

The Colchester and Essex Museum.—The relationship between the Society and the Colchester Town Council, with regard to the Museum, has from time to time claimed the Society's attention; and the somewhat complicated story was set out in these *Transactions* (vol. xiii., p. 5) by the late Mr. W. C. Waller, thirteen years ago. In the earlier days of the Society many objects of archaeological interest came into its custody, which are now in the Colchester Museum; but in later years it has made no special effort to add to its possessions, having been content to use its influence to secure accessions to the Museum—the Bronze Age urns from Shalford, the Roman burial group from Mersea, and the Viking Idol from Dagenham, being recent cases in point.

The cordial relations that have always existed between the Society and the Town Council, and the fact that the Society is permanently represented on the Museum Committee, eventually made it appear desirable that the two collections should be permanently amalgamated as one collection.

At length it was agreed at a Council Meeting of the Society, held 28 July, 1924, that its representatives on the Colchester Museum and Muniment Committee, *viz.* Mr. P. G. Laver, F.S.A., Mr. Duncan W. Clark and the Hon. Sec. (Rev. G. Montagu Benton, F.S.A.), together with the President (Canon F. W. Galpin)

and Mr. J. Avery, be appointed as a Committee to go carefully into the matter, and report to the Council; Mr. G. F. Beaumont, F.S.A., was subsequently co-opted a member of this Committee.

After somewhat protracted negotiations, the following recommendations, which were passed by the Council of the Society at a Meeting held 22 March, 1926, were adopted by the Colchester Town Council, 5 May, 1926 :—

- (1) That the name and title of the Museum be "The Colchester and Essex Museum," and the Arms of the Borough of Colchester and those of the County be marshalled by aggroupment as the insignia of the Museum, and that a notice be placed in a permanent position in the Museum bearing the words : "This Museum comprises the united collections of the Colchester Corporation and the Essex Archaeological Society."
- (2) That the collections of the two bodies be in future amalgamated permanently as one collection under the control of the Museum, *etc.*, Committee, and that all future accessions be entered in one book, instead of separately as at present.
- (3) That the Library of the Society remain the property of the Society, and at their disposal, it being hoped with regard to the Library that the Town Council may be able, at a later date, to suggest suitable arrangements for its better housing.
- (4) The amalgamated collection as a whole, independently of the Library and Manuscripts, to be vested in the Corporation, who will be responsible for its housing, care and preservation; the immediate control remaining, as stated above, in the Museum and Muniment Committee, on which the Society would be permanently represented.
- (5) That no object which has belonged to the Essex Archaeological Society be alienated without consent of the Council of that Society.
- (6) That the representation of the Society on the Museum and Muniment Committee be not less than one-third of the whole Committee.
- (7) That the existing arrangements for contribution by the Society to the salary of the Curator be continued. G.M.B.