

OBITUARY

JOSEPH NEWBOULD SANDERS

TREASURER OF S.N.T.S., SEPTEMBER 1954 TO DECEMBER 1961

When J. N. Sanders died at the age of forty-eight, the Society lost a devoted officer and scholar. His name appears on the list of members invited to the conference which was to have been the first General Meeting in September 1939. Thus he followed the fortunes of the Society almost from the beginning. During his seven years as Treasurer, the Society trebled in size and made considerable demands upon him, yet he fulfilled the duties of his office with care, efficiency and foresight. His extensive knowledge of scholars and scholarship, his wise and incisive judgement put the Committee constantly in his debt. At the Eighth General Meeting he read a paper, subsequently published in volume 1 of *New Testament Studies*, on 'Those whom Jesus loved (John xi. 5)'. Other volumes of the *Journal* contain articles and reviews from his pen; and the present special part prints a brief study, 'St John on Patmos', which he delivered at the closing session of the Sixteenth General Meeting. Those who were present to hear him recall that he spoke with his customary learning, wit and good humour. Any member who knew him would wish to echo what has been said elsewhere, that he was much respected and loved.

Sanders entered Peterhouse in 1932 with a major scholarship in Classics, and took First Class honours with distinction in the Classical Tripos 1935 and in the Theological Tripos 1937. He was awarded the Senior Scholefield Prize, the Crosse Studentship, and the Carus Greek Testament Prize. At Cambridge he was a pupil of P. Gardner-Smith (who aroused his interest in the problem of the origin of the Fourth Gospel) and of Sir Edwyn Hoskyns and Professor J. M. Creed; and in Germany of Professors R. Bultmann and F. Heiler. In 1939 he was awarded the Kaye Prize for an essay on *The Fourth Gospel in the Early Church—its Origin and Influence on Christian Theology up to Irenaeus* (Cambridge University Press, 1943). In 1938 he returned to Peterhouse as Bye-Fellow, and was ordained as Assistant Chaplain, in due course becoming Chaplain. From 1940 to 1941 he was priest-in-charge of the parish of Wilburton, near Cambridge; from 1941 to 1943 Assistant Master at Denstone College, Staffordshire; and from 1943 to 1946 Rector of Glaston with Bisbrooke, Rutland. In 1946 he became Rector of Rampton, Cambridge and held a research fellowship at Peterhouse. At this time he worked on the materials of his book on *The Foundations of the Christian Faith* (Black, 1950). In 1950 he was appointed a University lecturer in Divinity. In 1951 he became Domestic Bursar of his College, later Senior Bursar; and in 1953 Dean of Peterhouse with an official fellowship. He contributed essays to two symposia, *Studies in Ephesians* and *Studies in the Fourth Gospel* (Mowbray, 1956 and 1957 respectively). He provided a section on 'Textual Criticism of the Pauline Epistles' for Professor C. F. D. Moule's Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary on *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians and to Philemon* (Cambridge University Press, 1957),

and another section on 'Textual Criticism of the Gospels' for C. E. B. Cranfield's commentary in the same series on *The Gospel according to Saint Mark* (Cambridge University Press, 1959). His most recent work is an article on 'The Literature and Canon of the New Testament' and the commentary on Galatians in *Peake's Commentary on the Bible* which Professor M. Black has recently edited (Nelson, 1962); an essay on 'The Meaning and Authority of the New Testament' in *Soundings—Essays Concerning Christian Understanding*, ed. A. R. Vidler (Cambridge University Press, 1962); and articles in *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. G. A. Buttrick (Abingdon Press, 1962). It was known that he had been working for some time at a commentary on the Fourth Gospel, and it is much to be hoped that some at least of his material is sufficiently far advanced to appear in print.

K. GRAYSTON