

## OBITUARY

The Society regrets to have lost by death LADY SUSAN TRUEMAN; MRS. VARDON, of Monks Risborough; MRS. TOMPSON, of Iver Heath; MR. R. E. BENNETT, of Buckingham; MR. R. M. ROBINSON, author of *The Penn Country and the Chilterns*, published in 1929, and a regular attendant at the Excursions; and MR. E. L. REYNOLDS, who contributed to the *Records* an article upon "Upton Parish Register" and some Wycombe letters written by Lord Shelburne's bailiff, and was a trustee of the Kederminster Library at Langley Marish.

Since the above was written, it has become the editor's unhappy duty to add to the list the name of our revered President,

DR. M. R. JAMES, O.M., F.B.A., Litt. D., D.C.L., F.S.A., who accepted the Presidential chair in 1932. It is no reflection upon his great predecessor, Lord Rosebery, to say that Dr. James was easily the most profound scholar who has honoured the Society by acceptance of the position. During his tenure of office he delivered to the Society the brilliant oration which he entitled *The Iconography of Bucks*, printed in the 12th volume of the *Records*, pp. 281-298. In the following year he presided at a meeting, held at Eton, to inaugurate the campaign which eventually resulted in our Muniment Room and extension of the Museum; unluckily his health did not permit his attendance at the opening ceremony of these additions to our property.

This is not the place for enlarging upon the distinguished career which added grace to the post, thought by some to be the highest reward of scholarship,—that of Provost of Eton. The President was one of those scholars whose learning is so profound that it sits easily upon them, and yet, approachable and unaffected as he was, one would say of him as Johnson said of Burke:

“ If a man were to go by chance at the same time with Burke under a shed to shun a shower, he would say ‘ this is an extraordinary man.’ ”

His knowledge and advice were given freely to any genuine seeker after truth, and the present writer has been saved from error in the *Records* on more than one occasion by calling upon the erudition of the Provost of Eton.

The humour and the humanity which tempered the fullness of his knowledge made him equally delightful as host or guest, and whilst he commanded respect he never inspired awe.

G. E.