

In Memoriam.

W. ALLEN STURGE, M.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

The death of Dr. W. Allen Sturge took place at Icklingham Hall, Mildenhall, on March 27th, 1919. He was born at Bristol on October 6th, 1850, being the son of Mr. William and Mrs. Charlotte Sturge (née Allen). He was educated at Bristol, University College (London), and Paris; was M.D. of the University of London, and F.R.C.P. of London. He was physician to the Royal Free Hospital and to the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis from 1877 to 1881, and practised in Nice from 1881 to 1907, acting as physician to Queen Victoria and other members of the Royal Family during their visits to the Riviera. In 1897 he received the M.V.O. decoration (Fourth Class) from King Edward VII. In 1886 he married Miss Julia Sheriff, daughter of Mr. A. G. Sheriff, M.P., of Worcester.

On his retirement in 1907 he selected Icklingham Hall as his future residence on account of the facilities afforded by the district for the study of flint implements. Earlier in life he had collected prints and Greek and Egyptian vases, but for many years his collection of flint implements had ranked with the finest in the world. When the International Congress of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archæology was held at Monaco in 1906, his collection was opened to the delegates, and he issued a *Catalogue Descriptif des objets exposés*" (109 pp.). He then said:—"Au point de vue d'instruments en pierre, tant de l'âge paléolithique, que de l'âge néolithique en Angleterre, la collection est une des plus complètes. L'Écosse et l'Irlande y figurent dignement. La France, le Danemark, la Suède, la Suisse, l'Égypte, le pays des Somalis, le Japon, et les États-Unis d'Amérique sont assez bien représentés dans ma collection. J'ai également des séries très intéressantes d'Italie, d'Espagne, d'Algérie, de Grèce et des îles voisines, de l'Asie Mineure, de l'Inde, de l'État du Congo, et de divers autres pays. ... Quant aux bronzes, je n'ai jamais cherché à en faire une collection très complète; mais peu à peu j'ai réuni quelques pièces intéressantes. C'est la Hongrie qui a la place d'honneur; mais l'Angleterre, l'Irlande, la France, l'Italie, et la Grèce sont passablement représentées, et j'ai aussi quelques pièces importantes de Scandinavie."

At Icklingham he built a fine Museum and Vase Room in which were housed his 90,000 specimens, and he collected about 10,000 a year for several years of his residence in North-West Suffolk. The collection of bronzes he disposed of to Toronto Museum in 1917, and the flint implements—probably the finest private collection in the world—he bequeathed to the British Museum, which with this valuable addition now occupies a position of international pre-eminence.

When in 1905 Mr. W. A. Dutt and I discussed the possibility of forming an East Anglian Society for prehistoric research, the number locally interested appeared too small to make it a success. In 1908 we again discussed the matter, and it was felt that if Dr. Sturge's support could be obtained, local enthusiasts might at least be brought in touch with each other. We drafted a circular and sent it to Dr. Sturge, who signified his approval and acceded to our request to become President of the Society. It was then thought that 40 would be an optimistic estimate of the membership, but 72 had joined before the first meeting on October 26th, 1908, when Dr. Sturge delivered his inaugural address. He took an active interest in all the work of the Society, was President for 1908-09, 1909-10, and 1912-13,

contributed valuable papers to our "Proceedings" on "The Chronology of the Stone Age," "The Patina of Flint Implements," "Implements of the Later Palæolithic 'Cave' periods in East Anglia," and "The Bearing of the Drayson Theory on the Problems presented by Striated Neolithic Flints." It is a disaster that these, with the suggestive paper on "Early Man," in the "Victoria County History of Suffolk," represent his chief contributions to the literature of the science, for he had a wonderful knowledge of most of the problems confronting the prehistoric archæologist, and a gift for explaining difficult subjects in a lucid manner.

The members of the Committees of this Society which reported on the Sub-Crag Implements and the Crag Shell Portrait were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Sturge, and in each case the draft of the report was his work. Each year from 1909 to 1914, inclusive, a field-meeting of the Society took place with Icklingham Hall as the objective, and on every occasion Dr. and Mrs. Sturge were ideal hosts. The latter participated in her husband's interests, and it was on her suggestion that excavations were undertaken at Grime's Graves in 1914. Dr. Sturge's Quaker ancestry, combined with extensive travel, wide knowledge of men and things, and a genial temperament, endeared him to a wide circle of friends, and at one time or another many of the leading Continental savants, as well as his East Anglian confrères, were his guests. By these his memory will always be treasured.

W.G.C.



The Late W. Allen Sturge, M.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.
(President 1908-9, 1909-10, 1912-13.)