

works and to students generally. If it should meet with success it is not unlikely that it would be developed to include some means of storing such records in a central and safe place, should they be lent, offered, or bequeathed. It is proposed to limit the scope of the Committee's work to buildings at least a century old and to those of England only, but it is hoped that parallel action will be undertaken in Scotland and Wales. It is realized that an immense amount of such records are in private hands, and it would be useful to the Committee if owners would give particulars of their collections now, for with this knowledge the Committee will be better able to form an idea of the extent and scope of the enterprise.

### *Obituary Notice*

*Bishop George Forrest Browne.* The death of Bishop Browne removes a great archaeologist, whose working life has been prolonged far beyond the ordinary limit. He was elected a Fellow (*honoris causa*) as long ago as 1st March 1888. He was on the Council in 1891, 1894, 1902, and 1910. He filled the office of Vice-President from 1895 to 1898, and from 1915 to 1919. The following is a record of the papers he read before the Society: Basket work images of men on sculptured stones at Checkley and Ilam, Staffs.; An incised stone at Skipwith; A cup-marked stone near Gignese, Italy; The Ivory chair of Maximian at Ravenna; The Llywell stone in the British Museum; Portions of a Temporal of 1350-80; A bamboo staff of dignity of the seventeenth century; Stone circles of Aberdeenshire.

In addition to these he was the author of a number of books dealing with historical and archaeological matters:

*The Ilam Crosses*, 1889. *Lessons from Early English Church History*, 1893. *The Church at Home before Augustine*, 1894. *Augustine and his Companions*, 1895. *Conversion of the Heptarchy*, 1896. *Theodore and Wilfrith*, 1897. *History of St. Catharine's College*, 1902. *Life and Works of St. Aldhelm*. *Alcuin of York*. *Boniface and his Companions*. *The Ancient Cross Shafts of Bewcastle and Ruthwell*, 1917. *Venerable Bede, Life and Writings*, 1919. *King Alfred's Books*, 1920. *Antiquities near Dunecht, Aberdeenshire*, 1921. *Dunecht and Birse Titles and Notarial Signs*, 1923.

This voluminous work may be said to have been partly the cause, and partly the effect, of his holding the position of Disney Professor of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge from 1887 to 1892. Other archaeologists did not always agree with his conclusions, but they were formed after close study, and, though often expressed dogmatically, were always provocative of thought and further study. They were stimulating to a degree, and must have attracted to the study of history and archaeology many who usually take no note of such things.

In the *Antiquaries Journal* emphasis must naturally be laid on archaeology, but it would be absurd to call Bishop Browne an antiquary only.

For many years he was a great figure in the University of Cambridge. His regular work was that of Secretary of the Local Examinations and Lectures Syndicate, which included both branches of the University's extra-mural work. Bishop Browne, however, was equally concerned with the internal administration of the University, and, for many years, was Secretary of the Council of the Senate. No man in the eighties can be said to have been more influential in the inner working of that great university. In 1891 came the appointment to a Canonry of St. Paul's, followed in 1895 by the Suffragan Bishopric of Stepney. When the Diocese of Bristol was separated from that of Gloucester in 1897, it was natural that a man who had proved himself a ruler in so many departments should be called to the oversight of the reconstituted diocese. Here he did a great work, retiring in 1914 one might almost say only because he was eighty years of age. His intellectual and physical vigour lasted for many years after that event, and he was delighted to spend his leisure in archaeological research. Alpine climbing had been an old love, and he had been a prominent member of the Alpine Club, taking a deep interest in its work up to the end.

The personality of the man is charmingly revealed in *The Recollections of a Bishop*, published in 1915. It is eminently a book to be read even if the reader takes small interest in ecclesiastical, university, and archaeological affairs. Some ten years ago the present writer had a long talk with the Bishop about his longevity. He claimed that he could find out the strength of his 'mainspring' by totalling up the ages of his ancestors who had died a natural death, taking the average, and adding on 4. 'By this calculation', he said, 'I shall live to be 91.' As a matter of fact he was considerably more than 96 when the final call came. Up to a fortnight of his death 'his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated'. He has left behind a great memory which all his friends will revere.

D. H. S. C.