

beaver are attached in front by rivets two curved flat plates or gorgets, for the protection of the neck; and it is probable that similar plates were attached to the head-piece at the back. There is no trace of the lining originally inside the ironwork.

This helmet is in excellent condition and in working order. It is very similar to that described in *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, xv, 365, which Mr. Hartshorne considered to date between 1570 and 1590. If, therefore, it was placed in the church immediately after the death of Sir Nicholas Griffin, it is a very early example of this type of helmet.

The present rector of Braybrooke, the Rev. J. R. Hakewill, who was presented to the living in 1887, remembers that when he first went to the parish a steel corslet and pair of gauntlets hung by this helmet, but these articles have since been lost sight of.

*Parge-work in Essex.*—Rev. G. M. Benton, local secretary for Essex, reports that recent alterations have brought to light some interesting features in an early seventeenth-century timber-framed and plaster building, at Broxted, Essex, known as Wood Farm. Some of the old timbers in the interior have been exposed, and three original wide fireplaces, one with moulded jambs and a four-centred head of plastered brick, have been opened out. In a room (height 7 ft.) on the ground floor, it was found that the whole of the upper area of the wall to the depth of about 40 in. was covered with fine parge-work, dated 1611, and in an almost perfect state of preservation. The greater part of the surface thus decorated is divided up by plain ribs of plaster into three rows of small panels, an arrangement common to early work of this character. The panels are fitted with repeated patterns of sprays of leafage with acorns, etc., flat recessed scroll-work, and large two-handled vases of flowers. It may be considered the most elaborate specimen of the internal parge decoration of the old-time rustic plasterer to be found in north-west Essex. An illustrated note will appear in the forthcoming part of the *Transactions* of the Essex Archaeological Society.

*Discoveries in the Old Church, Walmer.*—Mr. R. Cooke, local secretary for Kent, reports that in the *Deal Mercury* for 26th November 1921 the Rev. C. E. Woodruff gives an account of the discovery of three blocked recesses in the chancel of the old church at Walmer, one in the north and two in the east wall. The recess in the north wall was first opened. Its sill was 4 ft. 5 in. above the chancel floor, and on the blocking material being removed, a shallow cavity was found, 17 in. in depth, 27½ in. in width, and 18½ in. in height. On its roof were traces of soot, and it is probable that it may have held a light. The height of the sill would make the opening inconvenient for use as a credence or ambry. In the east wall, on either side of the altar, similar but larger recesses were brought to light. In the filling of that on the north was a stone cross, 32 in. long and 13½ in. across the arms. The shaft, which was 5½ in. in thickness, was pointed at the foot and its lower portion was left rough. At the intersection of the arms was a somewhat rudely incised circle, 6 in. in diameter,

within which, by marking off with a compass segments of its circumference, another cross had been cut. The circle and cross were repeated on each side of the shaft. The shaft below the arms was broken. The stone appeared to be Kentish rag. The cross was probably sepulchral and may have once been in the churchyard, and on being broken was used to block the recess when it was closed, possibly about the middle of the sixteenth century. The cross would appear not to be later than the fifteenth century.

*Alabaster Table in Hacheston Church, Suffolk.*—Rev. G. M. Benton, local secretary for Essex, reports that in the wall of the south aisle is an alabaster table in a very good state of preservation. The subject is the Incredulity of St. Thomas. The saint holds the *Textus* or book of the Gospels in his right hand, in allusion to the story of his having preached the Gospel in India; his left hand is thrust into the sacred side, the arm being supported by our Lord. Traces of the original colouring remain.

*Sacred Spring at Alesia.*—The *Revue des Deux Mondes* of 15th November last contains an article by M. René Cagnat, of the Académie des Inscriptions, on Alesia. In *Pro Alesia*, published by the Société des Sciences de Semur, are full details of the excavations carried on from 1906 to 1914. These M. Cagnat deals with in a literary and more popular style, nor need they be referred to here. One point brought out by the learned author is, however, of interest, as illustrating the survival of early beliefs down to these days. At Alesia were certain springs held to have curative powers, and therefore connected with a god. The antiquity of this belief is more than amply proved by the nature of the votive objects found. Later one of these springs, retaining in the popular mind its efficacy, became connected with a saint of the third century martyred under Maximian. The legend now runs that where the martyr's head fell the spring welled up. Protected to-day by an iron gate, the spring of Sainte-Reine is on every 10th of September still visited by pilgrims who seek miraculous relief for their maladies. The survival could easily be paralleled.

*Archaeology in Palestine.*—We are indebted to the Department of Overseas Trade for the following information: The preliminary topographical survey of the antiquities and monuments of Caesarea, formerly the Roman capital of Palestine, has been completed. The schedule of movable antiquities includes a number of architectural remains (bases, capitals, columns, carvings, etc.), coins, pottery, ornaments, and glass. The quality and character of the available antiquities are thus far disappointing. The fixed monuments include walls, gates, quays, temple, theatre and stadium, and burial grounds. Exploration shows that the area of the city during the Roman occupation was very extensive, and probably embraced within its suburbs places like Shuny (Shuneh) where there are masonry works and the remains of an extensive theatre, as well as smaller antiquities.

A room has been set apart in the late Turkish serai at Caesarea, on the harbour mole, for the purpose of a local museum, and this will be