

NOTES.

We are asked by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to publish the following :—

INDEX OF ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS.

A Committee representing the Royal Archaeological Society, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the London Society and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has been formed to explore the possibility of compiling a central card index of prints, drawings and other architectural records. It is felt that this should be of great assistance to those engaged upon the repair of old buildings, to writers of architectural, archaeological or topographical works and to students generally.

If it should meet with success it is not unlikely that it would be developed to include some means of storing such records in a central and safe place, should they be loaned, offered or bequeathed.

It is proposed to limit the scope of the Committee's work to buildings at least a century old and to those of England only, but it is hoped that parallel action will be undertaken in Scotland and Wales.

It is realised that an immense number of such records are in private hands, and it would be useful to the Committee if owners would give particulars of their collections now, for with this knowledge the Committee will be better able to form an idea of the extent and scope of the enterprise.

When we visited the Record Office Museum in May, Mr. R. L. Atkinson, M.C., very kindly showed us some documents relating to St. Albans. He also furnished us with the following particulars, which will doubtless be of interest to our members :—

ILLUSTRATIONS OF LOCAL HISTORY.

No. 4. ST. ALBANS. 17 May, 1930.

Ancient Deeds A. 1506

1. Grant by Alexander de Goldstone to Emma his daughter for 10s. of a messuage, three pieces (*particule*) of land and two booths (*tentoria*) in Fullers' Street, St. Albans: paying therefor yearly 1/2d.

to himself, 2s. 4d to the brethren and nuns of St. Mary de Pratis, and 4d. to the heirs of John Woolmonger. 50 Henry III (1265-6).

2. Inquisition *ad quod damnum* taken at St. C. 143/187/8

Albans on 9 April 19 Edward II (1326), finding that it is not to the King's injury to allow (a) Roger and Alice de Essex to grant a messuage and two shops (b) Walter son of Ralph de Elyngesham and Alice his wife to grant two messuages and one shop and (c) Stephen de Tentebury to grant five acres of land, all in St. Albans in perpetuity to the Abbot and Convent thereof.

(An inquisition *ad quod damnum* was an inquiry held by the sheriff or eschaetor in response to a writ as to whether any grant would be to the injury of the King's interest.)

3. *Petition* by the Abbot of St. Albans to ^{Ancient petitions 955} the King and Parliament. A great multitude of people came to the abbey last June (1381) and compelled the Abbot to issue charters granting them various liberties and privileges to the grave injury of the Abbey's interests. Requests that the King should ordain these charters to be null and void.

(Printed in *Rot. Pari.* III. 129.)

4. Volume of Chantry Certificates, E. 301/27. 2 Edward VI. (1549).

Gives details of all Chantries and Fraternities in the county of Hertford, including the Guild or Fraternity of All Saints otherwise called the Charnell Brotherhedde in the parish of St. Peter's, St. Albans, for the finding of two chaplains for ever.*

5. Letter from the magistrates of Hertford - state papers, Domestic Elizabeth 116, No. 7 shire to the Privy Council in response to their orders dated 20 July last, to give a return of all taverns inns and alehouses in

* These certificates are returns made by Commissioners appointed under an Act of I Edw. VI to give details of the Chantries and other organizations whose property was by this Act appropriated to the Crown.

the county of Herts and town of St. Albans.

Dated 8 Oct. 1577.

Schedule attached gives the details, viz., 152 Inns, 16 Taverns and 359 Alehouses, of which 27, 2 and 26 respectively are in the town of St. Albans.

The Director of the British Museum asks us to make known the following new regulations with regard to :—

TREASURE-TROVE.

Objects of *gold or silver* which have been hidden in the soil or in buildings, and of which the original *owner cannot be traced*, are Treasure-Trove, and by law the property of the Crown.* If, however, the finder of such objects reports the find promptly, and it is decided that it is Treasure-Trove and therefore the property of the Crown, he will receive its *full market value* if it is retained for the Crown or a museum. If it is not retained, he will receive back the objects themselves, with full liberty to do what he likes with them; or, if he wishes it, the British Museum will sell them for him at the best price obtainable. The only way in which a finder can comply with the law and also obtain these advantages is by reporting the find promptly to the proper authority.

The proper authority is the Coroner for the District in which the find is made, for he is the authority who enquires " of treasure that is found " and " who were the finders." (Coroners Act, 1887, section 36).

Anyone therefore who finds such objects should report the find to the Coroner, either direct, or through the local Police, or by writing to the Director, British Museum, London, W.C.1 who will communicate with the Coroner.

Coins and other ancient objects of copper, bronze or any metal other than gold or silver are *not* Treasure-Trove and finds need not be reported to Coroners. But the British Museum is glad to hear of such finds and, if they are reported to the Director, will in suitable cases arrange for purchase or sale.

* Unless (as in some rare cases) the " Franchise of Treasure-Trove " has been expressly granted to a subject, in so far as finds in the particular locality are concerned.

Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1930.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.										
				£	s.	d.								
Balance, 31st December, 1929	. ...			42	8	3								
221 Subscriptions	at	10/6.	...	116	0	6	Subscriptions to other Societies				£	s.	d.	
Interest on Investments	...	.	...	0	9	4	Lectures and Excursions—	24						
							Transactions							
							Library							
							Hospitality							
							Stationery and General Printing							
							Postages, etc. ...							
							Balance, 31st December, 1930	...	64	18	2			
						£158 18 1								£158 18 1

F. M. WHITING,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with Pass-book and Vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) N. P. ANDREW.

January 27th, 1931.