



Obituary.

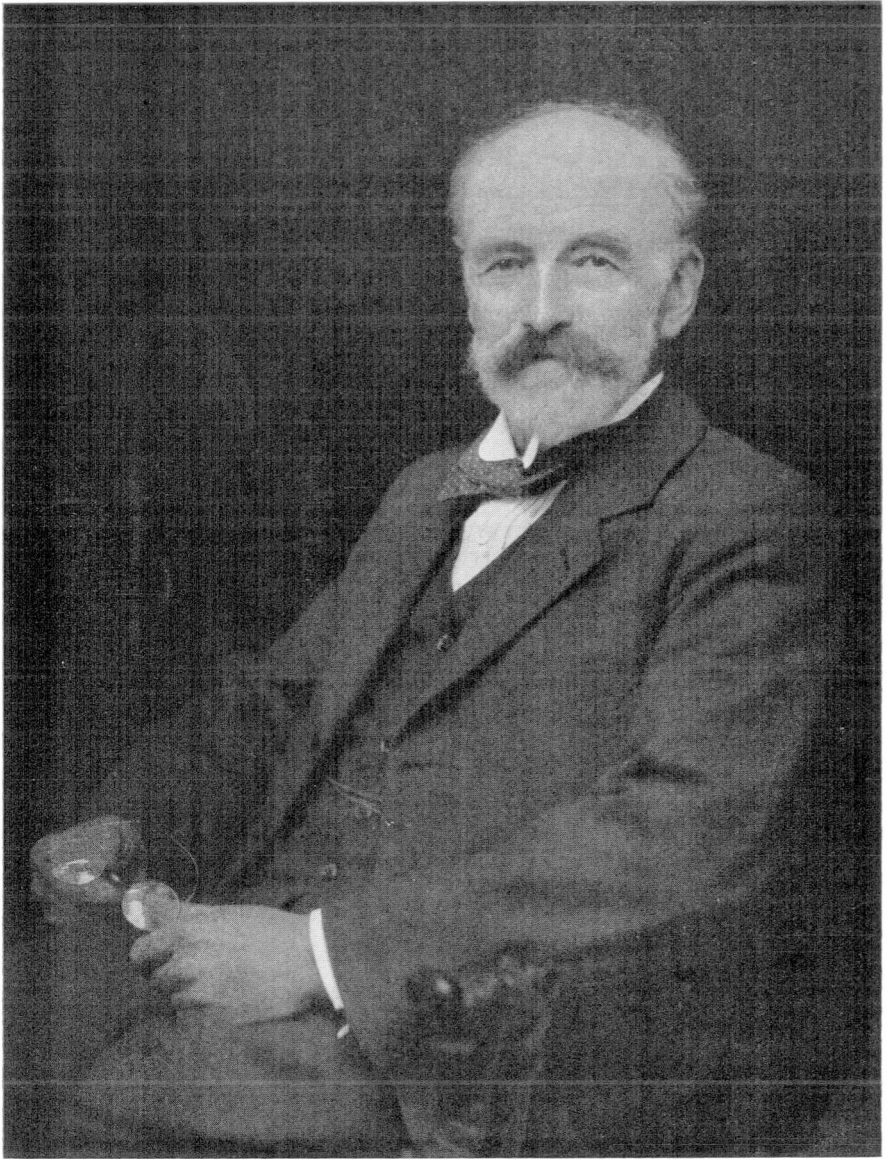
ROBERT NEWSTEAD, J.P., M.Sc., F.R.S., F.E.S.,
Hon. F.R.H.S., Professor Emeritus of Entomology in the
University of Liverpool.

16th February, 1947.

ὃς πολὺν χρόνον βιοῦς
ἀπέθανεν, εὐδαιμόνων ἀνὴρ καὶ δεξιός,
πολλὰς ποιήσας καὶ καλὰς ἀνασκαφάς.

By the death of Robert Newstead Chester has lost a great citizen, and our Society a most distinguished member. To few does it fall to earn distinction in one career and thereafter in retirement to win laurels in a very different field. Newstead's entomological work and his great study of the Tsetse fly will have been appraised by others. Here it is right that we recall the labour of love by which he served the city that was his home for over sixty years.

He began the study of the Roman remains underlying the city as a hobby soon after he took up his abode in Chester, but it developed into an absorbing passion that formed the main interest of his life after he had retired from the Chair of Entomology. His enthusiasm made him the centre of Archæological interests in Chester. For some years he was Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, and his qualifications were so obvious that there was seldom any doubt who should be entrusted with the direction of the excavations undertaken, largely at his instigation, by the Society. For his archæological enthusiasm was tempered by the patient accuracy that had won him his entomological



Cyril Lodge photo.

PROFESSOR-EMERITUS ROBERT NEWSTEAD, F.R.S.



success, and he never committed himself to a statement about the correctness of which he was not certain. It was characteristic of the man that he never would admit knowing anything of Roman remains outside Chester.

Apart from the excavations that he directed, among which stand out the Barracks in the Deanery Field, the S.E. Tower of the Fortress, and the Amphitheatre which, alas, he did not live to see dug out, he was untiring in recording traces of the Roman occupation, as chance or building operations brought them to light, and the small sums he was constantly expending to save potsherds and other finds from oblivion must have totalled a large amount over the years; and he was not a wealthy man. The third publication of these Records made by him will be found on p. 49.

My own friendship with Newstead dated from 1923, and in 1927 began a partnership which lasted unbroken to the outbreak of the war. During those twelve years it was my privilege to help him in most of his excavating, for that was the true position, though he always generously insisted on equality of status. It is very pleasant to recall the zeal with which at critical moments he used to seize the spade, and his evident satisfaction in knowing (and being able to shew his men) how to use it with the greatest economy of effort. Only once was the harmony of our relations in danger and that was on the question of which of us should lecture at Lancaster on our excavations there. The firmness for which Newstead was famous prevailed, and I went to Lancaster.

There was little that I could teach Newstead about scientific digging, but most of what I know of Roman work in Britain I learnt from him, the result of his years of patient work and observation. Our partnership remains among my happiest memories.

J. P. DROOP.