

IPSWICH EXCURSION.

The object of the Ipswich Excursion held Monday, 26th May, 1924, was to make a half-day tour within the borough to examine what remain of the mediæval buildings and churches of the town. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Harrison, kindly permitted members to assemble in the Ancient House, Ipswich, where more than fifty gathered to listen to Mr. V. B. Redstone's address upon the history of the house and its former occupants. Mr. H. Munro Cautley described its architecture, pointing the growth and alterations of the various parts of the building, founded about 1567.

George Copping, the founder, was a draper. The site of the house was in the Fish Market. At the same time he carried on the trade of a fishmonger, and belonged to the City Company of Drapers. Doubtless, during his trade as a draper, he brought over the stayned cloths to line the walls of his rooms. An unique specimen of these cloths is to be still seen within the Ancient House. The subject depicted is the victory of Hercules over the giant King of Libya, Antæus. William Sparrowe, grocer, who subsequently became owner of the premises, further extended the building, and his descendants added to the structure by forming "the chapel," the courtyard-balcony, and shortened moulding.

Quitting the Ancient House the company passed down St. Stephen's Lane, and noted the old church, which, with St. Mary Elms, was characterised as one of the most picturesque of exteriors of Ipswich churches—not in grandeur but in homeliness. It was the only church within the borough unattached to a monastery; the advowson remained with the Manor of Bures in the hands of the De Sutton family. The Church comes prominently into notice during the riots of 1327 and 1381.

At St. Nicholas Church many other visitors arrived to listen to Mr. Redstone's account of Wolsey's connection with the parish, and to the results of the researches carried out by the Historical Circle of St. Nicholas' Parish, who were waiting to receive the members of the Institute. Mr. Haggard exhibited some excellent photographs of the ancient carvings, brasses and monograms within the church, and Mr. Povah drew attention to the successful efforts of the Circle to perpetuate its past history. The carvings of the Apostles were considered to represent, by the accompanying symbols, St. Peter, St. James and St. Thomas. The figure of a boar within a tympanum, once placed over a door giving entrance to a church or chapel dedicated to All Saints, recalled the boar Searhymnir, of Norse Mythology, which was slain and resuscitated at the recurring feasts of the slaughtered and resurrected heroes of Asgard. Mr. Redstone produced documentary evidence to

show that Robert Wolsey, the Cardinal's grandfather, held a butcher's shop in Bury Street, Stowmarket, in 1432.

Naturally in wending its way to St. Peter's Church, the company passed by the solitary memorial of Wolsey's connection with the borough, pausing awhile at Wolsey's Gateway. The Rev. G. W. Metcalfe, vicar of St. Peter's, who was unavoidably absent, had left some interesting notes about his church and its Norman font. An instructive discussion took place concerning this Tournai font. Mr. Redstone was of an opinion that the font of Boulge should be added to the number of such fonts, and it was later agreed that the portion of a like font exhibited at the Ipswich Museum, Christchurch Mansion, once formed part of another Ipswich church font.

Alluding to the date of these fonts (1150-1170) Mr. Redstone remarked that the Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul was of an earlier date than that recorded by Wodderspoon and other writers. One Michael, was Prior in 1203, and a charter shewed its foundation in Stephen's reign. It is an interesting fact that Stephen's brother, Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester, was credited with the introduction of these fonts into England. The font of Winchester Cathedral bore carvings connected with the life of St. Nicholas of Myn. The popularity of this saint in Western Europe dated from 1087. St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich, was served by Augustinian Canons of St. Peter's Priory. Is there, then, any connection between the Ipswich Museum fragment, and St. Nicholas' Church? A newspaper correspondent states the fragment was recovered out of the town ditches at a depth of 15 feet when Messrs. Pretty and Footman's stay factory was erected. Concerning these fonts Mr. Cautley believed they were imported already carved, which might mean they were earlier than 1150.

After leaving St. Peter's Church, members were enabled, through the courtesy of Mr. Charles Prentice and Miss Prentice, to view a characteristic house of an Ipswich merchant which had undergone various alterations during different tenancies. A heavy shower compelled a hasty journey past other dwellings bearing signs of mediæval structure to the White Horse Hotel, where through the generous hospitality of a member, Mr. W. Adlington, of Ipswich, tea was served to a numerous gathering. Mr. Adlington was unfortunately in Canada, and the Hon. Sec., Rev. H. A. Harris, was requested to convey a vote of thanks to him for his kindness. The Hon. Sec. then put the names of the Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Mrs. W. Baker, of Lavenham, and Miss Theresa Chevallier, of Rushmere, to the meeting, which decided upon their election as members.

The tour was continued after tea by making a visit to Mr. Sherman's house in Northgate Street. Mr. Sherman pointed out the principal features of interest, especially calling attention to 14th century tracery work which had been discovered beneath the plaster of the inner walls. In 1589 it was the home of a linen-weaver and was then purchased by Thomas Bennett, who had previously named his mansion "the White Horse."

The late hour left scanty opportunities for an inspection of the Museum at Christchurch Mansion, under the guidance of the Curator, Mr. Guy Maynard. After seeing the chief objects of interest and hearing his remarks upon them, the members present accorded him a hearty vote of thanks for his able services, and also expressed a warm appreciation of all the efforts made by those who had arranged the day's programme.

EXCURSION TO BAYLHAM, NETTLESTEAD AND DISTRICT.

On Friday, August 15th, 1924, members assembled at the Ancient House, Ipswich, to proceed to Baylham, to make a tour through a district which to a large extent had not before been visited by the Institute. The large number which collected at Baylham Hall to be received by its hostesses, the Misses Wilson, showed the selection of route was greatly appreciated. The district has no large church, except Barking Church, but is of peculiar interest in possessing many houses which had suffered through the loyalty of their owners to the Stuart cause, many of whom were mulcted with such grievous fines that their estates became impoverished. Among them were Wentworth, Windsor and Acton.

The owner of Baylham Hall is Lady de Saumarez, who inherited it through her great grandmother, Lady Middleton (by birth Harriet Acton). The present hall was built by John Acton, of Ipswich, who purchased the estate of Lord Windsor, into whose possession it came by descent from Elizabeth Andrews, daughter of John Andrews, and wife of Thomas Windsor. The grand staircase was greatly admired, and visitors were particularly interested in the exterior architecture of the building, and the old extensive stables without the moat, which surrounds the rear part of the premises. Lord and Lady De Saumarez were unable to be present, but their daughter and General Mitford were with the party. The Misses Wilson received a hearty vote of thanks for their kind welcome.

Members next proceeded to Nettlestead High ^{Hall} ~~House~~, where they were welcomed by Mrs. White-Cooper, who interested her visitors by the description of her premises while they were assembled on her