter of this kind

without photographic assistance to explain and record the changes which are constantly taking place in a coast line unprotected by sea defences. But the whole subject, so far as the Gurnard locality is concerned, must necessarily remain in abeyance for the present, as one is precluded from taking a fresh series of negatives to compare with those secured a few years ago.

ISLE OF WIGHT NATURAL HISTORY.—FRANK MOREY, P.L.S.

BIRDS.—Mr. R. H. Fox, of Shanklin, writes me: "The Green Woodpecker has now got thoroughly established in the Island. It is quite rarely I fail to hear it when I am shooting in cover in any part of the Island, and I am pretty well all over it." Mr. Moody, of Wootton, informs me that during the last ten years he has seen these birds about the Briddlesford woods, and that two years ago, in March, he saw a pair of the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. In February of this year, the weather being very cold, a flock of about forty Geese came to Wootton Creek, a thing he had never known before. Mr. Gregson, the steward of the Osborne estate, tells me that last year several Herons bred in one of the woods under his care, and reared nearly thirty young ones. It is a rare thing for Herons to breed in the Island. In regard to Owls, Mr. Fox writes: "The Short-eared Owl has been very scarce with us for some years, and the Long-eared Owl has, I am afraid, sensibly decreased in numbers, but I see more Barn Owls than before, and hope they tend to increase. Keepers *will* destroy Owls, and nothing one can say or publish will prevent it."

INSECTS.—Mr. H. G. Jeffery, of Newport, writes: "*Melitaea aurinia* (Greasy Fritillary) has quite died out in the only locality known to me. I sincerely hope there are others. *M. cinxia* (Glanville Fritillary) was last spring holding its own in a very restricted area. This aristocrat among our butterflies sadly needs the help of favourable weather, as it does not occur on a quarter of the space it did four or five years ago. Of Coleoptera, the rare *Bathyscia Wollastoni* occurred again in profusion in the back garden of a house in Newport. This species appears to be

double-brooded, appearing about mid-summer and again in October."

MOLLUSCA.—An interesting addition to our marine species is the limpet-like *Calyptrea chinensis*, which now occurs freely along the beach between Ryde and Wootton. A few years ago it was quite unknown to us here. A land snail, not recorded hitherto for the Island, is *Hygromia fusca*, a specimen of which I found in a ditch in a wood at King's Quay. Mr. H. F. Poole, of Shanklin, had previously found a specimen in quite another locality. I also found, in a wet ditch at King's Quay, one of the little chocolate-coloured slugs, *Agriolimax lævis*, which species seems to have been very much overlooked in the Island.

FUNGI.—Mr. E. W. Swanton, of Haslemere, informs me that a lady sent him a drawing of what was evidently *Clathrus cancellatus*, which she said had recently been found in a wood near Ryde. It is interesting to know that this rare species still occurs here. Mr. H. H. Steeple, of Shanklin, showed me a specimen of *Geaster Bryantii*, which a friend of his had found this summer growing by the roadside at Gatcombe. It has not, I think, been recorded for the Island before.



Plate V. THE LAST SUPPER.

National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Bonifacio.

EXCURSIONS.

Owing to the "paper shortage" and the heavy expenses connected with the production of all printed matter, the Editor, with much regret, has decided not to print the accounts of the various excursions. He trusts all the members will agree to this course.

The Rev. T. Thistle having kindly paid for the reproduction of the picture in his Church at Eling, where an excursion took place (2nd October, 1917) to see this painting, the Editor has made an exception and gives a description of this picture, "The Last Supper."

The picture, Mr. Thistle informed the members of the Field Club, was till some fifty years ago the "Altar Piece of Eling Church," when it was taken down at the restoration of the Church and rehung in the vestry. There it remained for some twenty-five years, when it was cleaned and framed and hung on the south wall of the Church, where owing to the darkness it was impossible to see it. About the commencement of the year 1917 it was decided to remove the carved stone reredos to the west end near the font and replace the picture as an altar piece.

