

## PERCY DAVENPORT

OUR County Archæological Society for London and Middlesex owes a great deal to local groups of keen antiquarians; and no one exemplifies this truth more exactly than the late Percy Davenport, who gave unstinted loyalty and service to four efficient groups.

He was President of the Stanmore, Edgware and Harrow Society; Chairman of the Brockley Hill Excavation Group; until recently Chairman of Council of the Mill Hill and Hendon Society, as well as a member of Council of our County body.

His keenness on history and archaeology dates from his schooldays at Loughborough Grammar School; and, when in 1924 he moved from Ruislip to Stanmore, he began some scholarly research at the Record Office into manorial records. He produced some very efficient studies of the early deeds of Stanmore for the Society's *Transactions* and began a series of more popular papers which were printed in the local press and were afterwards collected into *Old Stanmore*, which appeared in 1933. He lectured to groups of keen researchers and roused local interest by a series of talks to the Workers Educational Association. The effective digging at Sulloniæ in the post-war years owes a great deal to his leadership and he continued to contribute important papers to published *Transactions*.

But this was not all, as he had managed to find time from his busy life as a civil servant to give valued service as a Methodist local preacher in connection with the Wealdstone Methodist Church in Locket Road; and to show keen interest in the Ratepayers' Associations and the Library Committees for Stanmore and Harrow.

His sudden death on 15th June was a tremendous shock to his family and to his friends, as he seemed in excellent health up to the previous day. He died at the age of 66, though he looked years younger, and he leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

It was a large and representative congregation that assembled at the Wealdstone Methodist Church, and afterwards at Harrow Weald Cemetery, to pay their last respects to a very public-spirited man. This and other societies were represented at the funeral and sent wreaths to show their appreciation of Percy Davenport's invaluable services to the cause of historical and archaeological research and their affection for the man. N. G. B.-J.