



JOSEPH BRAMLEY
1872 — 1958

JOSEPH BRAMLEY

1872-1958

JOSEPH BRAMLEY, who died on December 22nd, 1958, at the age of 86, had been a member of the Society since 1905. He was elected to the council in 1927 and became a vice-president in 1952.

Throughout his long period of membership he vigorously supported every branch of the Society's activities. His contributions to the *Transactions* were numerous, and all were based on full and careful study; they included articles on Nottinghamshire Monumental Brasses (1913), Nottingham Church Bells (1915), Sir Cornelius Vermuyden (1931), St. Peter's Church, Nottingham (1938), and Early Nottinghamshire Schools (1949). On excursions, which he rarely missed, he frequently addressed the company, always with scholarly precision, about the places which were visited, and invariably he accepted the responsibility of looking after one of the coach-loads of members, shepherding and keeping track of them with never-failing tact and good humour. A gift for crisp and apposite speech, often with witty asides, made him a favourite chairman at lectures; only two months before his death he performed this function with all his customary skill and felicity. Such services, and the regularity of his attendance on all occasions, made him one of the best known members of the Society.

He had a remarkable knowledge of Nottinghamshire, both past and present. As antiquary or historian he was never content with merely superficial information, and this, combined with his work as assistant director of education for the county for 23 years (1914-1937), and his deep interest in the ecclesiastical life of the diocese of Southwell, gave him an unusual grasp of the background of events in nearly every village in the shire. The mere mention of some remote hamlet would almost certainly evoke from him fascinating inside information about the local church, school or hall, and the human problems which attended them.

In Joseph Bramley the Society has lost one who brought unceasing loyalty and endeavour to all its concerns. But his

influence went deeper than that. Over the gathering years he had come to a real ripeness of wisdom ; and his sure anchorage of faith held him almost immune in spirit from the world's slow stain. Neither of these things was ever proclaimed or advertised ; indeed, one suspects that, in his native humility, he was scarcely aware of them. None the less, they irradiated the whole personality of the man. and quickly revealed that behind a quiet and modest exterior lay the finest metal. Certainly, his friends counted it a privilege to know one who so convincingly lived his creed, and judged the world around him in that context.

The Thoroton Society is fortunate to have enjoyed for so long the service of this faithful member who, by his gifts of mind and character, contributed in such rich measure to its work, its fellowship and its traditions.