

## OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN LUDLOW HANHAM, BT., D.L.

THE sudden death of Sir John Hanham on 30 April 1955 at the age of fifty-seven is a great loss to the many causes to which he devoted his time and energy.

He was the tenth holder of the baronetcy created in 1667, and was educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford. In the First World War, in which he was wounded, he served as a captain in the Grenadier Guards, and also in the Second World War. In 1926 he was called to the Bar and was a member of the Inner Temple.

Among his many public appointments Sir John held the office of Apparitor-General to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and from 1930 to 1932 he was A.D.C. to his uncle Viscount Bledisloe, then Governor-General of New Zealand. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Dorset and had been a member of the Dorset County Council for over twenty years.

In addition to all his public work he found time for two pursuits of leisure—the one a keen interest and considerable knowledge of ornithology and the other the study of English numismatics. He possessed a fine collection of coins chiefly strong in the Anglo-Saxon, Norman, and Baronial periods, but what he prized most was his collection of seventeenth-century Dorset Tokens. He was a Vice-President of the British Numismatic Society and a regular attendant at the meetings. In 1948 on the formation of the Wessex Numismatic Society he became President, taking a very prominent part in the Society's activities.

He had a great sense of dignity when taking part in any ceremonial, but what endeared him to his innumerable friends was his wonderful kindness of manner to one and all. A very old friend recalls seeing him on numerous occasions walking about his home town of Wimborne with a basket containing flowers, under which would be a few eggs, going to visit some sick resident. He will be much missed, not only in Dorset but by his world-wide circle of friends. E. B.

MR. H. W. TAFFS, M.V.O., M.B.E.

MEMBERS will learn with regret of the death on 24 July of Mr. H. W. Taffs in his 85th year. He had been a prominent member of the Society for as long as any of us could remember. Mr. Taffs's interest in coins was a lifelong one. He joined the Royal Numismatic Society in 1896 and was a founder member of our Society in 1903. His record of service to the Society is remarkable. Mr. Taffs served on the Council in 1910, 1911, 1916, and from 1920 to 1926. He was Secretary jointly with Mr. Anscombe from 1927 to 1929, and alone from 1930 to 1938. During his term of office as Secretary Mr. Taffs edited the

*Journal* for the years 1931 to 1934. He was elected President in 1938 and served until 1945 when on giving up the office of President he was made a vice-President. In September 1950 he was elected an honorary member in recognition of his services to the Society.

Mr. Taffs was a Member of the Order of the British Empire and was made a member of the Victorian Order in this year's Birthday Honours. One likes to think that this latter award was a recognition of his more than forty years' unbroken attendance at the Royal Maundy Ceremony, a record of which Mr. Taffs was justly proud. He attended our meetings most regularly and took particular pleasure in the social aspect of our Society's various functions. He will be remembered, too, for the splendid coins and medals that he was always at great pains to bring to our meetings for exhibition. Mr. Taffs's approach to coins was primarily that of a collector. He read no paper to the Society and published nothing in the *Journal*. But many years of collecting and handling coins had given him a wide experience and considerable knowledge of them. His interests covered the whole of the English and Colonial series and the coins of the United States of America. He had a special fondness for the tokens of his native county Kent and all his life he collected them assiduously.

During the Second World War his house was bombed and he sustained injury to his eyes, from which happily he quickly recovered. His coins were buried in the debris. He liked to tell how he gathered young friends round him to sort and sift the rubble until his coins were recovered. He devoted much of his time during the war to going through the vast number of coins that the public sent in to the Red Cross organization for sale. Mr. Taffs was in good health until last autumn when a general decline in his strength prevented him, to his great disappointment, from attending the Council's annual dinner. He was confined to his house throughout last year's severe winter, but his interest in the Society was as great as ever, and it gave him keen pleasure to receive visitors and to hear news of the Society's activities. Mr. Taffs's genial, friendly presence and his evergreen zest for coin study, despite his advanced age, will be sadly missed at the Society's meetings.

E. J. W.