The President of the Royal Academy, Sir Edward Poynter, and Mr. Heseltine, one of the trustees of the National Gallery, have both examined the painting. They agreed that it was very fine, in excellent preservation, and considered it to be the work of Marziale, of the Venetian School, and painted in the early part of the sixteenth century.

The frame, which encloses the picture at Eling, was designed by Mr. Horseman, architect of Southampton, and was both made and carved by Mr. Saxby, one of the sidesmen. It is a very fine and striking example of modern carved oak work.

It is not known how this picture found its way to Eling Church, the general belief is that it once belonged to Mottisfont Priory, which surrendered to Henry VIII., 22 May, 1536, and was

granted to William, Lord Sandys of the Vyne, Hants, K.G., Lord Chamberlain, and Lady Margery his wife, by letters patent on 14th June, 1536, with the "site and advowsons and the whole of the possessions of the late priory." By this grant Lord Sandys became patron of Eling, and it is thought that he presented the painting to the Church. It may be mentioned that in the early twelfth century the Church had been attached to the great Benedictine Abbey of Jumieges (on the Seine between Havre and Rouen), and was later transferred to the Priory of Mottisfont.¹

In the National Gallery, Edinburgh, is a painting of the same subject by Bonifacio Veneziano, which has a striking resemblance to the Eling picture both in the grouping and placing of the figures at the table, but the points of difference between the two paintings make it quite clear that they are not the work of the same artist.

The following extracts from the catalogues of the National Gallery, London, and that of Edinburgh, give short details of the two artists.

Marziale Marco, a Venetian painter of whose life few circumstances are known. . . . His works are extremely rare. . . . The dates on Marziale's known pictures range from 1499 to 1507. Two works by him are in the National Gallery, London, "The Circumcision of the Lord," and "The Madonna and Child enthroned with Saints." Both these are signed by Marziale, the former picture bears the inscription "Marcus Martialis Venetus Jusu Mci Equitis et Jurcon. D. Thome R. Opus Hoc P. An. M°CCCCC°," which translated into English is "Marco. Marziale of Venice, by the command of the Magnificent Signor, Thomaso

¹ The descent of the advowson may be briefly stated as follows:—From the time of the Conquest till Richard I. transferred it to Gervaise of Southampton the patronage had been in the hands of the Crown. On the death of Gervaise the Crown once more became patron; however, in 1504-5 King John granted it to Mottisfont Priory. Later in the same century the patronage had been transferred to the Abbey of Jumieges. In 1253 a faculty was issued by the Pope, Innocent IV., directing the Abbey of Jumieges to enter into the possession of the "church of Heling (sic) of their patronage"; at the same time a Vicar was to be appointed. Some years later it again reverted to Mottisfont Priory, and so continued till the dissolution of the religious houses, when it was granted to Lord Sandys.

