

Thomas S. Bush

MR. THOMAS S. BUSH, of 20, Camden Crescent, Bath, who joined our Society in 1892, passed away on September 25, 1927, aged 85 years. In 1902 he was elected as one of our local Secretaries, did good work in that capacity, and was a zealous member of the Council. In 1903 he founded the Bath Branch, and acted as honorary secretary and treasurer up to the time of his death. He superintended the excavations at Lansdown, and did much good research work in the city of Bath, evidence of which may be seen in the collection of Roman coins, pottery, etc., that fill the seven large glass cases in the Institution. He lived at Charlcombe before he took up his residence in Bath, and, while there, collected some interesting local information about members of the Fielding family, which was duly published.

CHARLES TITE.

Herbert Byard Sheppard, F.M.S.

THE death of Mr. Herbert Byard Sheppard, of Taunton, which took place on January 7, 1928, has removed from our midst one who was deeply interested in the work of our Society, and who had for years been a most able and reliable member of the Council, with a specially intimate knowledge of the property under its control.

Mr. Sheppard was a native of Frome, but he removed to Taunton in 1893, to enter into partnership with Mr. T. Meyler, solicitor, at whose death, in 1897, he became Steward of the Manor of Taunton Deane. He joined our ranks in 1903, and, six years later, contributed a very valuable paper to the *Proceedings* on 'Courts Leet and the Court Leet of the Borough of Taunton'. This was a subject that he had deeply studied and on which he wrote with authority. This paper was subsequently issued in pamphlet form, and will long be consulted as a most interesting contribution to local history.

This is not the place to refer in any detail to the many public offices he held and the good work he did in a variety of ways—in connection with several educational bodies, as a member of the Town Council, as a local magistrate, or as an officer of volunteers during the Great War. But, mention should be made of the keenness with which he entered into the work connected with the Lecture Trust founded by Mr. William Wyndham, of Orchard Wyndham, for the benefit of the pupils attending the secondary and elementary schools of Taunton, and of the great assistance he rendered in the preparation of the necessary schemes. These have provided for the annual delivery of a series of lectures on the history, archæology, or anthropology of Taunton and West Somerset from the earliest times to the present day.

Mr. Sheppard followed up his good work in this direction by delivering lectures on the history of Taunton, which were carefully prepared, admirably illustrated, and greatly appreciated.

In his capacity as Steward of the Manor he had presided at the annual meetings of the Court Leet of the Borough for thirty years, and his able addresses on those occasions had given ample evidence of his stores of local knowledge, and especially of his intimate acquaintance with the numerous manorial documents under his careful guardianship in the Exchequer portion of Taunton Castle.

He was also deeply interested in Gray's Almshouses, the sympathetic oversight of which he had undertaken for many years, and he will be sadly missed in connection therewith.

CHARLES TITE.