

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, 1920.

By SIR EDW. W. BRABROOK, C.B., F.S.A.

On this, the 64th anniversary of the foundation of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, I have to call your attention to the heavy loss the science of archæology has sustained during the year 1919 by the death of two eminent persons, Sir William Henry St. John Hope and Professor Francis John Haverfield. They were neither of them members of our Society, their studies leading them into the broader fields of Roman and Mediæval Antiquities beyond the boundaries of our City and County; but that circumstance does not deprive us of the melancholy privilege of offering a tribute to their memory.

On the 1st March, 1883, Mr. Hope, who had devoted much study to the history and architecture of the Cathedral and Castle of Rochester, was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians. On the 27th March, 1884, he read a paper in Gundulf's Tower, which is printed in vol. 49 of "Archæologia."

In 1885 he was appointed assistant secretary, and accordingly had to resign the Fellowship of the Society. Then commenced a brilliant service of 25 years. The first paper in "Archæologia" was followed by so many others that from the 49th to the 68th volume there is only one without his contributions, and they number more than 50.

Exhibitions of Mazers, of St. John's Heads, and of other antiquities were organised. Excavations at Silchester and other researches were undertaken. His energy and industry were untiring. Not only was he diligent in attendance at the meetings of the Society and ever ready with remarks in illustration of the exhibits made and the papers read, but his assistance was eagerly sought by the organisers of the excursions of the Archæological Institute and of local societies in describing the places they visited, and by the owners of ancient buildings in advising on the way in which they should be treated. He had a marvellous gift of exposition, and was never found unready to offer the explanations and assistance desired either by organised societies or by private owners, or by individual students. To these his patient kindness was inexhaustible. He became recognised as the highest authority on mediæval ecclesias-

tical and domestic buildings. With all this, he found time to write works of great importance and research, such as that on the ancient Stall plates of the Knights of the Order of the Garter in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. By command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, he afterwards wrote a History of Windsor Castle, upon the completion of which he received the honour of Knighthood.

At the close of 25 years' service he resigned. The general admiration for his talents and his work led to his being offered Honorary Degrees by two great universities, and to his being appointed Director of the Royal Archæological Institute. The happiness of his retired life was enhanced by his marriage with Miss Jeffery, of Clare, Suffolk, a lady known in archæological and also in philanthropic circles. He continued active in his chosen walk of literature, and frequently availed himself of the general invitation that had been given him to attend the meetings of the Society of Antiquaries, join in its discussions, and contribute papers to "Archæologia." An excellent paper on the first cathedral church of Canterbury was read by him to the Society as recently as 11th April, 1918 (Proc. xxx. 136-158).

His great learning, brilliant insight, untiring industry, kindly temper, and self-devotion to an absorbing and deeply interesting study of the past, gained him the admiration of all, and the highest esteem from those who knew him best.

Professor Haverfield, likewise, was pre-eminent in the domain of Roman antiquities. He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries on 5th March, 1891, having in the early part of 1890 undertaken, in conjunction with other well-known authorities, excavations in the North Wall of Chester, which had yielded inscriptions and sculptured monuments to soldiers and others. From that time his communications to the Society were numerous.

He was Camden Professor of Ancient History at Oxford, and author of the "Romanization of Britain," of which a third edition appeared in 1915; of "British Academy Papers on Roman Britain," in 1913 and in 1914; and of "Ancient Town Planning." He was responsible for Roman Britain in the "Oxford Historical Atlas of Modern Europe"; and he edited the second series of Henry Nettleship's "Lectures and Essays," and also a collection of essays by the former Camden Professor, Henry Francis Pelham.

Professor Haverfield died on the 1st October, 1919, at the early age of 59.

We lost three members by death in the year 1919. The death of Dr. Edwin Freshfield, our former President, occurred late in 1918. As head of the great firm of Freshfields, the Solicitors to the Bank of England, he was a personage of authority in the City of London, and his influence was always exercised in favour of the preservation of its antiquities. He was the resolute opponent of the various schemes for the destruction of the ancient City churches, and the liberal supporter of measures for the publication of ancient records. He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1870, and in the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer rendered distinguished service. He contributed several papers to "Archæologia," mainly on the Architecture of the Eastern Church, a subject which he had made especially his own. He joined our Society in 1880, and in the office of President showed much dignified and kindly courtesy, and rendered signal services to the Society. He lived to the age of 82.

The first few days of the new year 1920 added to our losses by death one of intimate concern to us, viz., our esteemed Treasurer, Mr. Deputy Walter Hayward Pitman. Himself the son of one of our early members, he succeeded to his father's business, and made it the very prosperous undertaking that it now is. In the office of Treasurer his business experience and City influence enabled him to place the Society on the footing of growing prosperity and sound finance that it has ever since occupied. It will be remembered that he read to us a paper on the History of his Company—the Painter Stainers—and that he was always ready to assist the Society in any direction in which the position he held in the City of London enabled him to do suit and service for us. He was Deputy Alderman for his ward of Farringdon Within, and, no doubt, had he lived, higher civic honours would have been bestowed upon him. His service as Chairman of the Library and other Committees of the Corporation was distinguished.

The conclusion to which this record of losses leads is that the future of Archaeological studies and of our own Society has now fallen into the hands of its younger members. The experience of the last four years has shown what heights of self-devotion the young men of our century are capable of, when moved by patriotism and the consciousness of a noble object. The study of the past history and antiquities of the country will reveal nothing loftier than they have achieved by their own voluntary service and sacrifice. Let them, therefore, without misgiving, devote themselves to that study, assured that we of the passing generation commend it to them as a worthy pursuit.