

The Right Reverend Edmund Hobhouse, D.D.

BISHOP Hobhouse, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, died on April 20th, 1904, aged eighty-seven; and was buried in the beautiful churchyard of Pitcombe (in which church his ancestors lie) on April 25th. The Bishop was unquestionably the most distinguished antiquary in the county, and was a generous benefactor of our Society. He will ever be remembered by his two principal works:—*Bishop Drovensford's Register*, and *The Pre-Reformation Churchwardens' Accounts*, which he so ably edited for the Somerset Record Society. An appreciative account of his archæological work from the pen of Canon T. Scott Holmes (reprinted by permission from *The Guardian*), together with an excellent portrait of the Bishop, will be found in the June (1904) Part of *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.

F. W. W.

Arthur John Goodford.

THE death took place suddenly, on November 1st, 1904, of Mr. Arthur John Goodford, one of the Trustees of the Society. He was the eldest son of a former Provost of Eton, and was J.P. and D.L. for Somersetshire. He was appointed in 1900 to the chairmanship of the Somerset County Council, a post which he recently resigned on the ground of ill-health. He did good work for the county and will be greatly missed. He was in his fifty-ninth year. The funeral took place at Chilton Cantelo on November 5th, and was largely attended by his brother magistrates, the neighbouring clergy and parishioners.

F. W. W.

Rev. Prebendary A. W. Grafton.

THE Rev. Preb. Grafton, vicar of Castle Cary, who acted as one of our local secretaries, died in May last, after having been a member of our Society more than thirty years. Born in the county, and having spent the greater part of his life within its borders—as Vice-Principal of the Wells Theological College, and as Incumbent of Somerset livings at Henton, Highbridge, and Castle Cary—he was intensely interested in its history. In 1890, when the annual meeting was held at Castle Cary, Preb. Grafton read a pleasant and valuable paper on “Castle Cary Churchwardens’ Accounts, 1628-1699.” Although this was his only contribution to our *Proceedings*, he used his large stock of local knowledge in many other ways. He published “Historical Notes of Castle Cary” as a pamphlet; contributed articles to *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*; and wrote a description of his church for the Wincanton Field Club. Able, affable, and zealous in good works, Preb. Grafton will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends and neighbours.

C. T.

Austin J. King, f.S.A.

MR. Austin Joseph King, of Bath, who died on August 28th, 1904, was a remarkably able and energetic man, whose talents were largely devoted to the promotion of the best interests of the city in which he was born and in which he lived. When our Society met in Bath, in 1895, Mr. King read a short but admirable paper on “The Municipal Records of Bath,” a subject which he has dealt with much more fully and learnedly in a large volume, in the writing of which he was most ably assisted by his friend, Mr. B. H. Watts, the late Town Clerk of Bath. Mr. King was one of the most active and valued members of the Bath Literary and

Philosophical Association, and of the Bath Field Club, and for many years contributed considerably to their rotæ. In addition to various papers on literary and legal topics, he discoursed on "The Bayeux Tapestry," "Cavaliers and Roundheads: a Chapter in the History of Bath," "The Destruction of the two Churches of St. Mary in Bath," and "The Monks of Bath in the XIII and XIV Centuries." Mr. King, who was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was a member of our Society, and was also on the committee of the Bath branch.

C. T.

Rev. R. B. Poole.

THE Rev. Robert Blake Poole, R.D., for twenty-five years vicar of Ilton, passed away, after a short illness, on December 1st, aged sixty-five. For many years he was a regular attendant at our Annual Meetings, and always took a keen and intelligent interest in the antiquities of the county. He carried out a careful and conservative restoration of Ilton church under circumstances of peculiar difficulty.

F. W. W.

Walter Winter Walter, D.R.C.S., Eng.

SINCE the issue of our last volume, Mr. W. W. Walter, of the Gables, Stoke-under-Ham, has gone to his rest. Mr. Walter was elected an honorary life member of our Society in 1902, in recognition of his having added to our Museum the splendid collection of antiquities, etc., there associated with his name. As a full description of his great gift, with his portrait and some biographical notes, appeared in Vol. XLVIII, it will not be necessary to go into further details here. Mr. Walter contributed to our *Proceedings* a most interesting paper on "The Beauchamp Castle and Free Chapel at Stoke-under-Ham," and gladly spent a considerable portion of his leisure hours for many years in trying to assist in un-

ravelling some of the historical and antiquarian problems connected with the village and neighbourhood in which he was born, and in which he lived so many years. Probably the crowning joy of his life was the assurance that his collection had been safely settled in at Taunton Castle, and that (thanks largely to the skill and labour of Mr. H. St. G. Gray) it had been so arranged that it would be a source of instruction and delight to thousands of persons for years to come.

C. T.

Frederick A. Wood.

MR. F. A. Wood, of Highfield, Chew Magna, who passed away last March, spent many years of loving labour, and a considerable sum of money, upon a work entitled *Collections for a Parochial History of Chew Magna*. This he published in 1903, for private circulation only. Mr. Wood also made abstracts from hundreds of wills (dated from 1530 to 1799), of inhabitants of Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Dundry, and Stowey—wills that are still to be found in the Registrar's Office at Wells. These extracts were bound up in five volumes, with a good index. One copy was given to our Society, and is deposited in the Museum at Taunton. Another copy has been given to the Free Library at Weston-super-Mare, to which institution Mr. Wood bequeathed his valuable library of over six thousand volumes (specially strong in history and natural history), to which he also added an endowment of £1,000, the interest of which is to be used for adding to and maintaining his library. Mr. Wood was one of the Presidents of the Northern Branch of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, and it was during his year of office that he issued his work on Chew Magna, which he dedicated to the members, and also presented a copy to each. It is a book of about four hundred pages, with many excellent maps, plans, illustrations and pedigrees.

C. T.