

## WINTER MEETINGS AT COLCHESTER AND WALTHAMSTOW.

An afternoon and evening meeting took place at Colchester on Saturday, 9 December, 1922. There was a large attendance. Members first inspected the foundations of a Roman villa, and the fine mosaic pavement (illustrated on p. 251) found on Mr. A. W. Frost's land on the east side of North Hill.

At St. Mary-at-the-Walls, Mr. W. Gurney Benham spoke of the desirability of placing some monument to Philip Morant in this church, where he was rector from 1738 until his death in 1770. The estimated cost is about 80*l.* Some interesting parochial records in Morant's handwriting were shown by the rector, Canon G. T. Brunwin-Hales, who also showed a seventeenth century chalice belonging to the church, though a comparatively modern gift to the parish. Proceeding by the Balkerne gateway, which could only be casually viewed, the party proceeded to High Street, and thence made their way by special tram-cars to St. James' church, East Hill, and to St. Leonard's church, on Hythe Hill. Both churches were well described by Mr. Duncan Clark, A.R.I.B.A. At the latter church the interesting sixteenth century mazer bowl was shown. By invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Benham, tea was provided in the Grand Jury Room of Colchester Town Hall. Subsequently, Canon Rendall, Litt.D., delivered a most carefully prepared paper—fully illustrated by prints, maps and diagrams—on "The Origin of Colchester Parishes." There are fourteen ancient parish churches in Colchester. Most of these, in Dr. Rendall's opinion, were founded after the Conquest, the probable exceptions being St. Peter's, Holy Trinity and St. Runwald's, St. Runwald's being, perhaps, the most primitive. He connected the formation of the parishes with the military defence of the town and the maintenance of the ancient town wall, sections of this being allotted to the owners of the various "parishes."

A large company assembled at Walthamstow, on Thursday, 25 January, 1923, under the presidency of Gilbert Houghton, Esq., in the regrettable absence of the Rev. H. D. Lampen, R.D., who was unwell, to hear our member, Mr. G. F. Bosworth, F.R.G.S., give

his lantern lecture on "Some Old Walthamstow Houses and their Associations." All the more important houses were shown on the screen, including Rectory manor, the residence of Sir William Batten, where he was frequently visited by Samuel Pepys, the diarist, and Sir William Penn, father of the founder of Pennsylvania; Essex House, where Benjamin Disraeli, afterwards Lord Beaconsfield, was educated; Walthamstow House, the home of the Wigram family; The Winns, the boyhood residence of William Morris, the poet; and many other interesting buildings, the home of more local celebrities, or connected in some way with the history of the district. The Rev. T. H. Curling explained the objects of the Society, and thanked the lecturer and organisers.