

Obituary.

THE losses which the Society has sustained through death since the last publication of the Journal have been particularly heavy, including as they do a former president and four valued contributors to the Journal.

LORD CURZON.

The lamented death of the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston not only deprived the Society of a warm friend, but the nation of a ripe scholar and most distinguished statesman. It is unnecessary here to recall the particulars of his public career, which are still in the public mind; it will suffice to say that as a scholar at Oxford, as a Viceroy of India and as a Cabinet Minister, he stands in the front rank of his day and generation. His services to the cause of archæology will long be remembered. His public-spirited action in preventing the removal of the famous fire-places from Tattersall Castle; his gift of Tattersall and Boddiam to the Nation and his scholarly account of Kedleston Church, all bear testimony to the fact that archæology was one of his chief interests.

GEORGE BAILEY.

The Society has lost a very old friend in Mr. George Bailey for he was one of its original members and had served on the council since 1879. Born at Allestree, June 12th, 1832, he had reached the ripe age of 93 when he passed away in July of last year. For many years he was in the employ of Messrs. Bemrose and in the course of his

professional career illustrated many well-known Derbyshire books, such as "The Chronicles of All Saints, Derby," "Morley Church," "The History of Repton" and "Days in Derbyshire." He excelled particularly in heraldic design and was responsible for the seals of the Derbyshire County Council and the Borough of Chesterfield, as well as for the heraldic emblem used by our society. When Queen Victoria laid the foundation-stone of the Derby Infirmary Mr. Bailey had the honour of illuminating the address which was presented to Her Majesty. But our society's greatest indebtedness to this capable and versatile draughtsman undoubtedly lies in his contributions to the Journal. His delightful sketches of old Derbyshire were an outstanding feature of the numerous articles which he wrote for the earlier volumes and will long preserve the memory of an observant antiquary and accomplished artist.

HENRY KIRKE.

Henry Kirke was born at Heaton Norris, Stockport, on June 4th, 1842, and was the only surviving son of Henry Kirke of the Eaves, Chapel-en-le-Frith. He graduated at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1863, was called to the Bar, entered the Colonial Civil Service and became magistrate and Sheriff in Demerara. He married in 1864, Agnes, second daughter of Admiral Sir Stephen Lushington, G.C.B., by whom he was the father of two sons and six daughters. He was a prolific writer on historical and kindred subjects and his lamented death which took place at Middle Wallop on July 9th, 1925, leaves a gap in the ranks of the regular contributors to our Journal which will be difficult to fill. For very many years his scholarly papers, historical and biographical, dealing for the most part with Chapel-en-le-Frith and the High Peak have been amongst the most widely appreciated articles in the Journal. Amongst other works from his pen may be

mentioned "Twenty-five Years in British Guiana," "The First English Conquest of Canada" and "From the Gun-room to the Throne."

HARRY RYDE.

Living under the shadow of its famous church, the history and antiquities of Chesterfield were to Mr. Ryde, an absorbing subject of interest. Not that his archaeological activities were by any means confined within such narrow limits for he was a keen supporter of our Society in its work in general and kept an ever watchful eye on discoveries made from time to time in his neighbourhood. As a devoted churchman he took a very active part in the recent repairs to the "crooked spire," and as a valued contributor to the pages of the Journal he will be much missed. Like Mr. Vassall he was one of the first members of the Bishop of Southwell's advisory committee for the granting of faculties.

HARRY GREAME VASSALL, F.S.A.

Mr. Vassall's untimely death leaves the greatest gap in our list of members. He belonged to that only too small number who combine a deep interest in the affairs of the society with an accurate knowledge of archaeological matters. Of course it is with Repton that his name will ever be associated in the thoughts of those who knew and loved him. His long connection with the school enabled him to amass an unrivalled store of knowledge concerning the Priory and its long history. To his fostering care and ceaseless energy we owe the series of excavations which enable us to study amid such delightful surroundings this most interesting House of Augustinian Canons, and one cannot enter the grounds without meeting on every hand evidences of his love for things ancient and his knowledge of the lessons which they can teach.

To our society the loss is irreparable. A regular and valued member of the Council, he brought to bear upon its deliberations a rare combination of qualities: practical antiquarian knowledge, a scholarly mind, an unbounded enthusiasm, sound judgment and not least important, a kind and genial personality, which endeared him to all who knew him. Though poorer by his death we are richer by his life in which he has set us a noble example.
