

In Memoriam.

Mr FERDINAND HUDLESTON, who died at Hutton John on 15 February 1951 at the patriarchal age of 93, was head of one of the oldest families in the North of England. The Hudlestons, who take their name from Hudleston in Yorkshire, came into Cumberland more than 700 years ago, when John Hudleston married Joan Boyvill, the heiress of Millom. The senior branch of the family failed in the male line in 1745, but a junior branch had been established at Hutton John in Elizabethan days, and the property descended to Andrew Fleming Hudleston (1796-1861), and from him to a distant cousin, William Hudleston (1826-1894). Ferdinand Hudleston, born at Bath on 7 November 1857, was the latter's second son; his mother was the daughter of a well-known architect, George Ledwell Taylor, who has a place in the D.N.B. He was educated at Repton, and later studied civil engineering in Liverpool, thereafter establishing himself in practice in London, where he acquired a considerable reputation: one of his chief works was the Central London tube railway, but this was only one of many important undertakings. He succeeded to Hutton John in 1912, on the death of his elder brother, and his reign had therefore lasted nearly 40 years. As soon as he came to live there, he began to play a part in county affairs; he was an active magistrate, keenly interested in politics and devoted to his home and estate. From his father and mother he inherited a great interest in antiquarian matters, and to within a day or two of his death he was constantly engaged in his favourite pursuit. He joined our Society in 1895, was elected a member of Council in 1930, a Vice-President in 1932 and an Honorary Member in 1949. While he was not a prolific contributor to our *Transactions*, the five papers which he wrote for them are all important: the first, on the history of Hutton John, was printed in CW2 xxiv 161-180; it was followed in CW2 xxx 13-26 with the best account of Penrith Castle which has so far appeared; and to CW2 xxxii he contributed papers on a find in Dacre churchyard (75-77), on Hardrigg Hall (78-79) and on Scales Hall (80-84). To all these he brought a keen and enquiring mind; he was not in the habit of accepting statements unless sound proof were forthcoming, and it was his insistence upon

accuracy that limited his output. To within a day or so of his death he was busy on an important paper on the Nevill glass in St. Andrew's church, Penrith, which is almost complete. To all antiquarian research he brought his engineering knowledge, which enabled him to solve many problems which had defeated other enquirers. For many years he was a familiar figure at the Society's meetings; indeed, he was a distinguished figure in all gatherings, a man who made his presence felt. Strongly independent in all his views, he did not suffer fools gladly, but he was always willing to put his encyclopædic knowledge at the service of a student; more than one enquiry addressed to him produced in reply a carefully reasoned statement which resolved the difficulty. He was quick to detect error and to perceive the weaknesses of an ill-reasoned argument, whether antiquarian or political. His home was the chief joy of his life; there was no other house in the world like Hutton John, and when well past 90 he conducted visitors round it with all the enthusiasm of a schoolboy. At home he cared nothing for his personal appearance, and he used to tell with glee of a tramp who called to ask for an old coat: when the vagrant saw Mr Hudleston's discarded overcoat he shook his head sadly, and pointed out that his own was far superior—as indeed it was. Another anecdote recounts his meeting with a stranger in the grounds, who asked if he might look round; "By all means", said Mr Hudleston, eager to show his house and gardens to all comers: the stranger was conducted round—and when he thanked his venerable guide he pressed half a crown into his hand. In Ferdinand Hudleston the county of Cumberland has lost a great personality, an individualist to the core, and the Society has lost a learned and loyal member.

C.R.H.

The Rev. WILLIAM SLATER SYKES, who died on 2 February 1951 at the age of 83, had been a member of our Society since 1896. From 1904 onwards he was living outside our district (at first in Hampshire and from 1920 in Birkenhead, where he was for many years chaplain of the hospital), but throughout the long period of his membership he maintained an active interest in the Society's work, giving generous assistance to other students of the history and antiquities of south-west Cumberland, and contributing a number of important articles to our *Transactions*. He was an exhibitor of Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1886, proceeding to M.A. in 1891; after curacies in Yorkshire he came in 1895

