

## Hugh Daniel Badcock, M.A., F.Z.S.

HUGH DANIEL BADCOCK was very proud of his county and especially of West Somerset, where he was born on 9 January 1871. His father, Daniel, was then in charge of Badcock's Bank, situated in Fore Street, Taunton. Two years later the family migrated to Beggearnhuish, and in 1878 a move was made to Treborough Lodge. When the boy was 14 years of age his father purchased Kilve Court, where he (Daniel) died. Hugh received his early education at Clevedon and later at Crowcombe Rectory. He arrived at Eton for the Michaelmas term of 1884, and remained there till the end of the summer term of 1890—at first in the house of the Rev. J. H. Merriott and then of Mr. P. Williams.

Badcock proceeded to Balliol College, Oxford, 1890-94; M.A. 1897. In that year he became an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and from 1899 to 1901 he was a sergeant in the West Somerset Yeomanry in the South African War. In the latter year he married Margaret Isabel Close who died in 1927. He became J.P. for the Transvaal in 1901; was Inspector of Machinery there, 1901-2; and was City Engineer of Pretoria, 1902-8. He held the office of Commissioner of Works in Fiji, 1910-12. In that colony he took up the study of *Arachnida*, and wrote some pamphlets thereon.

Mr. Badcock joined the temporary staff at Eton in October 1914 and was on the permanent staff as mathematical master and Keeper of the Natural History Museum from September 1917 to March 1928. While there he continued his work on Spiders and wrote an illustrated paper on 'Ant-like Spiders from Malaya, collected by the Annandale-Robinson Expedition, 1901-2' (*Proc. Zool. Soc.*, for 1917, pp. 277-321).

When Badcock retired from teaching he undertook the determination of some of the unnamed collections of Spiders in the British Museum, and wrote 'Arachnida from the Paraguayan Chaco' which was illustrated and appeared in the *Journ. Linn. Soc.*, vol. xxxviii (1932), pp. 1-48. At the time of his going to live at Wood Advent Farm, Roadwater, he was engaged on the identification of a large collection of Spiders from Abyssinia.

Hugh Badcock became a member of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society in December 1929, and was elected a

councillor in July of the following year—an office which interested him and gave him much pleasure. He was elected the first chairman of the West Somerset Branch of the Parent Society which was formed in 1938. He died at his house, Lowood, Roadwater, on 3 May 1939.

Badcock's versatility of mind was extraordinary, and he had during his busy life displayed unusual energy. He was a lover of children, and a delightful companion especially on his walks in the West Somerset country, the beauties of which he enjoyed to the full.

H. St. G. G.

### **Charles Herbert Bothamley, M.Sc., F.R.P.S.**

MR. C. H. BOTHAMLEY will be best remembered as the Educational Secretary for Somerset, from 1902, when the Somerset County Council became the authority for education under the Education Act. He retired in March 1925, after having discharged his duties with distinction.

Mr. Bothamley was chairman of the Weston-super-Mare Public Library from 1916 to 1935, and for many years chairman also of the Museum connected with that institution, and in that direction he rendered excellent services to the Urban District Council.

His skill in photography was well-known, and he wrote two manuals which were for some years regarded as standard text books. In the late nineties he was engaged on a photographic survey of Somerset in connection with the Archæological Society.

At the time of his death on 2 March 1939 at the age of 79 years Bothamley was one of the senior members of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society, having joined in 1892 when he resided in Taunton. From that time onward he was a prominent member of the Taunton Literary and Philosophical Society which ceased to function a few years ago. On moving to Weston-super-Mare he became interested in the work of the Axbridge and Weston-super-Mare Branch of the Archæological Society, and for many years he was its secretary. Later, on the death of Mr. E. E. Baker, he became president, a position he occupied up to the time of his death. In that capacity he had a seat on the Council of the Parent Society. He frequently attended the monthly meetings, and his

administrative experience was found to be very useful both in matters of finance and in the revision and amplification of the rules. He regularly attended the annual excursions as long as he was able to do so. He was responsible for the chapter on the Earthworks of Somerset in the second volume of the *Victoria County History*.

In recent years Bothamley had been one of the lecturers of the Wyndham Lecture Trusts for elementary and secondary schools; and he was a recognized authority on architecture especially of the Norman period. He formed a good historical and archæological library which was dispersed after his death.

Mr. Bothamley was an honorary member of the Société Française d'Archéologie, and a member of the Royal Archæological Institute for whose *Journal* he wrote a fully illustrated account of Carcassonne in S.W. France, the medieval walled city sacked by the Black Prince in 1355. He was also familiar with the architectural glories of Aigues Mortes, which was to him a spiritual home.

The excursions of the Weston Branch were frequently arranged by Bothamley, and he took a leading part in the descriptions on those occasions as he was well qualified to do, especially of ancient castles, one of which he was generally able to include in the programme. His method of presenting detail was always pleasant and often fascinating, and he held the attention of his listeners to the end of his talks.

Bothamley was greatly respected by his colleagues, and his intellectual attainments and friendliness were much appreciated. He was of a cheerful disposition and possessed a rich vein of humour and a retentive memory for all matters appertaining to his wide interests.

