

OBITUARY

ERIC GARDNER, M.B., F.S.A. It is with great regret that the Council announce the death of Dr. Eric Gardner on November 14, 1951, at his home, Portmore House, Weybridge. Dr. Gardner had been laid up since 1947, after contracting a germ at a pathological examination. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and Caius College, Cambridge, and received his medical training at the London Hospital. He joined our Society in 1909. He wrote a paper on "The British Stronghold of St. George's Hill, Weybridge," for Volume XXIV of the *Collections*, 1911. "Some Prehistoric and Saxon Antiquities found in the Neighbourhood of Weybridge" appeared in Volume XXVI, 1913. He became our Local Secretary for Weybridge. In 1913 he began a manuscript catalogue of known Bronze Age "Finds" in Surrey, and further contributions on the same subject have appeared in Volume XXVIII and in Volume XXXV under the headings "Bronze Age Urns in Surrey," "A Triple Banked Enclosure on Chobham Common."

He founded the Weybridge Museum in 1911 in co-operation with Mr. J. E. Harting and Dr. H. G. Willson. It is housed in a room lent by the Weybridge Urban District Council.

He was elected to the Council of the Society in 1912 and became a Vice-President in 1945.

In 1948 he presented his collection of Speed's Maps of Surrey and many other Surrey Maps to the Society. He was a great map collector. Further details of his life were published in the *British Medical Journal*.

LEONARD RIDSDALE STEVENS, who died last year, will be greatly missed, not only for the excellent work he accomplished as our Honorary Treasurer, but for the keen interest he took in all matters connected with the Society.

L. R., as he was affectionately known by his many friends, was an accountant by profession, and he had only lately retired from an active City life where his keen knowledge, especially on that dealing with taxation, was sought after by many prominent firms, his judgment in knotty points being unrivalled.

Away from business he was never happier than delving into matters and objects connected with the distant past, and on many occasions he was successful in unearthing interesting facts and figures after prolonged search in the Record Office, museums, etc.

One of his most sought-after publications was *Byfleet in the Early Ages*; this contained most valuable information of the early records of the "village" with its thirty different ways of spelling through

the ages. He was on the Committee of the well-known Literary Circle of the Devonshire Club, where he was a member for many years.

L. R. really belonged to the old school now gradually fading away, and his loss will be felt by many members who had occasion to consult him about the general welfare of our Society.