

Obituary Notice

George Clinch.—The sudden death, on 2nd February, of Mr. George Clinch, the Society's clerk and librarian, within a few days of his sixty-first birthday, came as a sad blow to his many friends within and without the Society of Antiquaries. He was at his work and apparently in his usual health on the Tuesday, but on the Wednesday morning he was taken suddenly ill on his way to the station and died within a few hours.

George Clinch was born on 9th February 1860 at Borden in Kent, and while yet a small boy began to show that interest in archaeology which never left him, by collecting flint implements in the fields around his father's house. After leaving school he obtained an appointment in the library of the British Museum, and during this time found the opportunity of writing several books on London topography, including works on Bloomsbury and St. Giles, Marylebone and St. Pancras, and Mayfair and Belgravia. He also at this time made two communications to the Society, on stone implements from West Wickham and on pit-dwellings at Hayes, Kent, both of which were published in *Proceedings*. On 16th December 1895 he was appointed clerk to the Society on the resignation of Mr. Ireland, and in 1910 the Council added the title of librarian to his office in recognition of his increasing responsibilities and valuable services.

As an antiquary he gave especial attention to prehistoric archaeology, and many of the articles on this subject in the *Victoria County Histories* were from his pen. As a Kentish man he was naturally keenly interested in the antiquities of his native county, on which subject he wrote many books and papers, included among them being works on Bromley, Hayes, and Keston, on Bromley and the Bromley district, and the *Little Guide to Kent*, and as a member of the Kent Archaeological Society he had contributed papers to *Archaeologia Cantiana*. He had also written books on English costume, on old English churches, and on English coast defences. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and was an active member of the London Survey Committee. In addition he had served as chairman of the Council of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men.

To the Society of Antiquaries during his twenty-five years' service he always showed a great and loyal devotion, and had endeared himself to the Fellows by his ready courtesy and geniality. He was ever willing to help Fellows in their work to the utmost of his ability, and his thorough knowledge of the library and of the subject-matter of its contents was always at the service of inquirers. He will long be held in affectionate remembrance by all those, and they were many, with whom his official duties brought him into contact.