

IN MEMORIAM.

THE REV. EDMUND FARRER AND

MISS NINA FRANCES LAYARD.

In spite of a marked progress in numbers and efficiency, the Suffolk Institute of Archæology will probably look back upon the year 1935 with feelings of deep regret rather than of complacency. The "black days" in the calendars of ancient Rome were said to have derived their name from the use of a piece of coal to mark the dates on which grave misfortune had befallen the state. If such a custom still survived, not one but many pieces of coal would be needed to emphasize not only the great national bereavement which followed so soon after the Jubilee of 1935, but also the loss, both personal and public, sustained by our Institute through the death of two of its most learned and energetic members. A long and appreciative notice of the Rev. Edmund Farrer appeared in the "East Anglian Daily Times" of April 10th, 1935, and an equally sympathetic account of Miss Nina Frances Layard is to be found in the same paper on August 14th, 1935. Here it is only necessary to recall the importance of the work they did for the S.I.A., of which they were such distinguished ornaments.

Farrer's industry and accuracy as a genealogist and an authority on heraldry were unsurpassed, and may be estimated by his articles on "An Old Deed Box" in Vol. XVIII of our Proceedings and on "Early Suffolk Heraldry" in Vol. XXI, both of which are based mainly upon the 1500 charters, which he examined and catalogued, relating to the Bacons of Redgrave. Vol. XX consists largely of his contributions: "St. Peter's Hall, South Elmham," "The Dunthorne MSS.," "Letheringham Abbey," "The Seal of a Prior of Stoke-by-Clare" and the "List of Deeds recently acquired by the Institute." In Vol. XIV he dealt with the "Blois Manuscripts," and in Vol. XVI with "Yaxley Hall," including a second part relating more particularly to the Leeke family to whom Yaxley Hall belonged for so many years. Other minor contributions are to be found in such articles as the "Leather Case at Sweffling," in Vol. X, and in the many talks, recorded or unrecorded, which he gave, on the occasion of excursions, with great gusto backed by a wonderful memory; nor would it be fitting to omit a reference to the constant care he bestowed, as contributor and afterwards as editor, on the "East Anglian Miscellany" notes which have appeared in the "East Anglian Daily Times" since 1901, or in his active interest in the S.I.A. Literary Committee during most of that period.

All this, however, merely represents the work with which we are most familiar. Before he came to Suffolk in 1890 he wrote his great work on "Church Heraldry in Norfolk," brought out in three volumes between 1885 and 1893. His "Church Heraldry in Suffolk" still remains in

manuscript, but will, it may be hoped, be published some day. The descriptive lists he prepared of "Monumental Brasses" in Norfolk and Suffolk appeared respectively in 1890 and 1903. His magnificent volume entitled "Portraits in Suffolk Houses (West)" came out in 1908. With it is sometimes bound up an Index, printed at Boston, Massachusetts, in 1926, of the hitherto unpublished "Portraits in Suffolk Houses (East)," of which one portion only, relating to the portraits in Thornham Hall, was issued for private circulation in 1930. Much of Farrer's work on portraiture was carried out in conjunction with Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, whose splendid bequest of some ninety portraits to the Thetford Guildhall was also catalogued by him. A monograph on Hardwick Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, appeared from his pen in 1928, and among the many muniments of which he made lists were those of the Chediston Estate. At least 24 Suffolk Parish Registers, transcribed by him, are in the Ipswich Public Reference Library. The materials collected and arranged by Farrer will be of signal use to many future historians.

Miss Layard, whose passing we also deplore, was for many years a Vice-President and at one time hon. secretary of the S.I.A., and had the distinction of being the first woman to be elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Vol. XIII of the S.I.A. Proceedings contains the full account of her important finds in the "Anglo-Saxon Cemetery" on the way to Crane Hill, Ipswich, now among the treasures of Christ Church Park, and this is supplemented by the article on "Anglo-Saxon Relics" in Vol. XVI. In Vol. XV she gives an account of "Recent Discoveries on the site of the Carmelite Convent at Ipswich and the Old River Quay," and other notes by her relating to discoveries in and near Ipswich are in Vols. XV and XVI. On the other hand the articles in Vol. XV on "The Nayland Figure-Stone" and in Vol. XVII on "Flint-stones showing well-defined finger-grips" touch not upon historic but upon prehistoric archæology, to which she devoted much care and research during the latter part of her life. Her excavations were carried out not only in Suffolk and Norfolk but in other parts of England and in several foreign countries, and the Prehistoric Society will doubtless do justice to that part of her work. She had an amazing gift of knowing where to find the objects of which she was in search. When asked playfully on one occasion whether the patron saint of "finds," St. Anthony of Padua, had helped her, she replied that he certainly ought to have done so, as her first Christian name was an abbreviation of Antonina and her second suggested St. Anthony's great master and teacher; but, she added, "I may perhaps owe more to St. Henry and St. Augustine," the reference being to her uncle, Sir Henry Austen Layard, the explorer of Nineveh. She had a remarkable freshness of expression, in verse as well as in prose. The Ipswich Museum contains many of her gifts, which it is impossible to enumerate here. Both she and the Rev. Edmund Farrer will, therefore, in different ways, extend their helpfulness to future generations.

FRANCIS SEYMOUR STEVENSON.