

## THE LATE DR. H. B. WHEATLEY.

1838—1917.

BY

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To the loss which London Archæology recently sustained by the death of Sir George Laurence Gomme is to added that of Dr. Henry Benjamin Wheatley. It is to be regretted that he never became a member of our Society, but his interest in the study which our Society was founded to promote was shown by the active part he took in founding the London Topographical Society, having for object the publication of reprints of old maps of London. On behalf of our Council, some of its members conferred with him at the time with a view to the two Societies combining their forces. Although that then appeared impracticable, Dr. Wheatley's interests were ever the same as ours, and we had occasionally the pleasure of seeing him at our meetings, and of hearing his well-informed observations on the matters under discussion. He addressed us at the Society of Arts on February 22nd, 1908; and contributed a paper on Durham House and the Adelphi to our Transactions in 1911.

He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries on June 3rd, 1875, and was elected on its Council in 1910, 1912, 1913, and again in 1917, being a member of that body at the time of his death. Though he read no formal paper before that Society, he frequently spoke at its meetings, and was fortunate enough to acquire and present to

the Society two curious manuscript volumes, containing records of its early proceedings.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Early English Text Society from 1864 to 1872, and Treasurer from 1872 to 1901.

He joined the Folk Lore Society in 1880, and at the annual meeting of that Society on June 22nd, 1881, acted as Honorary Secretary, in the temporary absence of Mr. Gomme through illness. A Committee was appointed by the Council shortly afterwards to frame a standard scheme of Folk Tale classification, and Mr. Wheatley had a large share in the work and in drawing up the report of that Committee. In many of the subsequent activities of that Society his co-operation and advice have been found valuable. In the Ex-Libris Society and many other similar institutions he has taken an active part.

His official life began on the staff of the Royal Society, where he served for several years with great ability. He afterwards obtained the appointment of Assistant-Secretary to the Royal Society of Arts, which he continued to hold with conspicuous success during the remainder of his working life. He retired from office with ample testimony of the gratitude of the President and Council for his services. He was Assistant Secretary of the British Royal Commission for the Chicago Exhibition of 1893.

His literary fame will rest largely on his contributions to the biography and history of "Samuel Pepys and the World He Lived In." As President of the Samuel Pepys Club his genial addresses on those subjects will long be remembered. His monumental edition of the immortal Diary will probably be the final test of that curious revelation of human nature.

He was author of works of authority on several subjects. The earliest I know of was on Anagrams, published in 1862. In 1866 he published a dictionary of re-

duplicate words. On the difficult question, "What is an Index?" and on "How to Form a Library," and "How to Catalogue a Library," he wrote useful manuals. He also published *chronological notices of English Dictionaries*, and notes on some English Heterographers. He contributed the articles, "Index" and "London" to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. He wrote on *historical portraits* and on the prices of books. About London, he was author of "Notes upon Norden and His Map," "Round About Piccadilly and Pall Mall," "London Past and Present," (founded on Peter Cunningham's *Handbook*), and in 1904 "the Story of London," one of the *Mediæval Town Series* issued by Dent and Co. This last book he dedicated to the memory of a life-long friend, Mr. Danby P. Fry, of the Local Government Board, "as a slight expression of the debt of gratitude I owe to him, and of the great loss I, in common with all his friends, have suffered by his death." Everyone who has been honoured by the friendship of Dr. Wheatley, as I have been, will be ready to use towards his memory a tribute of gratitude in terms such as those which he so well employed in regard to his late friend.