

## OBITUARY.

WILLIAM NIVEN, F.S.A.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Niven, which took place in November, 1921. Mr. Niven joined the Society in 1902, and upon the death of Mr. John Parker in 1906 he was elected Editor of the RECORDS, continuing in that position until ill-health compelled him to relinquish it in 1920.

Mr. Niven, who was an architect, lived at Marlow Place. Among his chief contributions to the RECORDS were papers upon Hitcham Church (1907), Stowe and its Gardens (1910)—this is of particular interest in view of the doubtful fate of those highly artificial grounds and their heavy burden of masonry, good and bad—Little Marlow, Stoke Mandeville, and Ickford Churches (1911 and 1912), and Wing Churchwarden's accounts.

On 31st August, 1920, he wrote to a correspondent as follows:—"Advancing age, poor health, and perhaps some indolence have induced me to give up the editorship of the RECORDS. I hope a better will be found, which might well be." This very modest allusion to his activities on behalf of the Society set up a high ideal for the recipient of the letter, who, at this time, was far indeed from expecting to be asked to assume the responsibilities so ably borne by Mr. Niven.