

EXCURSIONS, 1914.

On 30th and 31st July, 1914, Members of the Institute visited the neighbourhood of Bures, Sudbury, and also Castle Hedingham, over the Essex border.

On the first day inspection was made of the Church of Mount Bures (St. John) and the earthworks adjacent. The Church was found specially noteworthy, since it represented almost every style of architecture. The Norman work in the deeply-splayed windows North and West, and a blocked window on the South, was particularly interesting, and it was ascertained that the Norman arches of the central tower had been replaced by modern loftier arches for the sake of lighting the building about 40 years back. Mr. J. S. Corder pointed out Roman bricks built into the Norman door and window on the North side and the piscina of decorated period in the South porch, which itself dated from *circa* 1480. It was suggested that the notable difference in style between Churches of Essex and Suffolk was due to the abundance of timber in the former county. At the adjacent "Mount" Dr. J. S. Holden acted as guide, in the absence of Colonel W. G. Probert, pointing out that he himself had found Neolithic implements on the spot, and suggesting that this was one of a series of such works, resembling those at Clare and elsewhere, which, according to his theory, formed a concentric system with Avebury at its centre. The popular tradition is that The Mount is the burial place of Queen Boadicea.

A visit was then paid to Smallbridge Hall, an early Tudor building, the ancient seat of the Walde-

grave family. In the window of a panelled room, formerly part of the great hall, are the arms of the Waldegraves, quartered *inter alia* with *barry of eight argent and sable* ascribed to Monchensy (*barry of twelve argent and azure*) and *or on a fess three muscules*, probably for Creke (*or a fess vair*) as it occurs in the Creke monument in Bures St. Mary Church. Below is the date 1572, evidently inserted some years after the erection of the building. The house was twice visited by Queen Elizabeth (see *Proceedings IV.*, 359). The room which tradition assigns as her bedroom is panelled in oak with moulding remarkable for its simplicity of design.

At Bures St. Mary Church the party was met by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. Varley, and by Colonel W. G. Probert, who gave a description of the building, pointing out the wooden effigy ascribed by Tillotson in 1595 to Sir John de Cornard (d. 1310)—a tradition which still survives. Tillotson also gives an account of windows to the Cornard family on this (the north) side of the Church, and to the Bures, Poynings, Mortimers, and Taunys on the south. He also describes eight tombs in the Church, of which only four remain. That of Sir Richard Waldegrave, Speaker of the House of Commons, stands on the North side of the Chancel. Colonel Probert quoted from a monkish chronicle the account of this knight's encounter with a dragon in the Valley of the Stour, suggesting that the beast was in fact a crocodile. The chantry South of the Chancel was erected in 1519, and the founder stipulated that the stipend of the chantry priest should be reduced if his absence were due to pleasure-seeking, but not on account of illness.

After luncheon the outlying chapel of St. Stephen's Bures, was visited. Mr. V. B. Redstone gave some

account of its history, and Mr. J. S. Corder pointed out the architectural details of the building, and explained its general character. The building dates from early thirteenth century, and is a perfect specimen of a small chapel of the period, though portions of the wall have been removed in order to adapt it to its present use. On plan it is a simple parallelogram, the inside measurements being 48 feet by 17 feet, and the outside being 53 feet 6 inches by 22 feet, and the height to the plate about 15 feet. The windows are all lancet-headed, or what is called first-pointed, and with the exception of the triplet window at the East end, the details are very simple in character. The materials used are clunch stone for quoins and dressings, and rubble, pebbles, etc., for the walling. There is an interesting piscina on the South side of the Chancel, and an aumbry in a corresponding position in the North. The North and South sides are pierced with small lancet windows, of which eight remain, the others being destroyed by alterations, as also the position of the doors. The roof is covered with thatching. There is a Consecration Cross on one of the inside walls. Before being used as a barn the building was used as cottages, the outline of the windows and doors being still visible. At present it is used as a barn. The accompanying drawings fully shew the nature and condition of the building.

