

OBITUARY.

In the neighbourhood of which Ipswich is the centre, the S.I.A. has sustained during the last few months the loss by death of several of its prominent members. The Rt. Honble. E. G. Pretyman, one of our Vice-Presidents, was so well known in many other capacities, notably for his work at the Admiralty and at the Board of Trade, and as one of the leading authorities on Agriculture, that one is apt to forget that he also took a keen interest in the past. Although he disclaimed the appellation of archæologist, few of the subjects which form the borderland of archæology were unfamiliar to him, and he often helped to further the objects which the Institute had most at heart. He was, moreover, the possessor of a large collection of historical manuscripts. J. Holland Rose made abundant use of those which concerned the younger Pitt and the Napoleonic period; but of even greater interest from the East Anglian point of view was the fact that, although the originals of most of the Paston Letters are in the British Museum, and a good many at Oxford, he owned the originals of those which were included in Vols. I and II of Fenn's edition. The story of their vicissitudes is told in Gairdner's later editions of the Paston Letters.

A veteran member, who served for several years on the Council, has also passed away in the person of Sir Edward Packard, the High Sheriff of Ipswich. His long connection with the Museum and Library Committees of the Ipswich Town Council was frequently of great help to the Institute. Even the approach of his ninetieth year did not deter him from attendance at the more important meetings, and his genial and assiduous presence will be missed by many.

The death of Miss Rosa Crisp must also be recorded with deep regret. Only a few years ago fitting tribute was paid to the eminent services rendered by her brother, the late F. A. Crisp, to genealogy and parish history. A staunch friend of the S.I.A., Miss Crisp was always willing to show the interesting collections, mostly gathered together by another brother, the late G. E. Crisp, within the historic walls of Playford Hall.

Regret is felt, too, for the loss of Father Bernard McCaul, of Ipswich, especially as he had been prevented by stress of other work from developing certain views as to the 14th century parishes of East Anglia, and for that of Mr. J. L. Biddell, of Playford, a familiar figure at the Society's excursions.

Sant laccimæ rerum but may they all find worthy successors in the S.I.A. !
F.S.S.