

VIII.—ROBIN GEORGE COLLINGWOOD.

BY I. A. RICHMOND.

[Read 24th February 1943.]

It would be wrong to postpone any further an allusion to the death on 9th January 1943 of one of our distinguished Life Members, whose autobiography is well known and requires no summary. Here we may dwell on his work for our society and its interests. It is not surprising that Robin George Collingwood showed early a keen interest in antiquities, for he was the son of W. G. Collingwood, whose knowledge of Northumbrian history and art was second to none. Though R. G. Collingwood's primary interest was in philosophy, he was attracted to the study of archaeological methods as a philosophic problem, and became one of Professor Haverfield's most distinguished disciples, specializing in topographic and epigraphic studies. His artistic gifts, another heritage from his father, endowed him with exceptional qualifications to continue Haverfield's re-editing of the *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*. His remarkable powers of incisive and lucid description and his philosopher's outlook made him an inimitable writer of text-books reviewing the whole field of Romano-British studies from the subjective and objective standpoint.

Students of Hadrian's Wall owe him a particular debt for the successive papers in which he summarized the results of current field-work and added his own powerful analyses of literary and numismatic evidence. It was he who devised the present system of numerical references to the milecastles and turrets of Hadrian's Wall, made for this society an

invaluable revision of our Catalogue of Roman Inscriptions and Sculptures in the Blackgate Museum, and produced for us the *Handbook to the Pilgrimage of 1930*. His subsequent ninth edition of Bruce's *Handbook to the Roman Wall* is well known by all whose studies or recreation take them to its line. In 1937 he was invited by this society to give the second of the Horsley Memorial Lectures, and took as his subject *John Horsley and Hadrian's Wall*.

Collingwood died at the early age of fifty-three after a series of strokes. It must be remembered that his vast archæological output represented much less than half of his intellectual life. He was, for many years, a tutor of Pembroke College, Oxford, and carried a heavy load of teaching and lecturing in addition to his philosophical writing. When, in 1935, he became Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy in the University of Oxford, his powers were actually failing, and there is no doubt that the strain of his new duties hastened his collapse. He had already foreseen its inevitability and had deliberately cut himself off from archæological studies in order to write what he knew and intended to be his final work, the *New Leviathan*, a philosophical and social study whose high significance has already been widely acclaimed.

