

VISIT TO HINTLESHAM HALL.

Members of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and friends made an excursion to Hintlesham on Saturday, 20th July, 1912, and visited Hintlesham Church and Hintlesham Hall, both of which contain features of interest to the antiquary. Some thirty or forty members of the Institute were present.

The church was first visited, under the guidance of Miss Deane, who gave a description of its most important features—the Timperley monuments, the Blacksmith's pew, a fourteenth century brass, the rood staircase, and a fine example of an Early Decorated window.

The party then adjourned to the Hall, where they were received by Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan. Mr. J. S. Corder read a paper giving a history and description of the house. Mr. Corder's paper has been published in this part of the Proceedings of the Institute.

Mr. W. B. Redfern, President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, read a paper on "Spurs and Keys," stating that the choice of subject was decided by the fact that a collection of spurs and keys of various periods and nations belonging to Sir Gerald Ryan would be found in the gallery in Hintlesham Hall. Mr. Redfern showed how the spur developed from a simple spike into a real work of art. Probably the earliest spur was a sharpened piece of wood, fastened to the heel by leather thongs, such as that used by the natives of Patagonia at the present time. Soldiers of the Roman Army, during their occupation of this country, used a spur consisting of a small and single spike, attached to a pair of arms, and fastened

to the heel by leather straps. A spur of this type, but with a short neck protruding from the arms, and a four-sided pyramidal spike, was used as late as 1219. In the reign of Henry III. star rowels came into use in England. As time went on the spur became more and more elaborate, and when we reach the reigns of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, spurs with large rowels and gracefully formed necks and arms were in general use by the nobility and gentry. In the Seventeenth Century spurs reached the highest pitch of artistic excellence. Single spurs were worn by the Cavaliers. But with the coming of Dutch William, the elegant spur of the Stuarts began to degenerate, and was succeeded by the clumsy spur, worn with the huge jack boots, affected by the Hanoverians.

Mr. Redfern then read a short paper on keys and locks. Keys were probably first made of wood, later of bronze and iron. Our modern latch key, as is also our safety pin, is of Roman origin. The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries produced some of the best art metal work in the way of hinges, bolts, latches, keys, and locks, and it is probable that their owners often carried their metal work treasures from one house to another like any other valuable piece of furniture. Perhaps the locksmith was at his best in France in the reign of Louis XIII., who in 1618, when only seventeen years old, became an amateur smith. Mr. Redfern believes there were centres of lock and key making in various parts of this country as we find so many of exactly similar pattern and design.

The visitors were then conducted over the house by Mr. Corder, and tea was kindly provided by Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan. Before leaving a vote of thanks was passed to Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan for their hospitality and to Miss Deane. A vote of sympathy with Lady Stradbroke was also carried.