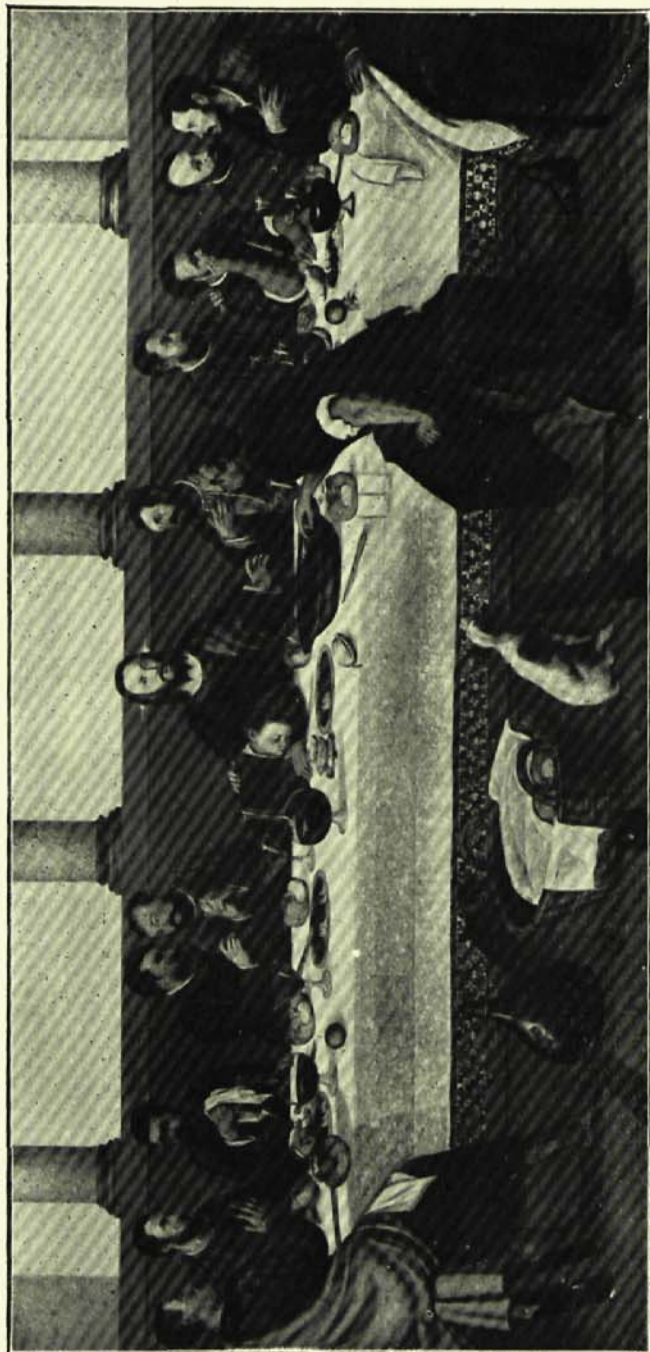


Plate VI. THE LAST SUPPER, Altar Piece, Eling Church, Hampshire.

Attributed to Marziale, c. 1500.

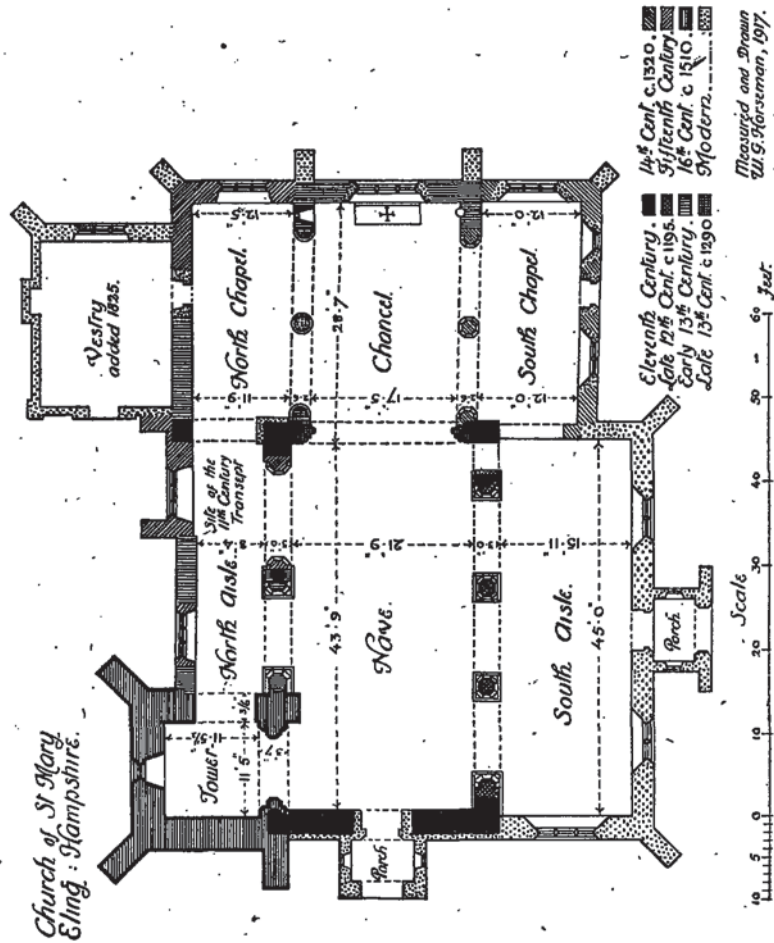
Raimondi, Knight and Jurisconsult,¹ painted this work in the year 1500." In Venice, in the Academy of Fine Arts, there is a painting by this artist of the Supper at Emmaus signed by him and dated 1507, a similar picture by the same artist is in the Berlin Gallery, and is both signed and dated 1507. The picture at Eling is neither signed or dated.

