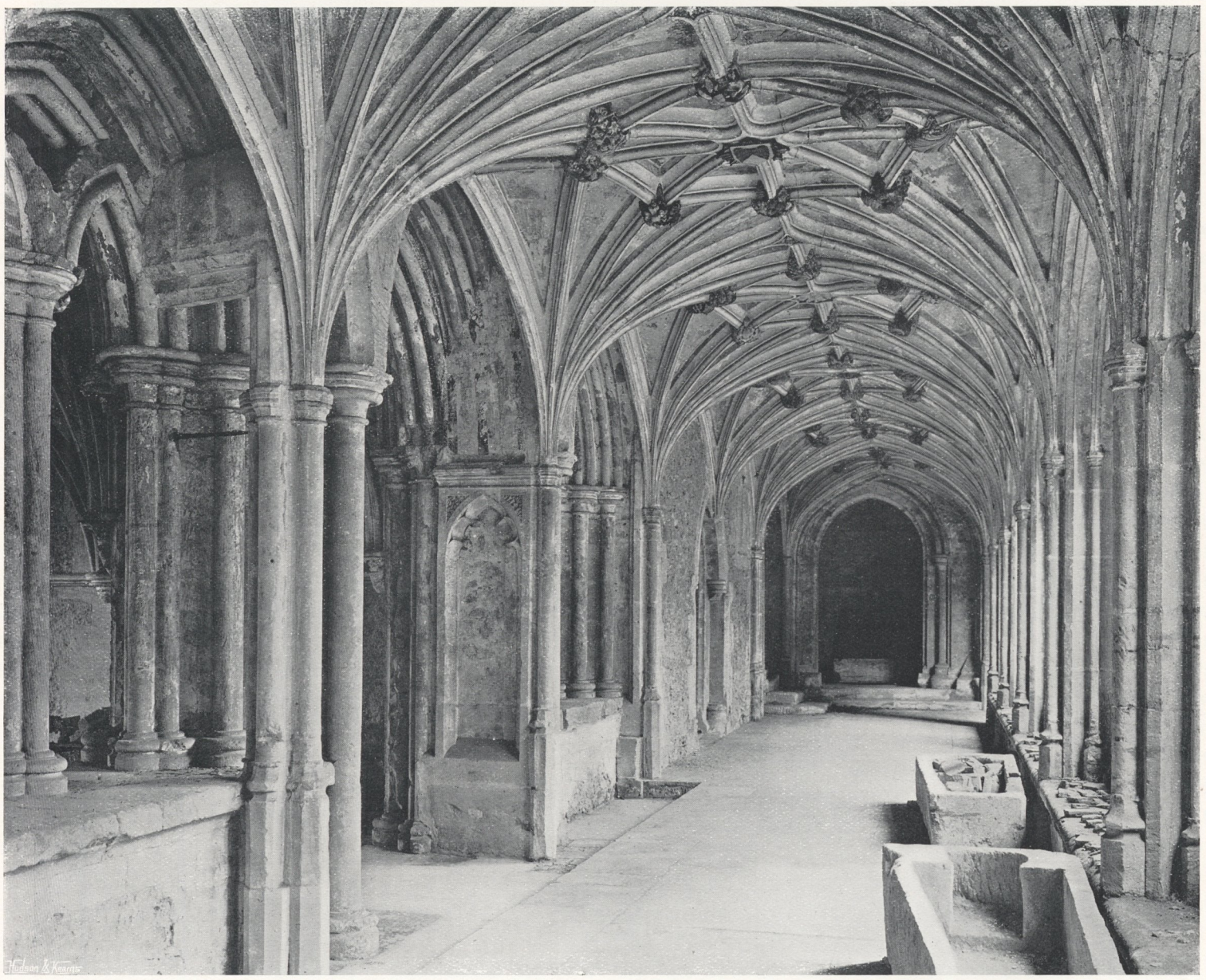
described. There is a "cloth of arras of the Schipherds," a "coverng with j geyaunt smytyng a wild bore with a spere," and a "tester with one gentlewoman in grene taking a mallard in hir honde." Most of the arrases, however, are scheduled separately, being probably put away in the wardrobes or storerooms. They are in quantity, of all sizes and subjects, religious and lay, and include a "blewe hallyng," that is, a set of arras cloths for the walls of the hall. Though there are no chambers without a bed, no parlours are mentioned, unless it be the "toure parloure," whose "pece of rede worsted" is included in the movables in the "great or summer hall." The custom of sitting, receiving and even taking meals in the bedrooms continued long after this. The great chamber beyond the summer hall, though bedded, was no doubt much used as a reception-room, and a "winter hall" which is mentioned would often serve as a family dining-room, as the fashion of dining apart from the retainers was now obtaining with people of position and fashion like Sir John. As the hall still habitually had its sides clear of other buildings and went up to the roof, the house was thereby completely divided into two, and at least two stairways were necessary even in small manor houses; and where there was an upper storey to the buildings set round the great quadrangle, and even extending into the outer bailey as at St. Donats, the number of stairways was large, and the general mode of access from one set to another and to the hall and chapel was across the open court, as is still the case in an Oxford college. That the chamber accommodation was large and well fitted at St. Donats is clear by the number of carved fifteenth century chimney-pieces scattered all round the court on the upper floor; it may almost have rivalled Caister in their number.

Though the hall roof was always of wood, rooms with storeys over were often vaulted, at first plainly, then, as wealth and fine building increased, elaborately ribbed, bossed and panelled. The archway through the gatehouse was an opportunity for exhibiting good work of the kind, as we see at Maxstoke (page 13) and at Cotehele (page 46), though the latter shows the simplicity and plainness which characterises Cornish granite work. The roof of oriels, either the great hall oriel, as at Athelhampton (page 35), or the smaller bays of upper rooms, as at St. Donats (page 20), was another choice spot for the mason's craft. Neither in this nor



THE EAST CLOISTER AT LAYCOCK ABBEY, WILTS.