

## OBITUARY.

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### MR. STEPHEN DARBY,

Of Cookham Dene, who died on Dec. 21st last, was for several years an active member of the Bucks Archæological Society, and assisted Mr. A. H. Cocks in his researches during the excavation of the Pile Dwellings at Hedsor Wharf.—*South Bucks Standard*, March 2, 1912.

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### MR. S. G. PAYNE.

Another old townsman passed away on Wednesday in the person of Mr. Samuel Glendenning Payne, at the age of 77 years. The late Mr. Payne belonged to an old Aylesbury family, being a son of Mr. Samuel Payne, for many years Postmaster of Aylesbury, and having been himself in his early years engaged in the Post Office here. He retired from that position to take up the business of a photographer—then in its primitive days—in the High Street. That business, with the assistance of Mrs. Payne (a daughter of Mr. T. Smith, of Kingsbury), and later with his son, Mr. L. L. B. Payne, he developed to a remarkable extent, and attained to considerable eminence in what has now been raised virtually to the status of an art. In later years the firm extended their operations to Tring and Thame. Mr. Payne leaves a widow, five sons, and two daughters; he has also two brothers living. In early life he was a keen Volunteer, and attained to the rank of Sergeant in the local Company, maintaining his association with the Force until comparatively recent years—until, in fact, he was required by the age limit to retire, and even then he still maintained his interest in the doings of his old Company. He was all his life an ardent musician, and whether at the old Sacred Harmonic Society's or other local concerts, he was always ready to give his services in the orchestra, being no mean executant of the bass

viol. For many years he was also a member of St. Mary's Choir. Archæology had a special charm for him, and he contributed to the County Museum many "finds" and specimens, some of a rare and valuable kind. As a Freemason, he always took great interest in the proceedings of the Craft, being a Past Master of Buckingham Lodge 591, and the recipient on more than one occasion of Provincial honours.—*Bucks Herald*, February 10, 1912.

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The death of Mr. James Parker (an honorary member of this Society), a widely-known antiquarian, occurred suddenly in London yesterday. Mr. Parker, who was born in 1833, was educated at Winchester, and received the honorary degree of M.A. of Oxford at Commemoration in 1877. For many years he was the mainstay of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, the proceedings of which are full of papers by him. One of Mr. Parker's best-known works was the "Early History of Oxford," published in 1884, and he was also the author of the "A. B. C. of Gothic Architecture," and the "Introduction to Gothic Architecture," which have been through many editions. When the late Professor Freeman was writing his "History of the Norman Conquest" he travelled with him in Normandy. Mr. Parker possessed a remarkable collection of local fossils, and had contributed many papers to the proceedings of the Geological Society.—*Morning Post*, Oct. 13, 1912.

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During the year scholarship has suffered in the loss of Andrew Lang and Professor Skeat; and modern architecture in that of Norman Shaw.

The first "a scholar without pedantry, a master of light and polished verse, a profound student of folklore and anthropology, a journalist capable of all save dullness, the admirable Crichton of modern letters."

The Rev. Walter W. Skeat, Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Cambridge, had a name more widely known than that of any other modern Cambridge scholar. With his

etymological Dictionary of the English language he may be said to have dethroned Dr. Johnson. He was the starter of the English Dialect Society amongst others, and a list of works of which he was either author or editor would fill many pages.

Norman Shaw belonged more to the Victorian than the present Era, and in it he was not merely a distinguished practitioner, but a leader of younger men. To have done work fifty years ago which excites the admiration of the best critics now is proof how superior he was to the dulness of that age. He did more for the modern house than any architect of his time. The originality of the new "Scotland Yard" excited the derision of philistines in the House of Commons as the Regent's Quadrant front of the Piccadilly Hotel has roused the strong opposition of shopkeepers, who would like to have imposing stone façades supported apparently by large sheets of plate-glass, as, for instance, at Harrod's Stores.