Bonifacio. During the 16th century three painters of the name of Bonifacio lived in Venice. . . . They studied under Palma Vecchio. The youngest, known as Bonifacio Veneziano, was born probably at Venice between 1525 and 1530, and he died after 1579. His earliest works have affinity with those of the elder Bonifacio, but those dating after 1570 show the influence of Titian.

After the picture had been described, Mr. Horseman explained the architectural details of Eling Church—St. Mary the Virgin. The earliest recorded mention of the Church occurs in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which states: "There is a church to which belongs half a carucate of land in endowment." The "half a carucate" probably refers to the land which lies between the church and the water, and to this day still forms part of the glebe. The church, thus mentioned as existing in 1086, was probably of pre-Conquest foundation, and consisted of a nave to the north of which was a small transept with an apse on its east side, and a small chancel. The dimensions of the nave of this church are those of the present nave, the arcades of later date being pierced through the 11th century walls, and some walling of this date remains above the arcades, and in the west wall. There are two early windows remaining, neither in their original position. One, certainly of pre-Conquest date, is high up in the wall at the west end of the nave, and only visible from the south aisle. It is cut out of a single piece of stone and has a circular head, worked round which and continued down the jambs is a

¹ Thomas de Raymonds, Doctor of Laws and Knight of the Order of Jerusalem. Besides being a lawyer of distinction he published some Latin verses and an account of a journey to the Holy Land. He died in 1510, aged about 48.

double roll moulding. The other window is close to the east end of the north wall of chancel. It is very narrow with a rounded head formed with many voussoirs, and the jambs and sill are each worked out of a single stone. The internal reveal is very widely splayed.



The existing church has been evolved from this early building by a long series of enlargements and alterations, and the edifice

is now of the greatest interest, exhibiting as it does the work of the Eling parishioners from the eleventh century down to the present time. The first enlargement was the addition of the south aisle of three bays, which was added to the nave towards the close of the 12th century. The arches of two chamfered orders are carried upon octagonal piers standing upon finely moulded octagonal bases and square plinths, which are carved with fine spur or foot ornaments. The octagonal foliated capitals are of varied design, and the whole arcade, although much touched up by the restorers of 1864, is of great interest.

The next alteration was the addition, in the early years of the 13th century, of a north aisle of two bays to the nave. Only the eastern bay of arcade now remains, the western bay being destroyed when the tower was built in the 16th century. The details are very similar to those of the south arcade, except that the capitals are moulded and not carved, and the arches of two chamfered orders have the addition of a hoodmould on the side to the nave.

Closely following the completion of the north aisle came the removal of the 11th century chancel, and the building of a new one of the width and length now existing. A chapel was built on the north side of the new chancel, into which it opened by a pointed arch of two chamfered orders carried upon semicircular responds with moulded caps and bases. The chapel opened into the early transept by the semicircular arch of the former apse. The early chancel arch was probably removed at the end of the 13th century, when the existing arch of wide span and grand design was built. The arch has three finely moulded orders, the two outer ones being stilted at the springing, and the jambs have triple engaged shafts with well moulded caps and bases.

The next work was the addition (c. 1320) of the south chapel to, and of equal length as, the chancel, into which it opens by an arcade of two bays. The arches are of two chamfered orders, carried upon an octagonal central column, and half octagonal eastern and western responds, all having moulded caps and bases.

The 11th century north transept was altered to its present appearance in the 15th century, when its narrow arch then forming the eastern bay of nave arcade was taken down, and the wider arch now seen built in its place. The pitched roof and gabled end of transept were removed, the western wall taken down and the area of transept absorbed in this eastern extension of the north aisle, the wall of which was raised, and the two three-light windows were inserted at the same time.

