

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM BOYD DAWKINS

Sir William Boyd Dawkins, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.G.S., M.I.M.E., A.I.C.E., passed away on January 15th, 1929, soon after attaining his 91st year, leaving a long record of activities behind him and maintaining the keenest interest in them all, combined with a vigorous personality, up to the last.

He was born on December 26th, 1837, at Buttington vicarage, Montgomeryshire. He was the son of the Rev. Richard Dawkins, and was educated at Rossall School and Jesus College, Oxford. As a boy he was interested in natural history and geology, pursued first in Wales and afterwards in Somersetshire, when his father removed to the living of Western Zoyland in 1858. It was while here that young Dawkins began the exploration, in conjunction with the Rev. J. Williamson, of Wookey Hole hyaena den in the Mendips, which subsequently led to his long series of cave explorations in various parts of Britain.

When he went up to Oxford, his inclination was to classics and he took a second in Classical Mods; he also became the first Burdett-Coutts scholar in geology at Jesus College, and afterwards, working under Rolleston and Phillips, he turned from classics to natural science, in which he graduated and obtained a first.

Leaving Oxford in 1861, Boyd Dawkins took up geology as a profession, and worked for seven years on the staff of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. During this period he made special study of cave earths and gravels and of the bones which they contained, publishing the results of his researches in *British Pleistocene Mammals*, issued in parts by the Palaeontological Society from 1866 to 1872. This work secured his election as F.R.S., at the early age of 29, in 1867.

In 1869 he accepted the curatorship of the Manchester

Museum on the strong recommendation of Huxley. This museum was afterwards handed over to Owen's College and became the nucleus of the splendid museum subsequently established there. Four years later he was appointed to the Chair of Geology and Palaeontology in the newly constituted Victoria University, Manchester; this post he held for a quarter of a century, at the end of which time he resigned but continued to give his services as Hon. Professor. During all these years Boyd Dawkins made the popularising of Owen's College Museum a means first of interesting and then of educating the public in the various branches of natural science, one of the main enthusiasms of his life.

About 1869 also he began to turn his attention to the practical as well as the purely scientific side of geology. In course of years he became an expert with a wide reputation in this connexion, and eventually a noted consultant in matters bearing upon water supplies, salt areas, coal fields and kindred enterprises; he had much to do with the Kent coal fields, the Manchester Ship Canal and the various schemes for a Channel tunnel.

From the study of geology Boyd Dawkins was led on to that of archaeology, and one of his main achievements was the bridging of the gap which had previously existed between the two sciences. A lifelong friendship, commenced during Oxford days, with John Richard Green, the writer of the popular *Short History of the English People*, inclined Boyd Dawkins to turn attention for his part to the pre-history of Britain, linking it on to the geological history. During long vacations spent by the two friends in Somersetshire, the caves of the Mendips first attracted their interest and attention; these investigations were followed by the exploration by Boyd Dawkins of caves in Wales, Derbyshire, Devonshire and elsewhere, and eventually by the issue of that notable book, *Cave Hunting*, published in 1874. At the same time the writer travelled considerably in pursuit of his studies, both on the Continent, in Australia and in the United States, where he gave the Lowell lectures at Boston in 1880. These travels led to friendships with many distinguished foreign scientists of the period, including Lartet, Capellini, Broca, Virchow and Bastian. *Cave Hunting* was soon translated into German, and,

following upon the reputation which it had achieved, its author in 1880 published his *Early Man in Britain*, a book which by its lucidity and style (based upon that of his friend J. R. Green) did much at the time to popularise the subject.

Boyd Dawkins was friend and fellow-worker with that older generation of archaeologists which included such giants in field-work as Greenwell, Evans, Franks and Pitt-Rivers. These men laid the foundations of British Archaeology upon which the younger men have been able to build—perchance more scientifically, and of course with greater accumulated knowledge.

Boyd Dawkins received the honour of knighthood in 1919, in recognition of his prominence in the scientific world for more than half a century. He was twice married, first, in 1866 to Miss Francis Evans, who died in 1921, leaving a daughter, and secondly to Mrs. Mary Congreve, widow of the late Mr. Hubert Congreve, M.I.C.E. Lady Boyd Dawkins survives her husband.

WILLOUGHBY GARDNER.

ARTHUR HADRIAN ALLCROFT

Archaeology has suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. Arthur Hadrian Allcroft, M.A., at his residence in Hove on December 18th, 1929. His devoted wife had pre-deceased him by only a few hours, both having succumbed to a virulent throat-infection.

He was born at Ashby (Lincs.) in 1865, his father, the Rev. Walter Allcroft, having been the first rector of Gunness-with-Burringham. He was educated at the Magnus Grammar School at Newark-on-Trent, and at the Exeter Grammar School. He then became a Classical Scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, where he took First Class in Classical Mods. and Litt. Hum., and graduated B.A. in 1887. He became a classical scholar of considerable repute, and in 1889 began to edit many of the classics, for which work alone his name is well known.

His book, *The Circle and the Cross*, which has been appearing seriatim in this *Journal*, is familiar to all members of the Institute, but he is perhaps best known by his

Earthwork of England, which appeared in 1908 and has come to be regarded as a standard work of reference on the subject which he had at heart. As a writer he had a peculiarly facile pen, brilliant powers of description, and a dry, kindly humour which not seldom took the form of an assumed cynicism. In all his work he was an inveterate searcher for little scraps of evidence, and would take infinite pains to obtain them. He was suspicious of what he called 'Authority,' and would, so far as possible, take nothing for granted without seeking to verify it for himself. This independence sometimes brought upon him the criticisms of fellow-workers who failed to discern the kindly humour that lay behind his satire or that prompted his cynicisms. But to those who knew him more intimately the real nature of his inimitable wit was manifest, as also was the fact that he was extremely sensitive to the criticism to which he sometimes fell a victim. A harshly expressed word cost him many a sleepless night, but he wisely refrained from retaliation in kind. As a lecturer he spoke very much as he wrote—brilliantly, learnedly, and wittily—marshalling the results of his researches to a convincing conclusion. Finally, as a friend Allcroft was one of those rare souls that warm the heart and really deserve the name.

Besides the works mentioned above he wrote *Downland Pathways*—one of the most brilliant and charming books that have ever been written about the Sussex Downs, with special reference to their pre-history. Before his death he had completed the manuscript of another book, *Waters of Arun*, which he regarded as his masterpiece. Arrangements have been made for this to appear serially in the *Sussex County Magazine* this year (1930), and afterwards to be published in book form by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club as a memorial of the esteem in which its members held the author.

Such time as he was able to spare from his Classical and Archaeological interests was devoted to work in his flower garden, of which he was justly proud.

E. C. CURWEN.