

## XIII.—WILLIAM HARDCASTLE, M.B. LOND., L.R.C.P.

By PARKER BREWIS, F.S.A.

[Read on 28th May, 1924.]

William Hardcastle was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1872, and was educated for the medical profession at Epsom College and Charing Cross Hospital. He belonged to an old Novocastrian family of doctors, his grandfather, father and himself all having practices in Newcastle.

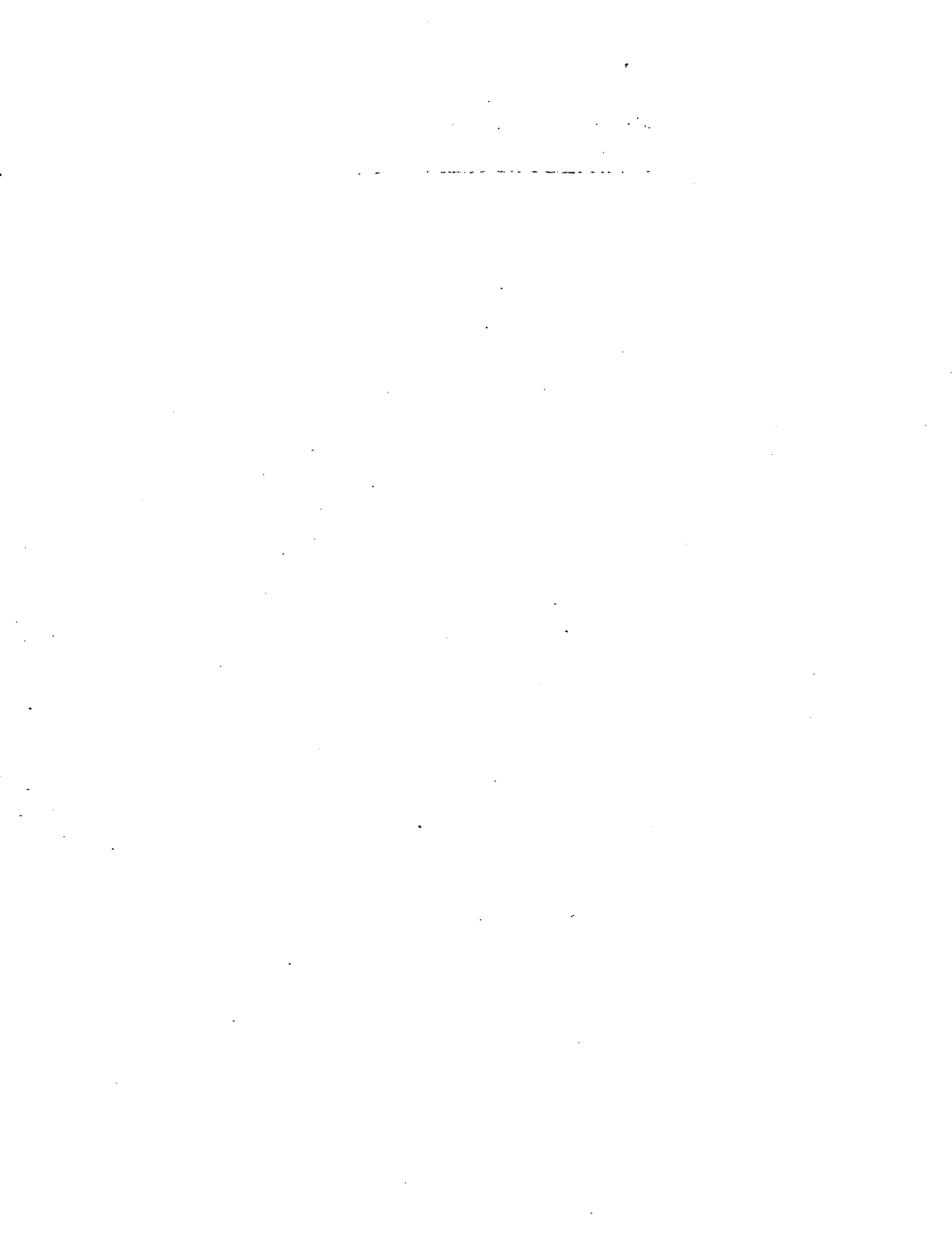
In 1901 he succeeded his father as Medical Officer of H.M. prison, Newcastle, and in 1918 was appointed police surgeon for the eastern district of Newcastle. He was lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence to the Durham College of Medicine and, during the war, one of the physicians of the Northumberland War Hospital.

Ever keenly interested in things Northumbrian, he joined our society in 1905, was elected a member of council in 1913, and appointed one of the curators in 1914; but owing to the stress of his many professional duties, he found himself unable to give the necessary time to this office and therefore resigned in 1920 after seven years service. It was this lack of time and not lack of will or ability that prevented him from taking a more active part in archæological affairs and through his death on 2nd February, 1924, at the early age of 51, local archæology has been deprived of a store of knowledge.

He formed valuable collections of North country books, engravings, glass, etc., and was a connoisseur as well as a collector. He knew his books from cover to cover and had an expert knowledge of antique furniture, always buying with great



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judgment and ever willing to place the benefit of his experience at the disposal of others.

In spite of the many calls upon his time he made the following communications to the Society. In 1914 he read notes on some Delaval papers in his collection, and supplementary notes on the Adams family to Mr. Hodgson's paper on 'The Mather Millions.' In 1915 he exhibited, from his collection, a series of letters written by the second duke of Northumberland to Mr. Christopher Blakett of Wylam, dealing chiefly with military matters. In 1918 he exhibited grants of arms to Ralph and Sir Nicholas Cole and read some notes thereon. In 1916 he presented a knitting sheath to the Society's museum and in 1923 exhibited an interesting MS. volume date 1373 containing a survey of the vill of Killingworth.

Of unassuming and modest disposition, he disliked being photographed. As a consequence we have been compelled to have recourse to a sketch for a portrait of him. Those who remember him as a genial companion may take exception to the somewhat severe expression of countenance that the artist has given him. The sketch nevertheless is characteristic of the man for it represents him as he lives in the memories of his many friends and colleagues—striding along the street with a newly acquired treasure tucked under his arm.