The final mediæval alteration was made in the early part of the 16th century (c. 1510), when the tower was built at the west end of the north aisle. It is of three low stages, strengthened at the angles by stout buttresses, those at the north-west and north-east corners being placed diagonally, and a square one at the south-west. The tower is crowned by a moulded and embattled parapet, under which is a moulded stringcourse and carved bosses. The ground storey opens by fine four-centred arches to the nave and north aisle. The position of the tower is of interest. No doubt the builders would have preferred to erect it in the more usual position at the west end of the nave, but this was impossible, as the west end closely adjoins the precipitous western boundary of the consecrated area, and further the customary processional pathway round the Church would have been obstructed. The belfry contains a good peal of six bells, re-cast by Pack and Chapman in 1775. An entry in the inventory of Church Goods of Hampshire, made in 1552, states that the belfry was then furnished with four bells and "two little bells."

The large vestry adjoining the north chapel of the chancel was built in 1825, and the whole Church was rather drastically "restored" and enlarged under the direction of Benjamin Ferrey, architect, in 1864. The south chapel was rebuilt and the south aisle widened to its present dimensions, and the south and west porches added. With the exception of the tower and north aisle, where the original stone and flint facings remain, the whole of the external faces of the walls were completely renewed, also the doorways and most of the window tracery. The eastern win-

dows of chancel and south chapel are reputed to be faithful reproductions of the original windows. In consequence of these far too extensive repairs the exterior of the Church now has a very modern appearance, and gives no hint of the fine and impressive interior, which comes as a welcome surprise to the visitor.

The old oak roofs remain over the nave and north aisle; that over the nave is of trussed rafter form, and may be of 14th century date. The chancel roof possibly retains its old timbers concealed by the panelled ceiling put up in 1864, in which year all the other roofs were put on. The old Norman font, which had its bowl enriched with semi-circular arcading, was ejected from the Church by the "restorers" of 1864, when the present font was put up in its place. The position of the former rood screen and loft over is indicated by the marks of its supports upon the jambs of the chancel arch. The rood loft seems to have been furnished with an altar, and the trefoil-headed niche placed high up in the south wall of nave is probably the upper part of a piscina serving this altar.

Amongst the many interesting monuments may be noted the brass in the north chapel to William Paulet, died 1596, with three shields of arms—the first and third Paulet impaling Pagett, and the second Paulet quartering Roos, Poynings, St. John, Delamere, Hussey, Skelton, Irby and Delamore. This brass was taken away at the restoration of the Church in 1864, and recovered and replaced in the Church by the present Vicar.

Also the white marble monument to Richard Paulet, 1737, and one to Susannah Serle with a fine bust by Rysbrach, whose work is again seen in another monument immediately over the pulpit to Elizabeth Serle, 1741.

On the south wall of the chancel is a late 16th century tablet to Catherine, daughter of Sir John Lewkner, wife of John Mill, and to her son Lewkner. There are several other monuments with boldly carved and interesting emblematic sculpture on the walls of the Church.

The communion plate, of unusual size and magnificence, is of silver gilt, the gift of Margaret Leigh (of Coldrey) in 1693, who was the daughter of Philip Leigh, the last of the Leighs of Testwood in this parish. She is buried in a "place of her own appointment" in the old Churchyard, and immediately facing the east window of the chancel. It consists of a chalice, paten cover, paten and flagon, and weighs in all about 200 ozs. There is also an alms dish of 1707. The registers date from 1537, and are contained in seven books. They are beautifully written, and in an excellent state of preservation, and contain many interesting and curious entries, one of them a marriage solemnised by Richard, Lord Cromwell.

The early seventeenth century brass candelabrum of six lights surmounted with a dove holding an olive branch in its mouth was originally in a small Church in the Golden Valley on the Welsh border of Herefordshire, from which it was turned out by the Churchwardens to make room for some modern ironmonger's lamps, and passing into the possession of the present Vicar of Eling was placed by him in its present position.
