

IN MEMORIAM.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY ST. JOHN HOPE, LITT.D., D.C.L.

The death of Sir William Hope, which took place at Great Shelford, near Cambridge, on 18th August, 1919, has removed from the Suffolk Institute of Archæology an honorary member whose authority as an antiquary was recognised throughout England. For twenty-five years, as Assistant Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries from 1885 to 1910, his encyclopædic knowledge of his subject was at the service of all who came to him for guidance and was an inspiring force in every branch of English archæology. His love of the studies to which his life was devoted was born with him; it was matured early, and, while he was still an undergraduate at Cambridge, his unusual accomplishments were recognised by older scholars who welcomed him as their equal. He was one of those men in whom a ruling passion for intellectual pursuits preserves youth and vigour; and although, from 1914 onwards, his health was impaired by a series of heart attacks, his power of work remained undiminished to the end and he was full of new projects. Born in June, 1854, he was barely sixty-five when he died, and for forty years he had exercised a continuous influence upon students of antiquities by his personal example and his remarkable literary industry.

To enumerate the articles and monographs which Sir William Hope published separately or contributed to archæological periodicals, or even to indicate their variety of subject, is impossible in a limited space. Apart from his great work upon Windsor Castle, published in 1913, which displays his many-sided knowledge to the fullest advantage, the chief section of his writings is that which deals with the remains and original plans of English monasteries. His paper on Leiston Abbey, printed in Vol. VII. of these *Proceedings*, recalls the fact that his earliest work in this direction was given to the vestiges of Premonstratensian houses. In 1879 he made his first excavations at Dale abbey in Derbyshire, and, in the same year, sending a plan of Torre abbey in Devon to a correspondent, he wrote, "I have 11 out of 36 Premonstratensian plans, and each differs in a marked manner from the others." He contributed to Vol. VIII. an account of Sibton abbey, which takes its place with his numerous monographs upon Cistercian monasteries, with the classical descriptions of Fountains, Furness and Kirkstall abbeys at their head. The same volume contains a short article upon *The Insignia of the Borough of Dunwich*, which is of equal value as coming from the author of the standard work upon English Corporation plate. In 1911, when Sir William was living at Clare, he was elected an honorary member of the Suffolk Institute. Among the unpublished work which he left is an account of the remains of the priory of Austin Friars at Clare, on the Essex side of the Stour.

Sir William was a Doctor of Letters of his own university of Cambridge, and an honorary D.C.L. of Durham. He received knighthood in 1914, a worthy recognition of his single-minded devotion to archæological research; he was also a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. His generosity in communicating knowledge will long be gratefully remembered by all who came to him for help, while his addresses at archæological meetings, models of concise and lucid expression, have quickened his own enthusiasm in all who listened to him with the desire to learn. He himself was, like all true scholars, not only learned, but a persistent learner. Absolutely straightforward in his judgments, he had little patience with pretentiousness and the mere display of information; but to all genuine students his kindness was unbounded, and he was at once their counsellor and friend. At a period when the future of English archæology is somewhat uncertain and it has lost more than one of its leaders, one who was a master of so many of its branches can ill be spared. For those whose privilege it was to know him intimately and find encouragement in his never-failing sympathy and his appreciation of the human side of life, the place which he occupied in their affection and esteem can never be supplied.

A.H.T.