

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM EDWARD SURTEES.—The Society's annual volume of *Proceedings* would appear incomplete to its readers, if it did not contain an obituary notice of one who took so great an interest in the Society, and to whom it is so much indebted, as the late W. E. Surtees, Esq., D.C.L., D.L., of Tainfield, Taunton.

Mr. Surtees was born in the year 1811, of an old north country family. With this family were connected by marriage the great Lord Chancellor Eldon,¹ and Bishop Philpotts, of Exeter. The former had married the sister of Mr. Surtees's grandfather, the latter his father's sister. After a short time spent at the Bath Grammar School, he received his education at Winchester, where he formed the life-long friendship of Mr. Arthur Malet, and his brother, Octavius, who for many years has done kind and valuable service to our Society, as one of its Honorary Secretaries. Mr. Surtees retained to the last an interest in the classical studies there pursued, and during his long illness he made a translation of some of his favourite "Odes of Horace," dedicating it to Mr. Octavius Malet, as a memorial of their friendship.

From Winchester he went to University College, Oxford, where he was the contemporary of Lord Sherbrooke and Archdeacon Browne, and subsequently he joined the Northern Circuit.

In the years 1842 and 1843 he travelled in the United States, making the acquaintance of several men eminent in

¹ Mr. Surtees was the author of a brief biographical notice of Lord Eldon, and his brother, Lord Stowell.

law and science, who used in after years to visit him at Tainfield.

His special interest lay in historical, antiquarian, and genealogical subjects. For one of the north country archæological journals he wrote an interesting account of the great families of the north—the Percys, Liddells, Vanes, etc.

About the year 1853 he married Lady Chapman, of Tainfield, widow of Sir Stephen R. Chapman, C.B., and K.C.H., formerly Governor of the Bermudas. Henceforth Tainfield became his home, adorned with the many objects of artistic and antiquarian interest which he had gradually collected. From this time, too, he took a lively interest in all the philanthropical and scientific institutions of the neighbouring town of Taunton. For many years he was Chairman of the Taunton School of Art. He was a Vice-President and one of the Trustees of our Society, and greatly interested in all that concerns it—serving as an active Member of the Council, and making frequent donations of value to its Museum and Library. He took a prominent part in the scheme for purchasing the Taunton Castle, and contributed very largely to the Art Exhibition held in aid of the Purchase Fund. At his expense the present doorway to the keep was built, a few years ago, in a style suited to the Norman Castle. His extensive Library of about 3,000 volumes, containing many archæological and artistic works of considerable value, has been given, since his death, to the Society by Lady Chapman, kindly acting upon a suggestion to that effect which had been made by Mr. Surtees in his illness.

In the year 1883 he was President of the Society's Annual Meeting, held at Wiveliscombe. Those who attended the meeting cannot fail to remember the interesting address he gave, so full of varied information and of reminiscences of his early life.

Mr. Surtees was a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Somerset, Northumberland, and Durham. In the latter

county he served the office of High Sheriff in the year 1866. Those who had the pleasure of his friendship, and remember his unfailing courtesy of manner, united to resolute integrity of principle, will deeply feel how much not only this Society, but Taunton and its neighbourhood, have lost by his death. He was buried in the churchyard at Kingston St. Mary; several Members of the Council of the Society attending his funeral.

JAMES HURLY PRING was born at Taunton, April 22nd, 1815. He was educated at the Taunton Grammar School; at Shrewsbury School, under Dr. Butler; and at Edinburgh University, where he took the degree of M.D. After leaving Edinburgh he visited Paris, Vienna, and Switzerland; and attended the medical classes at Heidelberg for a term. Soon after his return to England he settled at Bath, succeeding to the practice of his uncle, Dr. Daniel Pring. In 1845, his health breaking down, he moved to Weston-super-Mare. It was here that he first became connected with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society. He acted as Local Secretary at the Annual Meeting held there in 1851, and was mainly instrumental in securing the success of the meeting.

In 1861 Dr. Pring relinquished his practice at Weston, and ultimately settled at Taunton, where he resided for the remainder of his life. He was always a zealous and active supporter of the Archæological Society, for many years a Member of the Council, and was also for a time one of the Honorary Secretaries. He contributed some papers to the *Proceedings* of the Society, and published several small books and pamphlets, chiefly on archæological subjects.

Although better known as an antiquarian and archæologist, the study of these branches of knowledge engrossing a large share of his attention, Dr. Pring was a man of high culture,

and well informed on many branches of science and art. At the great Exhibition in 1851 he exhibited specimens of engraving by electricity on polished steel; an art which he had discovered and practised.

Dr. Pring had never been a very strong or robust man. His health began to fail in the early part of 1888, and he died at Elmfield on May 31st, 1889. He was buried in Wilton churchyard, where his great-grandfather, the Rev. James Hurly (at one time Head Master of the Taunton Grammar School and incumbent of the parishes of Taunton St. James, Wilton, and Trull), and many of Dr. Pring's family lie buried.
