

GEORGE ELAND

EDITOR OF *THE RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE*
FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

MR. ELAND's able and interesting review of the fortunes and achievements of *The Records of Buckinghamshire* over a period of close upon a century is deficient in one important particular, namely, any account of either his own contributions to the journal or his work as its Honorary Editor for over twenty-five years. To remedy that deficiency adequately would demand a symposium by his many friends and admirers both inside and outside the Society; the present Editor has ruled out such a project as being impracticable and has called upon the writer, for no other reason apparently than that he, too, has some experience of editorial pains and penalties, to attempt an assessment of the debt which the Society owes to Mr. Eland.

To take first Mr. Eland's own contributions to the *Records*, these make an impressive total, and each represents a definite addition to our knowledge of the social history of the county chiefly during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. All are eminently readable, both for their intrinsic interest and for the author's individual style of writing, in which scholarship and humour are happily blended. Within the allotted space particular mention can be made only of the more outstanding papers: The Hillesden Account Book, 1661-7 (Vol. xi, 135-44, 186-98, 244-55), The Inclosure of Drayton Parslow (Vol. xi, 256-64), The Building of Winslow Hall (Vol. xi, 406-29), The Churchwardens' Accounts of Quainton (Vol. xii, 29-46), Haddenham during the Civil War (Vol. xii, 73-80), The Note-books of William Lowndes (Vol. xii, 125-36), Contents of a Muniment Room (Vol. xiii, 11-41), Annual Progress of New College (Vol. xiii, 77-137), Amersham in the time of William and Mary (Vol. xiii, 208-23), Wotton Underwood in 1657 (Vol. xiv, 133-48), The Shardeloes Muniments (Vol. xiv, 164-73, 210-35, 281-97, 341-53). All these contributions are based on original records in the possession of private owners, and, while the purist may sigh for the publication of such records *in extenso*, Mr. Eland's judicious selection, learned annotations, and illuminating comments based on an intimate knowledge of the County must earn for him the gratitude of all.

During his tenure of the Editorship, the *Records* has well maintained the standard of scholarship expected of, but not always attained by, a learned society, and a large share of the credit for this desirable state of affairs must be accorded to the Editor. He has himself mentioned the noteworthy papers contributed during the period between the two wars, so that recapitulation here is unnecessary. What he has not mentioned, and what is sometimes forgotten, is the great responsibility which falls upon the Editor for such matters as format, printing, relations with contributors, tact-

ful rejection of unsuitable material, obituary notices, reviews of books, etc. In fact, and in sum, for a quarter of a century the *Records* was Eland, and his removal from our midst to dwell in the eastern part of England induces both a sense of loss and a feeling that constant and watchful effort will be needed to maintain the standard of excellence he has set us.

J. G. J.

As Assistant Editor with Mr. Eland for a good many years past, I should like to associate myself with Mr. Jenkins's admirable appreciation, and to add a note of my own. Mr. Eland was always ready and willing to encourage and help the younger antiquarian; but he very rightly insisted that nothing unsound should appear in the *Records*, and perhaps the greatest debt the Society owes him is for his courage and strength of mind in insisting on original and well-checked material from any contributor. This uncompromising attitude may have offended some, but there is not the slightest doubt that it was greatly to the Society's advantage. His place will indeed be hard to fill, and he has fully earned the gratitude of his colleagues and fellow members in the Society.

E. C. R.