

OBITUARY

WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, M.A., 3rd Viscount Hambleden of Greenlands, died on 31st March, 1948. He was a Vice-President of our Society from 1942 until his death. Amidst his very many public activities, he was Governing Director of W. H. Smith & Son, Chairman of the Royal College of Art, President of the Sadler's Wells Foundation, Chairman of King's College Hospital, and a Vice-President of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Born on 25th July, 1903, the eldest son of the 2nd Viscount, he inherited the title on the death of his father in 1928. In this year also he married Lady Patricia Herbert, only daughter of the 15th Earl of Pembroke. Educated at Eton and Oxford, he entered the family business, and became head of the firm when he succeeded to the title. W. H. Smith & Son was his principal concern, but his interests were wide, ranging over the Arts, the estate at Hambleden, and church matters in the diocese. In 1945 he became Chairman of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance and a Member of the House of Laity.

He had made Hambleden his home; at week-ends he was happy to become a member of the village community, attending services at the church, which had been restored and beautified in memory of his father and grandfather, and walking the village roads and foot-paths to visit old friends. Under his care the church, cottages, and farms around flourished and became models of their kind. He wished to safeguard permanently the Hambleden valley from injurious development, and in 1936 entered into restrictive covenants with the National Trust, covering some 4,500 acres of the Greenlands estate. In 1945 he removed his home from Greenlands, which then became the new Administrative Staff College, and with his family he went to live at the old Manor House in the centre of the village. Local institutions benefited from his interest and generosity, and the maintenance of projects started by his forebears was his delight. The village museum, opened by the Viscountess Hambleden in 1917 to house the finds from the excavations on the Roman Farm at Yewden, was continued under his direction. The writer of this brief memoir was appointed honorary curator in 1936, following the late Edgar Payton. Lord Hambleden was interested in any scheme to promote the use of this building for educational purposes, and one of his last acts was to order the restoration of the museum buildings to their proper use after they had been occupied as offices and a food store from 1939 to 1946. All the cabinets have now been re-erected, and specimens, collected and arranged by the late A. H. Cocks, F.S.A. (for many years Secretary of our Society and Curator of its museum), have been restored to their former positions.

A man of very wide business interests, Lord Hambleden's life was fully occupied, and he had little time to spare for archæological work. But as a benefactor to the Arts and the church, and as an enthusiast for the traditions of rural community life, he will be greatly missed in Buckinghamshire.

F. M. UNDERHILL.

As this issue of the *Records* is in the press, the death is announced of Sir HENRY MARTEN, Provost of Eton. This is a sad loss, for Sir Henry was a Vice-President—the second we have lost in one year—and a good friend and kind host of the Bucks. Archaeological Society. A fuller obituary will be published in our next issue.