

## OBITUARY.

COLONEL PEARSON, C.B., V.D.

Born April 8th, 1840, died November 12th, 1923.

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Colonel Pearson, the Chairman of the Council. Though much of his life was spent in London, which he loved, and in work for London, it does not appear that he was a Londoner by origin. He was Michael Brown Pearson, born 8 April 1840, second son of William Pearson, formerly of Tweedmouth and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and was a fine type of Northumbrian. He became proprietor of Prince's Dock, Rotherhithe, and owner of ships, and continued in that occupation till early in the present century, when owing to the increasing claims of labour and the competition of Northern ports, he thought it wise to realise his property and retire from business.

Meanwhile, he had discovered in the career of a Volunteer Artilleryman a very real interest in life. He was the first member enrolled in the 1st Tower Hamlets Artillery; and left it to join the 2nd Middlesex Artillery as a gunner on 15 March, 1862. After only two years' service, he became a Commissioned Officer and in 1890 was appointed Commanding Officer of the regiment. He held that honourable and responsible post for 14 years, having earned the Volunteer Officers' Decoration in 1892. In 1902 (two years before his retirement) he was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Incidental to his military service, he formed in 1889 a limited liability company to build and equip headquarters for his regiment, and continued all his life chairman of that company. In February 1893 he fought in the High Court, before Justices Lawrence and Collins, a claim of the Holborn

Union for rates upon the headquarters of his regiment, and gained his case, thus extending to Volunteer head-quarters generally the benefit of exemption from local rating.

He was an original member of the National Artillery Association, and after serving on its council for many years, became President of that body in 1921. He was also a member of Committee of the Junior Army and Navy Club. He had a fine collection of military medals, and other interesting objects.

In 1900, he joined our Society, and from the first took an active interest in our proceedings. He regularly attended our meetings, accompanied by Mrs. Pearson, who shared that interest. She was Sarah Jane, daughter of Harry Thomas Bird, of Boulogne-sur-Mer. They were married in 1870. Her amiable character endeared her to all their friends. The habits of industry and discipline which had marked Col. Pearson's life told a great deal in his work for our Society. He spared no labour in verifying the lists of members, in watching over the finance and the investments, revising its rules and improving every detail of the Society's work. He served more than 12 years as Chairman of the Council, and presided over the Society's meetings always with ability and dignity. To him was mainly due our settlement at the Bishopsgate Institute, and (with the ready help of our valued Librarian and Honorary Secretary, Mr. Goss) the care and use of our library. He read only a few papers before us, but they were valuable and interesting. He left three sons, Mr. A. R. Pearson, of Wallington; Mr. E. A. Pearson, of Karachi, India; and Major H. L. Pearson, D.S.O. of Carshallon to whom I am indebted for much information as to his life. He left also one daughter, Mrs. A. G. Bell, of Eltham.

Unswerving integrity and unfailing courtesy were the leading features of Colonel Pearson's character. Throughout his long life, he enjoyed excellent health. His last illness was a very brief one, caused by a chill.

EDWARD BRABROOK.