

## LIPSCOMB CENTENARY

On 9 Nov., 1946, the Society visited Quainton, to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. G. Lipscomb on the one hundredth anniversary of his death. It will be remembered that on 10 Oct., 1929, a mural tablet recording Lipscomb's association with the parish, was placed there by the zeal and energy of the Revd. P. F. L. Cautley, the rector. On 9 Nov. last, Sir Leonard West gave some outline of the Doctor's career, and Lord Cottesloe laid a wreath beneath the monumental stone. Sir Alan Barlow made a short speech, and the Rev. E. Klee and Canon Bale conducted a brief service in commemoration of one of our County's Worthies, who had himself collected so much information about the Worthies who had lived before his day.

As it happens the Society owns the original MS notes made by Lipscomb for the biographies which he included in his History; they were presented by the Sir Arthur Liberty to the Society in 1912; many contain details which Lipscomb did not choose to incorporate in his work, and a careful study of them might form matter for an interesting paper in the *Records*.

The student of Bucks is chiefly impressed by the great courage shown by Lipscomb in undertaking a very great task without academic education, and, above all, with very insufficient means after the death of his wife, whose income ceased with her, so far as the widower was concerned. He lacked therefore the social standing and opportunities of many of the county historians who had preceded him. From the Rev. E. Cooke, of Haversham, whose executor he was, he inherited a large body of material collected by that somewhat crabbed scholar; the great start which this gave him is acknowledged in the Introduction to the *History*. The work of Browne Willis on the

Hundreds of Buckingham, and that of the Rev. T. Langley on the Hundreds of Desborough, had long been available; but in addition Lipscomb had to collect much information in the face of very slender encouragement.

Today one consults the *Victoria County* volumes for details of manorial history; but the modern student has recourse to Lipscomb, though he will do well to verify what he finds there, particularly where pedigrees are concerned. Although little appreciated whilst he lived, Lipscomb was lucky in having publishers who finished the work after his death, and provided a fairly good index,—for a topographical work.

It is perhaps more than a coincidence that our Society began just about the time that Lipscomb died; his work was a great stimulus to our early members, even though Admiral Smyth bitterly assailed the Doctor's inaccuracies in Vol. II. By the tribute which they paid on 9 Nov., 1946, the Society confirmed the obligation which it is under to the enthusiasm and assiduity of Dr. Geo. Lipscomb.