

OBITUARY.

We have to record with sincere regret the death of two valued Members of the Society, viz., Col. Gray, of Swallowfield, and A. W. Parry, Esq., Architect.

In Col. Gray the County has sustained the loss of a distinguished and highly accomplished English gentleman, admired and revered by a large circle of friends, and who filled the Office of High Sheriff of Berks in the year 1881 with marked dignity and distinction.

Mr. Parry was one of the original Members when the Society was re-constituted in 1871, and as a Member of the Committee gave us the advantage of his professional experience and judicious counsel.

It would be improper to close our Obituary Notice of this year without paying a tribute of respect to the late Rev. Richard Hooper, Rector of Aston Upthorpe, one of the many eminent scholars trained under the great Dr. Valpy, of Reading School, and whose attainments in Bibliographical and Antiquarian knowledge were of marvellous extent and accuracy. Though not a Member of the Society, Mr. Hooper took a constant interest in its proceedings, and has contributed frequently by valuable, though unpublished, papers to its transactions. He will fill a worthy place among the literary celebrities of Berkshire in the XIXth. century.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

P. H. DITCHFIELD,

J. M. GUILDING.

The Oxfordshire Archæological Society made their Annual Excursion on Tuesday, June 25th. The places visited by a party of 27, driving from Oxford, were Cumnor, Stanton Harcourt, Standlake and Northmoor. The many points of interest in the Churches of these places were examined, under the guidance of the President, Sir H. Dryden, and with the help of the respective Clergy. The remains of the mansion at Stanton Harcourt (seen by most of the party for the first time) were, by Mrs. Porter's permission, thoroughly viewed, and a very interesting collection of fragments of armour, &c., preserved in the Manor House, now occupied as a farm-house, was shewn by the tenant, Mr. Arnatt. Gaunt House, a moated farm-house at Standlake, named after an owner in the fifteenth century, which was garrisoned for the King in the civil war, and the Manor-house at Northmoor, were also visited. The day was to all the party one of great pleasure.