

THE FIVE EXCURSIONS OF 1925.

Gone are the Meetings of the Suffolk Institute at which "the company afterwards dined together at the Bull Inn, the Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey in the chair" (Melford: Proc., II., 97), and even those when "the day was concluded with a collation at the Angel Hotel" (Bury; l.c., I.; 342); nor is it regrettable, for one wonders whence the time was derived to be thus wasted. But there is something no less than instructive in such old records, for one notices how little of the Proceedings are really worth recording. Of course, it is all very interesting to those who participated to read that the carriages arrived at Earl's Soham in a downpour, their occupants refreshed themselves at the Falcon Inn, after inspecting the church, were driven to . . . (l.c.x., 379); but utterly useless in after-time. If one were to detail the various peregrinations of our Members during the past summer, the Editor would have to expand his covers; and it seems requisite to say no more than that on 18th May Mr. Redstone gave us the instructive paper, printed in this volume, at Prof. Henslow's celebrated Eastlow tumulus in Rushbrooke, and annotated from its chancel-step Canon Cooke's detailed account of Hessett church; the respective rectors introduced Members to the churches of Elmswell and Woolpit, where Dr. Wood had caused a majority of the Old Houses to be prepared for inspection. On 10 June Dr. Biden expatiated in Laxfield village-street upon the Marian martyr John Noyes there burned, threw open the fine Gild Hall, and Major Cooper delineated from early times the course of the River Blyth, that day followed from Ubbeston and Heveningham whose churches were described by their incumbents; through Huntingfield, where I read notes on the Norman work; to Mells Chapel in Wenhaston, concerning which and the church Miss Becker delivered a careful address in the latter.

Short examinations were made of Blythburgh church and the ruins of the Priory to which it belonged; and the day closed with a visit to the newly-discovered Danish port of Frostenden. On 9th July Mr. Sperling explained domestic and conventual buildings, adding sketches of the three churches, of Sudbury the most interesting of which was St. Bartholomew's Priory at Holegate. Newton and Assington churches, with the Hall contiguous to the latter, were viewed on the way to Bevills Hall in Bures, where the High Sheriff, Col. Probert, gave a resumé of St. Stephen's Chapel. On 27th August the Suffolk Institute combined with the Norfolk Archæological Society in the Waveney Valley where, after visiting Earsham and Redenhall churches and Gawdy Hall in the latter County, Suffolk was entered at Mendham Priory; notes on the ruins

of which I read. At Wingfield the castle, church and college were ably detailed by Mr. Aldwell; and the island, upon which Syleham church stands, was there shown by me to have been earl Hugh le Bigot's 1174 final camp of refuge. On 7th October the rector and Hon. Exc. Sec. described respectively the architecture and history of Lidgate Castle and Church; both Badmundesfield and Denston Halls were examined and at the latter the beautiful church and remains of college duly inspected, the day's (and year's) meetings terminating at the fifteenth-century Giffards Hall in Wickhambrook.

The Institute is very greatly indebted for most generous hospitality to Dr. and Mrs. O. R. M. Wood, of Woolpit, Lord and Lady Huntingfield, Major and Mrs. Ernest R. Cooper, of Southwold, Worthington Church, Esq., of Sudbury, Col. and Mrs. W. G. Probert, of Bures, Mrs. Sancroft Holmes, of Gawdy Hall, the Rev. S. W. H. and Mrs. Aldwell, and Mrs. Groom, of Wingfield, to Mr. and the Misses Bromley of Badmundesfield, and H. A. Fass, Esq., of Wickhambrook.—Five Excursions per annum represent high pressure, and such cannot be maintained unless Members are good enough to bring to the Officers' notice places of peculiar archaic interest. I myself am under no small personal obligation to Miss Becker, Major Cooper, Dr. Biden, Dr. Wood, Messrs. Redstone and Sperling, and to the incumbents of the various churches visited; nor must one omit our thanks due to the very numerous occupiers who have (with a single exception) so unanimously accorded welcome to the Institute in their delightful Old Houses.

CLAUDE MORLEY,

Hon. Excurs. Sec.

November 30th, 1925.