

MR. W. R. LETHABY, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

MR. LETHABY, who died in July at the age of 74, was architect to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey, and one of the most valuable contributors to the literature of architecture of recent years. On his complete survey of the church of Santa Sophia at Constantinople, Mr. J. F. Bentley relied in his preliminary studies for Westminster Cathedral. His intimate knowledge of London is shown in his *London before the Conquest*, and his *Londinium, Architecture and Crafts*.

His still more detailed knowledge of the Abbey is exemplified in *Westminster Abbey and the King's Craftsmen*, and in *Westminster Abbey Re-examined*. As Surveyor of the Fabric he did most valuable work, "patiently restoring monuments and decorations to something like their medieval appearance, and conducting a systematic cleaning with preservative treatment, of the stonework throughout the building."

In connection with the proposed destruction of Waterloo Bridge, it is interesting to note that in 1924 Lethaby wrote to *The Times* to say that "Putting aside the Abbey, the Tower and the Guildhall as survivals from the Middle Ages, Waterloo Bridge is the most representative monument after St. Paul's Cathedral. These two buildings more than any other, symbolise the metropolitan city of the Empire, and should be regarded as sacred works of art to be maintained as they were built."