

OBITUARIES

Sir Arthur Elton, Bart.

News of the death of Sir Arthur Elton came too late for inclusion in the last number of the Proceedings. Many members perhaps will only have known Sir Arthur as a distinguished past-President of the society, a role filled before him by his grandfather and one of his uncles.

It will have been realised from his Presidential Address that Sir Arthur was an authority on the history of railways, but his interest and knowledge extended far beyond railways; he was for many years Chairman of the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology at Bath and the National Record of Industrial Monuments was set up under his aegis.

Less well-known perhaps to those, whose interests do not lie in that direction, is the undoubted fact that Arthur Elton was one of the most distinguished and influential members of the documentary film movement in this country; the list of his attainments in that field, in which he had held many positions of far-reaching influence, are too numerous to list here. I worked with Arthur Elton for a number of years, which is why I now find myself faced with writing this quite inadequate obituary; he was not the sort of character who could be condensed into a few words, but perhaps this extract from what W.S.M. wrote in *The Times* should have the last word. "His natural and inbred courtesy was nevertheless accompanied by a very shrewd and clear-thinking mind and he could be intolerant of obstruction and vacillation. He retained a boyish enthusiasm for any matter or subject which aroused his interest . . . Arthur was one of those English originals".

Richard Bryant Naish, M.A.

Richard Bryant Naish, who died in January of this year, joined the Society in 1950. He came to Somerset in 1946 after 30 years in the Ceylon Colonial Service, retiring as Registrar-General when the island became independent.

A graduate in Classics of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he developed a keen interest in archaeology and local history in Somerset and contributed to our *Proceedings* and *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*. As a member of Council from 1960 until his death, he gave freely of his wide knowledge and understanding.