

OBITUARY.

The year 1919 was fatal to a good many members of our Society.

Mrs. Napier Higgins died in January at the advanced age of 90 years. She was a benefactor to our Museum, having given one of the new plate-glass and metal cases.

Mr. F. C. Carr-Gomm, Farnham Chase, who died in the same month, contributed a paper upon Eustace Mascoll's Brass in Farnham Royal Church to Part 6 of our last vol.

Mr. Harold Russell (d. Feb. 14, 1919) was the only son of Canon Russell, rector of Beachampton, and Lady Mary Russell. He was a barrister, and for some years a member of our committee. He contributed a paper on the brasses at Thornton. He had a good collection of Bookplates, with a knowledge of heraldry. He was a bachelor, and had travelled a good deal.

Sir William Osler was not a member of this Society, but well known to many Bucks people. Dr. Bradbrook tells me that he came to Fenny Stratford for St. Martin's Day in 1916, and spoke to the memory of Browne Willis at the dinner, and dealt with the history of Dr. J. Willis, grandfather of Browne Willis, and lord of the manor of Bletchley, Whaddon, and Water-Eaton. This festival was founded by a former Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford.

In our last issue, on an inserted slip, reference was made to the serious illness of Mr. George Turner De Fraine. We have now, after a long interval, to take this opportunity to record his death, which occurred so long ago as October, 1918. He took more than a mere business interest in RECORDS, of which he was for so many years the printer, and, as one who was brought much into contact with him, it is a pleasure to bear witness to his unflinching courtesy.

SIR WILLIAM ST. JOHN HOPE,

Whose death occurred in August last, is a loss not only to this Society, of which he was an honorary member and a contributor to our RECORDS, also to other local Societies, the Archæological Institute, etc., but a loss to the science of archæology generally which, in his own special line of study, can hardly be replaced. For our last excursion the writer tried to get him to meet us at Wycombe and say a few words upon the church, a study of which had convinced him that it had formerly had a central tower. Doubts which were expressed as to this were set at rest by the finding by the late Mr. Parker, of Wycombe, of the actual contract for the taking down of this tower and making good the arcades, walls, etc. But it was too late, and he had to say that he had not strength enough to undertake it.

The monograph upon Fountains Abbey, which appeared in Vol. XV. of the Yorkshire Archæological Journal, and those upon the Cathedral Church and Monastic Buildings of Rochester, contributed to *Archæologia Cantiana*, may be cited as special examples of the thoroughness of his research.* He worked in conjunction with Mr. G. E. Fox upon the Roman remains at Silchester. Dr. Wickham Legg was associated with him in publishing "The Inventories of Christ Church, Canterbury." One of the finest of modern English heraldic publications is "The Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter at Windsor," and during the last years of his life he made a catalogue of the seals in the Public Record Office. I have heard him say that the highest art of nations in the past has shown itself in seals.

He received the honour of Knighthood for his great work on Windsor Castle, undertaken at the command of Queen Victoria and King Edward, which had occupied him some ten years.

For 25 years Hope was Assistant Secretary to the Antiquaries, the routine duties of which post did not prevent an enormous output of papers which he read

to us, and which are printed in *Archæologia*, mostly dealing with English Mediæval Monastic Architecture, on which he was easily the highest authority. In tracing out the complete plan of an abbey or other building from what seemed perhaps to most of us only confusion, he had no equal.

* *Times*, Aug. 22nd, 1913.

W. N.