H. ST. G. G.

## Lt.-Col. Sir Matthew Nathan

D.C., G.C.M.G., R.E., F.S.A.

(Plate XXIV)

By the death of Sir Matthew Nathan on 18 April 1939 the Society lost a Vice-President who had been a valued member of the Council since 1929 and who was President in 1930-31. From 1907 when he bought the beautiful old Manor House at West Coker, Sir Matthew took a keen interest in the history and antiquities of Somerset.

In 1912 he became a member of the Somerset Archæological Society and a subscriber to the Somerset Record Society and, even when he was Governor of Queensland, his letters of advice and criticism from Brisbane on archæological matters were always welcome and inspiring.

He sat on the Council of the Somerset Record Society from 1927, and was its Chairman from 1933 until his death. 'During this period', writes Prebendary Palmer, the Hon. Secretary, 'the Council relied increasingly on his direction and guidance for, as their Chairman, his counsel was always found to be wise and his criticisms sound. The position of influence which he occupied as Chairman of the Records Committee of the County Council enabled him to offer the Council of the Somerset Record Society very practical and authoritative direction as to the possibilities of useful work'.

He became Chairman of the Committee of 'Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries' in 1933.

Sir Matthew made the work of the Records Committee of the County Council his special study and delight; in those days there was no office staff to help him, and he spent long hours in sorting and classifying documents himself.

Miss Joan Wake states that 'Sir Matthew played a prominent part in the negotiations which preceded the formation of the British Records Association in 1932. His fair-mindedness and ability as Chairman of the Provisional Committee greatly contributed to the success achieved in uniting in one organisation all the record interests in the country. His friend, Lord Hanworth, became the first President of the Association, Sir Matthew served on the Council and was for a time Chairman of the Records Preservation Section—



Lt.-Col. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN  
P.C., G.C.M.G., F.S.A.

a branch of the work in which he was keenly interested. His brother, Mr. George Nathan, was for some years Honorary Secretary of the Section'.

At the instance of Sir Matthew, the County Council became a member of the British Records Association, and Lord Hanworth, Master of the Rolls, opened the remodelled Records Rooms at the Shire Hall in 1934.

Thus he 'laid the foundations for a Records Department worthy of the County and its ancient history'.

It is not surprising that after his retirement, and especially when more active work was denied him, Sir Matthew Nathan should have devoted himself to the compilation of 'The Annals of West Coker'. The publication of this book is inevitably delayed because of the War, but his friend, Prof. Eileen Power, to whose able hands Sir Matthew entrusted the work, will see that it is published at the earliest possible moment.

Many members of the Society will remember Sir Matthew's delightful Presidential address in 1930 on *Some Village Families*, the subjects being West Coker men of olden days whose humours and litigations were a constant source of amusement to him.

In this notice it is fitting to dwell on Sir Matthew's work for archæology in Somerset, but that is only one of the many services he rendered to the County, and what he did for Somerset forms a very small part of his outstanding services to the country and to the Empire.

Matthew Nathan was born on 3 January 1862 and passed out of Woolwich with sixteen prizes and the sword of honour for exemplary conduct. In 1880 he joined the Royal Engineers and saw active service in India and Egypt. He was proud to be an Engineer and to the end of his life delighted in the companionship of his fellow engineers.

Only the briefest reference can be made here to his remarkable success in five Colonial Governorships; Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Natal and Queensland. His loyal and faithful services to the Crown were recognised by the award of many honours; he was created Grand Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1908 and sworn a Privy Councillor for Ireland in 1914.

Between the time spent in Natal and Queensland, he returned to England as successively Secretary to the Post Office, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, Under Secretary of State to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions.

And then he came to Somerset to enjoy his beautiful house and richly stored library, his garden through which flowed the Coker Water mentioned by Leland, and the flowers, birds and butterflies which were his constant joy but, most of all, to give to the County what all his life he had given to his Country—'the service of his love'.

He was elected an Alderman of the County Council in 1928, was a suggestive and helpful member of the Education Committee, and served on several other Committees of the Council besides the Records Committee of which he was Chairman. He was a Vice-Chairman of the Rural Community Council, and took special interest in the work of the Countryside Committee of which he was Chairman. He was High Sheriff in 1934-5, and a Deputy Lieutenant.

Sir Matthew was Chairman of the County Nursing Association, and was instrumental in raising a large sum of money to establish a Pension Fund for Nurses. He was Chairman of the Yeovil Bench of Magistrates and took an active interest in Probation, being Chairman of the Probation Committee of Quarter Sessions.

A sum of over £300 has recently been subscribed by friends of Sir Matthew in England and Overseas to commemorate his residence in West Coker and his work for the preservation of Records.

An inscription will be placed in his house, a seat or shelter erected in the village and a table for the use of research students provided for the Record Office, while the balance of the money will be presented to the County to promote the work of the Records Committee.

In a brief notice, it is difficult to give a true impression of the volume, variety and brilliancy of the work which Sir Matthew did, but yet more so to convey what he was. He was deeply attached to his own family and made many devoted and faithful friends. Wise in counsel and wide in sympathy, he could never be a passive member of any body to which he belonged; actuated always by a stern sense of duty, with great firmness of will, a fund of humour and deep humility, he gave of his best and his best was very good.