

THE WAITE COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC
NEGATIVES OF PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST
IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

By G. H. Parry.

THIS unique collection was presented to the Liverpool Reference Library in June 1932, through the generosity of Mr. Robert Gladstone, Alderman Edwin Haigh, and Mr. Ernest B. Royden, on the initiative of the Chief Librarian (Mr. G. H. Parry).

It comprises 1,750 half-plate ($6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$) negatives of photographs of historic houses, churches and architectural antiquities in Lancashire and Cheshire. There are in addition four manuscript books numbered in accordance with the plates, which give valuable details such as the date of alteration, rebuilding or demolition, and historical notes on the former occupiers of the halls or houses; two note-books with further topographical notes; and a set of prints from the negatives.

The photographs were taken by a member of the Society, Mr. James A. Waite, mainly between 1888 and 1921, during which time he devoted his leisure to travelling over Lancashire and Cheshire, frequently in the company of the late Mr. R. D. Radcliffe.

In 1923 a large selection of photographs from these negatives was added to the Public Library; but, as even the best photographic prints are liable to fade, the acquisition of these negatives is of the utmost value.

Many of the photographs were used to illustrate the *Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*.

The greatest care is now being taken to preserve the

plates. Each has been numbered in accordance with Mr. Waite's notes, and placed in a separate envelope, similarly numbered and endorsed with the subject of the plate; accompanied by a print of the negative. The envelopes have then been placed in open steel trays, each holding 100 plates, and the whole stored in an air-tight cabinet, which has been suitably inscribed.