

## OBITUARY NOTICES

SIR JOHN HOBHOUSE, M.C., LL.D.

John Richard Hobhouse, a distinguished member of a distinguished family, died on 9 May 1961, aged sixty eight. He was the third son of the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse of Hadspen and his first wife, Margaret Heyworth, daughter of Richard Potter of Standish House, Gloucestershire.

Jack Hobhouse was in College at Eton and in due course went up to New College, Oxford, but he was lured away from the University to join a cousin in the shipping firm of Alfred Holt at Liverpool. There he spent the greater part of his life, and there, during the second world war, he was the Ministry of War Transport Shipping Representative. He was knighted in 1946. His greatest interest outside his work was in the affairs of the University of Liverpool and of the city's School of Tropical Medicine, of whose Council he was Chairman for many years. His long service to the University culminated in his being elected to the post of Senior Pro-Chancellor. "A fearless and outspoken man, he was not one of those who grace a good cause with their presence but not their advice. His interest was articulate as well as active, and in 1958 he was awarded an Hon. LL.D." by the University of his adoption.

On his retirement, he came to live at West Monkton and soon began to interest himself in the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society as so many of his family had done before him. His great-grandfather, the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Keeper of the State Papers from 1827 until his death in 1854, was one of the Society's original Vice-Presidents. His father was an active member of the Society, and served as President in 1890 and again in 1913; and his brother, Sir Arthur Hobhouse, was elected President when the Society celebrated its centenary at the Annual Meeting of 1949.

Sir John became a life member of the Society in 1957. In 1958 he was co-opted to the Council and became a member of the Executive Committee in June of the same year. He was appointed one of the Society's three representatives on the Museum Governing Body, of which he became the first Chairman. He was also chosen to act as the first Chairman of the South-West Regional Museum Service when that organization was established in 1959.

In 1926, Sir John married Catherine, daughter of Henry Stewart Brown. There were three sons of the marriage, two of whom survive, and two daughters.

A.W.V-N.

## SIR WILLIAM SAVAGE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sir William Savage, the first County Medical Officer of Health for Somerset and one of the foremost members of the Public Health Service in Britain, died on April 6th 1961, at the age of 88.

Born in 1872, the son of John H. Savage of Jamaica, he was educated privately and at University College, London, where he qualified M.D. in 1898. After being house physician and pathologist at the Sussex County Hospital and assistant professor at University College, London, he devoted himself to public health. He was appointed to Somerset in 1909 and remained in office until 1937, though he returned to his old Department to assist during the war. In his early days, Savage, by necessity, was a strong and determined believer in the importance of Environmental Hygiene as the basis for all measures in Public Health. The years that passed only strengthened him in this view, and, perhaps, his knowledge and experience of rural housing, water supplies and sewerage schemes were unequalled by anyone in the history of Public Health in this country. With energy, with great precision of mind, and with unflinching tenacity of purpose, he built up and tended, through many years, the structure of the Health Services in Somerset. In 1938, following his retirement, he was knighted. In the same year he became a member of the Somerset Archaeological Society and was soon elected a member of the Council where his administrative experience and personal qualities were of immense value to the Society during the difficult period of the war and the post-war reorganisation.

As President of the Society in 1945 he broke new ground in his address on "Archaeology and Food", in which he applied his specialist knowledge to the problems of the past. His continued work in this new field led to a study of Somerset Towns (see Vols. 99 and 100), and to the publication in 1952 of a general informative work called "The Making of Our Towns".

Sir William Savage enjoyed life. He worked hard and he played hard. To a late age, he loved his tennis, his gardening, and his bathing, not from gentle beaches, but, preferably, from steep and fearful rocks. To those who did not understand him, he sometimes appeared brusque, and some of his real greatness may well have been obscured in this way. Above all, he was a loyal servant of Somerset, and served the County and her people faithfully through the years.



## MAJOR P. C. FLETCHER, M.C., T.D., F.S.A.

Philip Cawthorne Fletcher came of a Lancashire family. He was educated at Rugby and University College, Oxford. He served with distinction in the First World War in Egypt, Gallipoli, Salonica and France, reaching the rank of Major and being awarded the Military Cross. From 1908 to 1945 he was an assistant master at Charterhouse School.

Major Fletcher's connection with Somerset goes back to 1932, when he purchased Hinton Priory. He joined our Society in the same year. The Tudor house at Hinton was at that time in a state of considerable dilapidation. Fletcher carried out a careful restoration, removing Victorian additions and bringing to light many features of the monastic Guest House, which the Tudor builders had incorporated in their house. After taking up residence at Hinton in 1945, Fletcher, assisted by his sons, conducted extensive excavations in the grounds, uncovering a large part of the plan of the Carthusian monastery. The Chapter House and Refectory, which still stand to roof level, had long been known. The excavations brought to light the outline of the Great Cloister and the surrounding houses of the brethren, each standing in its own garden, together with the layout of the Church and the Little Cloister. The greater part of the buildings exposed dated from the early 13th century, the period of the foundation, though there was evidence of some alterations and extensions in the 14th century. The results were of more than local importance. Hitherto knowledge of the English Carthusian houses had been mainly based on late medieval remains, of which the most extensive are those at Mount Grace, Yorkshire. The work at Hinton Charterhouse shewed an example of the characteristic plan already fully evolved at a date shortly after the introduction of the Order into England. The discoveries were fully published in two reports, which Fletcher contributed to our Proceedings (*Proc. Somerset Arch. Soc.*, Vols. 96 and 103).

Fletcher always took an active part in public affairs. While at Charterhouse he was elected to the Godalming Town Council and served three times as Mayor, before his retirement in 1945. In Somerset he sat on the Rural District Council and the Diocesan Board of Finance and was Churchwarden and President of the local Cricket Club. Among our members he will long be remembered not

only for his valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Charterhouse, but for the kindly hospitality with which he and Mrs. Fletcher received visitors to the site and the enthusiasm and interest with which he was always ready to shew the latest discoveries in his garden. It is strange that so important a site remained so long unexplored and virtually unknown; it is fortunate that in the end it found an explorer who combined wide knowledge with an ability to explain to everyone the remains which he loved so well. Fletcher is survived by a widow, three sons and a daughter, to whom all will extend their most sincere sympathy.

C.A.R.R.