

OBITUARY

COMMANDER GEORGE BRIDGMORE BROWN, M.B.E., R.D., R.N.R.

The name of George Bridgmore Brown will long be associated with the history and records of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. His death, on 29th December 1969, at the age of 81, brought to a close a life-long service to the Society.

He joined the Society in 1912; in 1913 was appointed Joint Honorary Secretary, but World War I saw him absent on active service, and it was not until after the war that he could resume his duties. Upon the resignation of his co-Secretary in 1927 he undertook the office single-handed until April 1931. A special feature to which he gave his attention was the annual summer visit to some historic place outside the Society's normal territory. In 1937 he was again appointed Honorary Secretary but, once again, war intervened, and it was not until 1945 that he could take up the reins of office once more; finally relinquishing the position in 1948. In 1939 he had been appointed a Trustee and held this position until it was decided to pass the responsibility over to the Society's bankers in 1964. In 1947 he was elected a Vice-President and represented the Society on the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council from its formation in the same year. He was Chairman of Council from 1952 until 1956; thus, was largely responsible for steering the Society through its centenary celebrations in 1955. An impressive record, and it is no wonder that he was presented with the Society's Silver Medal in 1939 as "a token of appreciation of his long service", which was to last for another 30 years, for he continued to attend Council meetings almost up to the time of his death.

Bridgmore Brown started at an early age in the Civil Service, but World War I saw him in the Royal Navy, where he served overseas and rose to the rank of Paymaster-Commander. After the war he was with the Home Office Prisons Department, and subsequently transferred to the Mines Department of the Board of Trade, where he became an authority on the provisions of the Coal Mines Act of 1911, and regulations thereunder. On nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947, he joined the National Coal Board's Production Department, which enabled him to specialise in a subject dear to his heart: safety in the mines. He retired in 1952 but continued for some years after in a consultative capacity, particularly in regard to the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954.

Bridgmore Brown's other interests included philately, in which he was an enthusiastic general collector and a specialist in Bermuda. He was active in a number of philatelic societies, national as well as local. He was President of the British Philatelic Association from 1963 to 1966, and rendered a great service in inaugurating the Association's Diploma of Merit, a qualification obtainable by examination by those engaged in the profession.

T.A.N.H.

NEW BOOKS

CELIA TROTT: *The Story of Uxbridge Quakers from 1658*. Published by the Uxbridge Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, 1970. 7/6d. Postage 6d. 19pp. 4 plates. A well-produced, attractive history. Obtainable from 266 Cowley Road, Uxbridge.

LAWRENCE S. SNELL (ed.). *A History of the North London Branch of the Historical Association together with Essays in Honour of its Golden Jubilee*. Published by the North London Branch of the Historical Association, 1970. 8/- post free (members 6/-). 80pp. 3 plates.

This attractive volume contains a history of the North London Branch by E. S. Worrall, a delightful Cornish essay (The St. Stephens in Brannel Story) by Dr. A. L. Rowse, and an important new contribution to London history (Ralph Holland and the London Radicals, 1438-1444) by Dr. Caroline M. Barron.

Obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, 5 Eaton Park Road, London, N.13.