

Obituary Notices

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres: died 8th March 1940. By the death of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, which took place as the result of a sudden attack of pneumonia on March 8th, the Society has lost a distinguished ex-President and a warm supporter, and many Fellows have lost a personal friend. Born in 1871 and educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, he inherited antiquarian and literary interests from his father, but with less leaning towards scientific pursuits and more towards the humanities and public life. At Oxford he took honours in history, and was President of the Union; and his attractive personality was already noticeable. From Oxford he went straight into politics, being elected in 1895 as a Conservative for the Chorley division of Lancashire, in which his home, Haigh Hall, was situated. He continued to represent this constituency until he succeeded to the premier earldom of Scotland in 1913. He took a very active share in party politics. He was a Government Whip from 1903 to 1905, and an Opposition Whip after the Conservative defeat in 1906, in which capacity his activity was not always welcome to his opponents. He also made a first acquaintance with the Office of Works, acting as its representative in the House of Commons when the First Commissioner was in the Upper House.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 he was in his 43rd year and well over military age (he had been in the O.T.C. at Eton, where he once disorganized a public schools field day by a peculiar knack he had acquired of sounding the 'cease fire' on his rifle). Nevertheless, he quietly enlisted as a private in the R.A.M.C., and served for several months before his identity was discovered and he was advanced to the rank of second lieutenant. From this exalted position he was reluctantly extracted in July, 1916, to become a member of the Cabinet as President of the Board of Agriculture. Subsequently he was in succession Lord Privy Seal (1916-18), Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1919-21), and First Commissioner of Works (1921-2). In the last capacity he had the congenial task of administering the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913. He was also for a few months an unpaid Minister of Transport.

Crawford quitted office on the dissolution of Mr. Lloyd George's Coalition Government, and never returned. But his most characteristic and useful public service began from this point. His personal interests were above all artistic. So far back as 1903 he had produced a most sympathetic study of Donatello, and in 1910 he published a volume on *The Evolution of Italian Sculpture*. He had a fine collection of Old Masters in his house at 7 Audley Square, including some of exceptional value. His combination of high rank, great knowledge, and real taste made him the natural representative of artistic and archaeological interests in the whole country. He became an Elected Trustee of the British Museum in 1923, and was thenceforward one of the most influential members of the Standing Committee. He was the natural and obvious Chairman of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, founded in 1924. He was also a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery, a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, a member and eventually Chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical

Monuments, England, Chairman of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, member of Council of the British School at Rome, member and eventually President of the Roxburghe Club, to the publications of which his contribution was an edition of the sixteenth-century schoolbook, Horman's *Vulgaria Puerorum*. Few men have been in a better position to render service to the art and antiquities of their country, and few have made a fuller use of their opportunities. His pen was always ready for a letter to *The Times* when public opinion had to be aroused or public support invoked.

His public services and his rank in the peerage of Scotland were recognized by the conferment of the K.T. in 1921. He became Chancellor of the University of Manchester in 1923, and received honorary degrees from Cambridge, Manchester, Liverpool, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh. He was also an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of British Architects.

Of our own Society he became a Fellow in 1900, and often served on the Council. He was twice appointed Vice-President, and was President from 1924 to 1929. His five Presidential addresses illustrate the extent of his interests and the multifarious nature of his knowledge. The first was concerned with art forgeries, and the then newly discovered instrument of air photography; the second with the loss to the country through the destruction and sales of documents and historic buildings, and the working of the Ancient Monuments Act; the third with Museums (on which subject he had contributed an admirably full and well-informed article to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in 1910); the fourth with archaeological research, both early and contemporary; the fifth with antiquaries and antiquarian societies, and the need of financial support for antiquarian research. Common to all of them was their wealth of illustrative detail, which proved that his acquaintance with the subjects was in no way perfunctory, but rested on an alert mind and a wide knowledge.

Crawford could at times express himself abruptly and almost dictatorially, but this was not his true character. On the contrary, he was remarkably open-minded, ready to listen, and prompt to take up a cause which commended itself to him as good. He was entirely unassuming and devoid of self-assertion; and those (and they were many) who enjoyed his friendship deeply regret his loss. Personally I owe to him a special debt, since it was by him that I was brought into the Society.

He married in 1900 Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Pelly, M.P.; and his eldest son and successor in the title, Lord Balmiel, is our Fellow.

F. G. K.

Reginald Allender Smith: died 18th January 1940. The sudden death of Reginald Smith, so short a while after his retirement from official life, has removed from the ranks of the Society one of its most familiar personalities and certainly one of its most assiduous Fellows and most constant attendants at its Meetings. Reginald Allender Smith was elected a Fellow on 8th January 1903, and his record thereafter is one of quiet, unobtrusive service on its behalf. He served on the Council in 1908 and 1909, as Auditor in 1908, as Vice-President from 1926 to 1929, and since then up to the time of his