to Millom, as curate of the ancient parish of Holy Trinity, and in 1900 he became vicar of Eskdale, where he remained four years. In both places he devoted his leisure to the study of local history and of ancient sites, and his first three communications to the Society belong to that period: "The pitch-pipes of the rural deanery of Gosforth" (CW1 xvi 120-135), "Masons' marks, Millom parish church" (*ibidem*, 136-137) and "Notes during the restoration of Whicham church" (CW2 ii 322-328). Twenty years later his contributions were resumed, with papers on "The parish church of Millom" (CW2 xxiv 235-241) and "Notes on Kirksanton 'Tenter-runs' and other South Cumberland sites" (*ibidem*, 242-246), followed by "On the identification of some ancient places in South Cumberland" (CW2 xxvi 103-149), "Notes on Corney" (CW2 xxviii 152-156), "The de Boyvils of Millom and Kirksanton" (CW2 xli 15-40) and "Ulf and his descendants" (*ibidem*, 123-151). But that does not complete the record of his services to the Society. Our honorary member Miss M. C. Fair, who has more than once acknowledged help received from him in her study of the Eskdale district, writes that his work was most patient, thorough and scholarly, and that he was ever ready to give help and advice to other workers appealing to him for aid; and it may be noted that the late H. S. Cowper, in his paper on "Millom castle and the Hudlestons" (CW2 xxiv 181 f.), was able to make use of a plan and notes put at his disposal by Mr Sykes, and that the recent excavation at Lacro, which the Rev. J. A. Dixon and Miss Clare Fell described in CW2 xlviii 1 f., owed its inception to him. Five years ago he generously presented a considerable series of notes on the Millom area after the Conquest, for deposit at Tullie House (cf. CW2 xlvi 292 f.); and those notes, and his published articles, will be of the greatest value when the time comes for a comprehensive history of south-west Cumberland to be written.

Of his appearance and personality Miss Fair writes as follows: "He was a very slightly built man, with a clean-cut face full of intelligence, alert and keen—even in the last days of his long life, when his eyesight was giving him trouble; but those bright eyes of his missed very little of the sites or the items of archaeological interest which he happened to be examining. He was a most inspiring companion, both in the field and in study or library, and up to the time of his death his critical brain was as capable as ever in dealing with problems over the whole wide range of his special interests. In addition to his qualities as archaeologist and historian he was a skilled gardener, and he left the vicarage garden at Eskdale stocked with choice fruit trees and vegetables."

Mr RICHARD MORTON RIGG died at Penrith on 8 April 1951, at the age of 73. He was born at Arnside, the only son of Mr Isaac Rigg, and practised there as an architect for some years before settling in Penrith, in 1910. It was in that year that he joined our Society, becoming a member of Council in 1932 and a Vice-President in 1948. It was perhaps natural that his professional activities should give him a particular interest in the historic buildings of the district, and for many years, until ill-health compelled him to give up attending the Society's excursions, he was frequently called on to give descriptions of places which it visited; those subsequently printed in our *Transactions* include "Newby Hall" (CW2 xii 121-125), "An armorial panel found at Penrith" (CW2 xiii 285-286), and "Meaburn Hall" (CW2 xxxii 104-106). He was a man of wide interests in addition to architecture and antiquarian studies: long a churchwarden of Christ Church, Penrith, and a member of its choir, for more than twenty years secretary of the Penrith Musical Society, and an active Freemason; and many members of the Society will remember him as a pleasant companion on its excursions, and as a helpful adviser on the interpretation of structural problems. His wife died in 1940; he is survived by his son, Mr George Morton Rigg, to whom the Society's deepest sympathy is extended.

The death of the Rev. MARTIN PERCIVAL CHARLES-WORTH, at the early age of 55, on 26 October 1950 has deprived the learned world of an eminent scholar; and our Society and many others, in common with a host of his friends and pupils, lose in him a wise counsellor and a most charming and stimulating companion. He was a scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, and in 1922 was elected to a fellowship of St. John's College, of which in 1937 he became President; in his special field of Roman History he will long be remembered as one of the editors of and contributors to the *Cambridge Ancient History*, as author of a notable book on *Trade Routes and Commerce of the Roman Empire* and of many other studies in which sound scholarship is combined with freshness of approach, and impregnated with his own sense of the lively interest of the subject. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the British Academy, and a Past-President of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies; he became a member of our Society in 1936, and was a frequent attender of its meetings, though he never had occasion to contribute to our *Transactions*; in 1948 he was elected a Vice-President, and at Council meetings and in many other ways he forwarded the interests of the

Society, and the progress of research into the history of our district. It was his custom to spend part of his vacations in Cumberland each year, often bringing some of his Cambridge pupils to make the acquaintance of Hadrian's Wall or of the border castles and churches, and it will be a consolation to his college and to the Society to know how widely his influence has been felt, and will continue to be remembered with gratitude and affection.

We also record, with regret, the deaths of the following members of the Society, whose dates of joining it are added in parenthesis:—

Mrs WALTON, Dalston (1923).

Mrs RIDYARD, Ambleside (1934).

Mr JOHN ROWLAND ATKINSON, Kendal (1945).

Mrs RUTH BELL, Edenhall (1948).