

Obituary.

WILLIAM BRADBROOKE.

William Bradbrooke, who died in May 1940 at the age of 81, lived in retirement for ten years at Sutton Courtenay after forty-seven years of medical practice which was chiefly spent in the country. His main interest in his spare time was the recording of local history, archaeology and genealogy. He was a Founder-Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a member of the Archaeological Societies of Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Oxford University and Buckinghamshire, of which latter Society he was for many years Honorary Secretary: he was also the Editor of the Bucks Parish Register Society. Among his many writings were a History of Fenny Stratford (1911), "The Anthropology of the Chiltern Hills," (with Professor F. G. Parsons), "Versions of the Mummers Play," a "Short account of Sutton Courtenay Church" and "Culham, Oxfordshire." In 1932 his "Notes on the Braybrooke family of Brightwalton" appeared in Volume 36 of the Society's Journal.

His contributions to the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme included some sixty records from various parishes between 1934 and 1939, twenty-seven of which dealt with Sutton Courtenay and these have already proved of value to students using the files at Reading. One of his most useful works was that of transcribing parish registers and monumental inscriptions which he did with great care and accuracy and copies are to be found at Aylesbury, Reading and at the library of the Society of Genealogists. His work on epitaphs, "History from the Churchyard," remains to be published.

Bradbrooke was a delightful companion on any excursion and was forthright and very human in his outlook and singularly free from dogmatism. His welcome to his contemporary and younger friends at his house, Wayside, at Sutton Courtenay was an experience not to be forgotten. By his death Berkshire has lost a man whose work will prove an inspiration to others of the younger generation to continue the good work.

P.S.S.