

and the photographs were taken by Mr. Wright, formerly Curator of the Colchester Museum.

Franks Studentship.—The regulations regarding the Franks Studentship in Archaeology in the University of London have recently been altered by arrangement between the Senate and the Council of the Society. In future the studentship will be awarded once in every three years and the total emoluments will be £150.

Coldrum stone circle.—This well-known Kent monument has been purchased as a memorial of the late Benjamin Harrison, of Ightham, and was formally handed over to the National Trust on behalf of the subscribers on 10th July last. In addition, a tablet to Mr. Harrison's memory has been erected in Ightham church.

Appointments.—Dr. Cyril Fox, F.S.A., has been appointed Director of the National Museum of Wales in succession to Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler, F.S.A., who has become Keeper of the London Museum.

Obituary Notice

Lieut.-Colonel George Babington Croft Lyons. Born 15th September 1855. Died 22nd June 1926. Colonel Lyons has been so intimately connected with the Society since he became a Fellow that it is hard to believe that he was only elected in 1904 (7th January). With his life in the Essex Regiment the Society is but little concerned, for though during that time his antiquarian tastes were doubtless in process of formation, yet they had no obvious results until later.

My first recollections of him must have been in the early nineties when he not infrequently came to the Museum bringing some prize for comparison, a piece of English china, or an heraldic seal. As Sir Wollaston Franks was keenly interested in both subjects he and Lyons soon became intimate. It is probable that the number of his antiquarian friends was not greatly increased as a result of joining the Society, for he would be already known to the majority; but ready access to the Society's rich library gave greater precision to his collecting instincts, and he made full use of the facilities thus within reach.

It is unfortunate that with all his industry in gathering information about the collections he made, Lyons was not one of those who readily sat down to the writing of a note or paper for the Society's publications. The entries under his name in *Proceedings* or the *Journal* refer nearly always to exhibitions, and more often than not in illustration of a contribution from another Fellow.

Collectors of works of art are too often somewhat indolent in setting down all they know, even about their own possessions, and there should be, in every generation, a Farington to gather and record all the fleeting fragments of information that otherwise would disappear for ever.

Not only did Lyons possess great store of unedited knowledge, but he was most generous in the bestowal of it; nothing gave him more unalloyed pleasure than to settle convincingly the ownership of a particular coat of arms, whether for himself or for a friend. The time is long past when such knowledge was thought negligible; nowadays the chase is much too keen for any possibly useful factor to be overlooked in the hunting of works of art, and even our auctioneers' catalogues occasionally blossom out in the blazon of a coat of arms. With tastes of this kind and means enough to allow him to indulge them, it is not surprising that Lyons's collections in china, jewellery, prints, furniture, and the minor objects of house decoration, should quickly outgrow the capacity of bachelor chambers in Hertford Street, and later of his compact little house in South Kensington. Thus he, like our friend George Salting on a more generous scale, took refuge within the hospitable halls of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which, with great wisdom, lends itself to the solution of such difficulties. There, for years past, some of Lyons's most valuable properties have been on loan, and there, under his will, they will remain. Quite lately he gave to the Birmingham Gallery a large series of English porcelain that had been on loan there for some time. In spite of these loans, every room in his house was filled to capacity, to use a phrase of the day.

By his will he has bequeathed to the British Museum such of his mathematical instruments as may be desired.

He was a constant attendant at our meetings, as well as on Committees. He was on the Executive Committee from 1908 to 1926, he served on the Council in 1907, 1908, and 1916, and was Vice-President from 1917 to 1921. In addition to these formal services, he did good work for the Society in many directions, and was a benefactor to the Library where his gifts were usually of the uncommon kind. But his most generous gift was that of the silver mace which was placed before the President's chair on St. George's Day, 1912. Up to that time the mace used was an iron war mace from the Society's Museum. It had long been recognized that this was most inappropriate for the entirely peaceful functions of the Society, and the Council had frequently discussed the propriety of obtaining one of the right kind. But it was left to Colonel Lyons to solve the problem, and the design of the new mace, for which he was responsible, is highly creditable to his taste.

To an inner circle of the Society, however, a group of perhaps thirty of the Fellows, it is not so much this side of Lyons's activities that so much endeared him to them. He possessed in a high degree that peculiar hospitable gift that attracted to his company men of a type who were eminently agreeable to each other, and whose diverse tastes provided endless food for discussion. In this way many a hare was started that ultimately became a useful prey for the deliberations of the Society, and at Lyons's hospitable board many of us first met men who have since become active Fellows of our body.

It is on this, the human side, that by many of us the gap caused by his death will be most deeply felt; the qualities that he so conspicuously possessed are not common, and are not always found under conditions that enable them to function so usefully as was the case with Colonel Croft Lyons.

HERCULES READ.