At Boxford the Rector, the Rev. J. S. Warman, acted as guide. The party examined the Southern porch of stone, dating about 1486, with an inscription to the Virgin Mary, patron saint of the Church, and the fine northern porch of wood earlier in date, and possibly removed from the South door in 1486. The font is of the fifteenth century, with a cover two centuries later. Remains of green and red mural paintings can still be traced. Quoting from the

churchwarden's books which cover the years 1529 to 1696, the Rector stated that the roodloft was taken down in 1558, that in 1608 thirty-four quarts of wine were used for Communion at Easter, fifteen quarts at Midsummer, and fifteen quarts at Michaelmas. There were chapels to St. John and to the Virgin Mary. The latter, on the South side, contains a fresco with the figures of St. Edmund and others, a piscina which had been recently unblocked, linen-fold panelling brought from other parts of the Church and a brass of 1606 to David Birde, child of a Rector, and 22 weeks of age, showing the infant in bed with his boots below the cot. In the North Chapel is another brass to William Doggett, a merchant-adventurer of the East India Company, who died in 1610.

Colonel the Hon. W. Lowry-Corry met the party at Edwardstone Church, where the chief features examined were the North aisle of 1460, the Jacobean pulpit, and the timber roof, which has been judiciously restored. Mr. V. B. Redstone read a paper on the history of the Church, after which Colonel and Mrs. Lowry-Corry hospitably entertained the party to tea.

In the evening a meeting in the Town Hall, Sudbury, had been arranged by the local committee, the Mayor (Mr. Edward Oliver), Dr. H. D. King, and Dr. J. S. Holden. There was a good attendance, and a lantern lecture was given by Mr. Basil Oliver, A.R.I.B.A., on "Old Houses and Village Buildings in East Anglia." The lecturer treated his subject according to the materials of the different buildings, dealing more particularly with those characteristic of the neighbourhood, e.g., stud-and-plaster work and timber-framing, and illustrating his points with an excellent series of lantern slides.

On the second day an expedition was made to Castle Hedingham by kind permission of Mrs. Majendie.

The Norman Keep, all that stands of the castle built by Aubrey de Vere the Second (d. 1144) was visited. After examination had been made of the noteworthy features of the building and especially of the almost unique arch of the vaulted "banqueting hall," the Hon. Excursion Secretary made a short comparison between this the rectangular keep of a baronial stronghold, faced with Barnack stone and adorned with the familiar Norman zigzag, and the polygonal keep at Orford, in Suffolk, the remains of a royal fortress, built of local septaria and Caen stone just twenty years after. The Rev. G. C. Twist welcomed the party to Castle Hedingham Church, which he described in detail, aided by notes supplied by Sir William St. John Hope. The probable date of the building was 1160-70, and foundations of an older church had been discovered in restoring the chancel. Of this building one zig-zag ornamental stone also remained on the wall near the vestry. The chancel, of rather later date than the nave, was, however, very remarkable for the original stone-work of the wheel-window and lancets at the East end. In the Norman clere storeyed aisles were pillars alternately round and octangular. The chancel arch was probably widened and enlarged in the fourteenth century, and the two easternmost bays of the aisles pierced at the same time. It was, however, noted that the two bays differed in detail, that on the North being a century later than the Southern one in style. The church had originally been one bay longer, but a brick tower, variously ascribed to the 16th or 17th century, had encroached upon the nave. Badges of the fourteenth Earl of Oxford appeared on the brick parapets, the clerestorey windows, and the roof of the nave. The wood-screen was of the late fourteenth century, and in the chancel was the black marble tomb of the fifteenth Earl* and his countess.

* This Earl John de Vere founded two Guilds to the wool trade at Lavenham.

After luncheon the party visited Great Maplestead Church, where the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paxton Thorp, acted as guide. In 1861 the Church was restored. Discussion centred chiefly on the date of the tower, which is partly of brick, partly of pebble. The most remarkable part of the Church was the apse, built *circa* 1100, with a triangular window through which the rising sun falls directly on the altar table. In the Dyne's Hall Chapel on the North are monuments to Sir John Deane, Lady Deane, his widow (d. 1633), and her son, Sir Drue Deane. The Rev. W. Paxton Thorp accompanied the party to Little Maplestead Church, one of the three round churches of the Hospitalers in England. He read a paper on the building, illustrating his description with views of the interior before restoration.

Returning towards Sudbury the party was received at Ballingdon Hall by the owner, Mr. Percy Allen and Mrs. Allen. This fine Tudor House has recently been recovered from a state of ruinous decay by the owner, and has been judiciously restored. Noteworthy features are the panelling of the lower rooms and two Tudor fireplaces recently opened out.

At Sudbury Dr. J. Sinclair Holden and Mrs. Holden entertained the party with tea, and Dr. Holden exhibited and described the large collection of "figure-stones," paleoliths, and neoliths which he has gathered in the neighbourhood in the last twenty years.