



Obituary

FRANK SIMPSON.

With much regret the Council have to record the death of Mr. Frank Simpson, which took place on 14th October, 1942, at the age of 79. To many he will be remembered as an authority on the training and ailments of dogs, but to the members of this Society his fame will rest on the great interest he took in the history of his native city. Frank Simpson was admitted a freeman on his twenty-first birthday, and from then on he was an enthusiastic supporter of everything that tended to promote the welfare and dignity of the City Guilds. He devoted much time and research to the history of the various companies, and read a number of papers on the subject before this Society. He was enrolled as a member of the Skinners' and Feltmakers' Company about thirty years ago, and appreciation of his work was recognised by his election as alderman of that Company on the same date. In 1940 the Guilds elected him President.

Another subject in which Mr. Simpson took much interest was the past and present history of the Cheshire Regiment, and he was the author of several works on the old regiment and its local headquarters. On the outbreak of the last war Simpson undertook a great deal of labour in connection with the Volunteer movement, and held the rank of Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the 3rd Battalion, Cheshire Volunteer Regiment.

Frank Simpson was elected a member of this Society in 1902, and always took an active interest in its progress. He was elected a member of the Council in 1905 and, with one short interval, continued to serve in that capacity until his death. He held the office of Honorary Secretary from 1912 to 1918, and represented the Society on the Public Library Committee from 1909, and was elected Vice-Chairman of that body in 1928.

In 1913 Simpson's services to the cause of historical research were rewarded by his election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Simpson was an excellent photographer as is shewn by the many illustrations which adorn his printed works. In addition to the list that is appended this industrious local antiquary transcribed a considerable part of the Assembly Books of the

Chester Corporation. It is understood that he had, in course of preparation, an account of the development of the Chester Rows—a much debated and complex subject.

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL, NEW SERIES.

- 1903. "The Cheshire Regiment or 22nd Regiment of Foot." xi, 25-64.
- 1907. "The River Dee." xiv, 85-111.
- 1911. "City Guilds and Companies: Barber Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers." xviii, 98-203.
- 1911. "Cilcain and its Parish Church." xix, 5-58. (Reprinted in *Journal of Flintshire Historical Society*, ii, 5-58).
- 1912. "City Companies: The Smiths, Plumbers and Cutlers." xx, 5-121.
- 1913. "The Leche House, Chester." xxi, 5-22.
- 1914. "City Companies: The Skinners and Feltmakers." xxi, 77-149.
- 1915. "City Companies: The Bricklayers." xxii, 55-90.
- 1922. "Chester Castle." xxvi, 71-132.
- 1922. "13th century Crypt, Bridge Street, Chester." xxvii, 5-23.
- 1922. "The Royal Oak Inn, Chester." xxvii, 24-36.
- 1924. "A few Chester Worthies." xxviii, 106-136.
- 1929. "The Newgate, Chester." xxx, 79-93.

INDEPENDENT WORKS.

- 1909. *The Church of St. Peter, Chester.* Chester: G. R. Griffith.
- 1910. *The Walls of Chester.* Chester: Phillipson & Golder.
- 1911. *The Old Chester Volunteers.*
- 1921. *The Cheshire Volunteers.* Chester: Courant Press.
- 1929. *The Cheshire Regiment at Mons.*
- 1931. *Chester Free Public Library.* Chester: Chester Corpn.

J. H. E. B.

AN APPRECIATION.

BY EMERITUS-PROF. R. NEWSTEAD, F.R.S.

We deplore the loss of a friend and colleague and we extend our sincere sympathies to his family. He began his work in Chester well over half-a-century ago almost without equipment, and displayed untiring energy to assemble a library to lay the proper foundations of his studies in archæology and the history of mediæval and early English periods relating to his native city. Furthermore he searched diligently among the rich store of old documents so well preserved in the Town Hall. He had a perfect mastery of his subject and students will profit in no small measure from his researches. He was a frequent contributor to the *Journal of this Society*, but the results of his studies during the last few years of his activities have been filed away and it is hoped that a précis of them may some day be available. He was without question one of the most outstanding members of the Council of the Archæological Society and will rank as one of its most distinguished historians.