

## OBITUARY.

### SIR ARTHUR LIBERTY.

While preparing this small issue of RECORDS for the press the news comes of the death of Sir A. L. Liberty, Chairman of our Council, which occurred on May 11th after rather a long illness.

*The Times* (May 12th) describes him as a Pioneer in Applied Art. The eldest son of Mr. Arthur Liberty, lace manufacturer, of Nottingham, he was born at Chesham in 1843. In 1875, beginning with the half of a house in Regent Street, his business expanded year by year until it reached its present dimensions. In 1894 the business was converted into a limited company, but he continued to keep a guiding hand upon it. His aim was to apply the Eastern art *motifs* to Western work. One of his most notable achievements was the introduction of dyes supposed to be a secret of the East, and this led to the popular appreciation of the range of delicate tints which came to be known as "Liberty colours" the world over. *The Times* remarked that he "possessed that energy and power of organization which enabled him to build up his business and make a mark in his day and generation."

In 1913 he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of what he had done for British industries and the applied arts. He was High Sheriff for this county in 1899. Sir Arthur Liberty made no claim to expert archæological knowledge in any direction, but he always took the greatest interest in this Society since his election to it in 1888, and was always such a generous supporter of it that his loss will be sadly felt.