

The Antiquaries Journal

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Foreword

THE present volume represents a new departure in the history of the Society of Antiquaries, and will, it is hoped, not only be found more useful by the Fellows, but enlist the interest and support of the general public in touch with antiquarian matters. A good many years ago I advocated an extension of our *Proceedings* on lines of this kind, but the conditions of the time were not favourable, and it was found to be impossible then to make any useful change. Now, however, when so many of our cherished traditions must perforce be abandoned, the opportunity has been seized to supplement changes arising from necessity with others tending to the advantage of the Society and of our studies. Our *Proceedings* have up to the present time contained only such matter as the title indicates; a bare record of events, some of the papers read at our meetings, and, for the last sixteen years, the discussions that followed. The resulting volumes have been of undoubted interest, and from the great variety of the matter it is probable that *Proceedings* have been more read and consulted than *Archaeologia*.

The Council, however, has felt that the Society might reasonably demand more from its officers than this merely domestic chronicle. The disappearance of one journal after another that had for years supplied information on antiquarian matters is another reason for the present undertaking. Moreover, the changes impending in the methods and constitution of the Society itself will call for a corresponding adaptation of our publications to the needs of our new environment; and these changes are of a nature to enlist the support of the outside public, a point to be considered when our normal expenditure is apt to exceed our income.

The present volume will contain all the matter found in its predecessors, but it will go much further, and an effort will be

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made to furnish an adequate record of archaeological discovery within the limits of the Society's activity. We contemplate relations of a more intimate kind with the principal societies of the Continent, whose activities will be noted; and the simpler task of recording the archaeological progress of our own country will be our first charge. In this way the *Antiquaries Journal* will aim at providing a chronicle which may remove the reproach of insularity so often launched at us.

Another side of the work will deal with the literature in the wide field of archaeology. Each quarterly number will contain reviews of current archaeological works which will not of necessity be critical, but will give such information as will enable the reader to judge of the character of any work and of its utility to himself.

The programme outlined above will mean a considerable change in our habits, and a great deal of unpaid work in novel directions. The Council hopes that at this stage the Fellows will be charitable in their judgements, and will remember also that it is the duty of every Fellow to help when he sees an opportunity of doing so. A Society that may be said to date from the time of Elizabeth is called upon to reform itself, and pursue its unaltered aims in the spirit and method of this period of reconstruction. Finally, there is the business aspect, which will become more and more important; and the Fellows, who will continue to receive *Archaeologia* as well as the *Journal* in place of *Proceedings*, are asked to spread the knowledge of our venture among those likely to be interested.

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C. HERCULES READ,
President.