

## OBITUARIES

LT. COL. WILLIAM WATKINS DOVE, C.B.E., D.L., T.D., C.C., F.S.A.

Lt. Col. William Watkins Dove died 17th July, 1967, after a short illness. He was born 5th November, 1897 in Islington, and was educated at Merchant Taylors' School. In World War I he served with the Herts. Regt. T.A., and became a Lt. Col. in 1936.

His connection with the Society was a long one for he was a Life Member and joined in 1926, afterwards becoming a Vice-President. He was keenly interested in the Society, and gave a number of lectures, but the claims of other interests prevented him from doing as much as he would have liked.

It must above all be remembered that he was a great builder, and had been Governing Director of Dove Bros. Ltd. of Islington since 1932, a business founded in the reign of George III, and proud of their long tradition in the building of churches. In fact since World War II, the firm has been concerned with the restoration and rebuilding of many of the churches in the City of London damaged by air attack in that war. The task closest to his heart was the building of Guildford Cathedral. In this work he has taken keen personal interest, assuring that the craftsmanship was of the best. He took much interest in all societies and bodies concerned with the welfare and training of the workers in the building trade.

As if this were not enough for one man's efforts, he gave much of his time to the City's affairs, for he was a Past Master of the Carpenters', the Glass Sellers', and the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Companies, and was a Past President of the City Livery Club. On the Court of Common Council he represented Coleman Street Ward. Further, he was Deputy Governor of the Honourable the Irish Society.

He was a Knight of St. John of Jerusalem, and also a Cross Bearer. Latterly he was a Sword Bearer to the Order on Ceremonial Occasions.

In spite of all these activities he was a man who impressed one with his sincerity, integrity and humility—a man who will be very much missed in the City he loved so well.

S.W.H.

DR. F. W. M. DRAPER

Dr. F. W. M. Draper, M.A., Ph.D., L.ès.L., F.S.A., Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors', author of *Four Centuries of Merchant Taylors' School*, and sometime Hon. Editor of *Transactions*, died on 23rd October, 1968 in his 86th year. A full obituary will appear in the next issue.

L.S.S.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### CHURCH-ORIENTATION

FROM DR. H. R. AMBLER, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.

Sir,

I have recently been looking at the orientation of old churches in England on the 6-inch and 25-inch Ordnance maps. Figures to date (above 250) show that whatever the ideas behind mediaeval siting were, they were certainly *not* a general aim of pointing east, subject to deviations due to the lie of the land, old roads and imperfect execution. There is a positive distaste for due E. ( $+2^\circ$ ), strong preferences for  $20^\circ$  and  $10^\circ$  N. of E. and smaller ones for  $5^\circ$  N. and  $10^\circ$  S., and a remarkable avoidance of  $15^\circ$  S. There are also twice as many oriented N. of E. as S. of it. Preferences differ between regions; for instance, the City of London has a preference for  $10^\circ$  S., Oxford for  $10^\circ$  N. and the country round Oxford for  $20^\circ$  N., while Canterbury and Winchester and the country round them tend to moderate deviations S. of E. Modern churches, on a very inadequate survey of about 60, seem to show no specific distaste for due E., and little preference between deviations to N. and to S. I can see no obvious connections with the azimuths of rising of conspicuous stars or with sunrise on any especial days, and I wonder if anyone can suggest ideas to look for in further investigation.

H. R. Ambler,  
The Plain, Boars Hill, Oxford.