

OBITUARY

J. GILBERT JENKINS. When Gilbert Jenkins died in 1972 the county lost a man who had done more to facilitate and promote the study of its history than any man since George Lipscomb. He was, however, a Welshman, a son of Canon Jenkins of Bangor Cathedral. After studying for a time at the University of Bangor he became an undergraduate of Jesus College Oxford, where after reading history and law he graduated with first-class honours. When he first went down from Oxford, he entered the service of the Inland Revenue, and later he worked in Somerset House. There he continued until he secured a post more suited to his abilities and inclinations, that of Secretary to London University.

He married Elizabeth Tuke, a member of a well-known banking family, an accomplished artist and a most genial personality. When they settled down at Jordans, he began to interest himself in local history. He wrote his *History of the Parish of Penn*, his happiest and best-known book, and his wife illustrated it with her lino cuts. His studies made apparent to him the desirability of printing those texts on which the local historian would always be dependent. After visiting Dr. G. H. Fowler, who was the pioneer of record-publication in Bedfordshire, he founded a Records Branch inside this Society which after a while hived off and became the Buckinghamshire Record Society, and he became its Secretary and General Editor. Not only that, but he edited several volumes, prepared indexes for other volume-editors or wrote prefaces for them, and generally assisted them in their labours. The *Missenden Cartulary*, his own great personal achievement, ran to three volumes: the first appeared in 1939; the second was ready within a few years, and as no printer could at that time undertake it, he set it up with his own hands on a little printing press that he had bought, and triumphantly issued it; the last volume was published jointly by the Stationery Office and the Society in 1962.

In 1957 he retired from the service of London University, and joined the staff of the Victoria County History as its editor for Staffordshire. He set to work with energy, and wrote articles with his own pen on subjects quite remote from those on which his Buckinghamshire researches had borne. After his final retirement, he wrote *Chequers*, a work of experienced scholarship, but without the warmth and charm of his first work. Some years before his death, he undertook extensive researches into early enclosures in this county.

Apart from these learned interests, he had a deep appreciation of music and the visual arts. He was an active supporter of the C.P.R.E. and of the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

G.R.E.

BISHOP R. M. HAY. The Right Reverend Robert Milton Hay died on 23rd October, 1973, aged 89. He had served in the Diocese of Oxford for almost the whole of his working life. He first came to Bucks. as Vicar of Taplow in 1939; five years later he succeeded Bishop Eliot as Archdeacon and Bishop of Buckingham. He resigned as Bishop in 1960. A sentence from the notice in the Oxford Diocesan magazine expresses very well the impression he made: "He was a big man in every way. He had a commanding presence, enlivened by a twinkle of the eye and a gentleness of tone and manner; he had a heart large enough to accept and embrace

the oddities and waywardness of clergy and laity alike. He was also big enough to express a forthright opinion, and when occasion demanded, to assert his authority."

He was elected a Vice-President of the Society in 1959 but he will be particularly remembered for his work in creating the Bucks. Historic Churches Trust with Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher; he remained an active Trustee, keenly interested in the work until increasing disability compelled his resignation quite recently. His second marriage in 1960 was to Miss Mary Shaw, daughter of Bishop Shaw of Oxford, to whom we extend our sympathy.

N. W. GURNEY, C.B.E. Norman William Gurney, who died on 10th October, 1973 aged 93, was well known for the devoted service he gave to Bucks. in many capacities—as a magistrate, as High Sheriff in 1952 and as a member of the County Council for forty years, for the last fifteen of which, up to his retirement in 1962, he was its distinguished chairman. He belonged to the Society for many years and served as its representative on the Milton Cottage Trust of which he was a most assiduous chairman. He must have been one of the last survivors of those who were in service (with the City of London Rough Riders) in the South African War.

A. EWART STEEVENS, another senior member, died suddenly on holiday in Scotland in August, 1973. He was well known in High Wycombe and lectured frequently on archaeological subjects. He was a keen supporter of Society outings and was a founder member of the Bucks. Records Society.

MICHAEL FLETCHER served on the Council in the immediate post-war years and was an Hon. Joint Editor of the Centenary number of the *Records* (1974). A son of the distinguished surgeon Walter Morley Fletcher, he was for many years business manager of *The Practitioner*. His knowledge of Bucks. was considerable and he remained keenly interested in the outings, particularly to the grander country houses. He never married.

Other deaths reported in 1972-73 were: Mrs. A. R. Astbury, Dr. M. B. Barnes, Mrs. N. E. Courage, Mrs. Joan Crouch, W. Ashley Cummins, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Gosney, R. W. Hester, A. S. G. Hoar, C. P. F. North, Mrs. R. Ritchie, Mrs. J. E. Serby, Miss Phyllis Stewart, Mrs. D. G. Taylor, R. F. Turney (well known in Chorley Wood and a keen supporter of the Natural History Section), S. P. Wigley, and Victor Williams.

NEWSLETTER. The first issue of a Society Newsletter, designed to give up-to-date information on current and future digs in the county was compiled by Max Davies and sent to members in June. It is hoped to continue to circulate the Newsletter every Spring.

RECORD OF BUCKS. The Editors much regret that, due to an error of the binders, the 1972 issue of the *Records*, Vol XIX. 2, was trimmed to a size appreciably less than other parts of this and previous volumes.