

fostering attention. In short, the honorary offices conferred upon him on his retirement were to him anything but sinecures; only the difficulties of the times put an end to his attendance at the meetings of the Visitors in his last years.

Evans's benefactions to the Museum, numerous and important as they were, can only here be sketched in the broadest outline. During his term of office he repeatedly supplemented the exiguous funds allotted to the Museum's upkeep by contributions either towards special purposes in his scheme of development or towards the acquisition of particular *desiderata*. Later he came forward on many occasions with the same open-handed generosity, in one case by way of protest against what he considered callous disregard of another great benefactor.

His benefactions in kind were on the same munificent scale. The Minoan collection alone with its culminating gift of many valuable specimens, above all of his unrivalled series of seal-stones and gold rings from Crete and the mainland, would alone have earned him a lasting tribute of gratitude. But other sections, too, were similarly enriched, especially by large additions from the great collections inherited from his father Sir John Evans. From that source at different times he presented to the University Roman pottery, Anglo-Saxon jewellery and allied antiquities, and the extensive series of Stone and Bronze implements.

The inauguration of the Coin Room in 1921 Evans marked by the gift of his father's English historical medals, and at other times he added groups of Greek, Roman, ancient British, and Anglo-Saxon coins. By his will the Museum has received valuable numismatic and archaeological additions besides pictures and the first choice from his rich antiquarian library.

RALPH HARE GRIFFIN. Born 30th April 1854; died 20th August 1941

Ralph Hare Griffin died at The Warren House, Micheldever, on 20th August 1941. He was born on 30th April 1854 at Ospringe in Kent, a county for which he always had the greatest affection. His father, William Nathaniel Griffin, who was Senior Wrangler in 1837, was elected to a Fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge, in the same year; he was an active member of the Cambridge Camden Society, of which he was President in 1843-4. In 1848 he was presented to the college living of Ospringe, where he remained until his death in 1892. His son Ralph entered in St. John's in 1873, but remained only two years. He became a Barrister-at-Law and was a member of the Inner Temple. From 1890 until 1920 he held the post of Registrar of Designs and Trade-marks. In 1921 he became Secretary of our Society, a post for which he was peculiarly well fitted, for with his wide interests and learning, his stately yet benign manner, and his shrewd judgement tempered by true kindness, he might have served as the ideal type of a savant.

Shortly after the last war Griffin undertook the arrangement of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's collection of rubbings of monumental brasses in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, thus beginning a

work which he continued until increasing infirmity prevented his travelling about. Helped by a band of assistants, mainly undergraduates, he sorted out a vast amount of material which had been given at different times to the collection, discarding many rubbings which according to his high standard were inadequate or even misleading, and classifying and recording those that were retained. Many of these rubbings were unlabelled, and their classification could not have been carried out without a vast knowledge, such as few besides himself possessed. At about this time our late Fellow Mill Stephenson brought out his great *List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles*, a work in which Griffin's knowledge and help were always at his old friend's disposal. The galley sheets of Stephenson's *List* were brought to Cambridge and mounted in three folio volumes, with plenty of space for the subsequent discoveries which it inevitably stimulated, and these form the Catalogue of the Cambridge collection. Such of these discoveries as were available at the time were incorporated in a *Supplement* which Griffin and his friend, our Fellow M. S. Giuseppi, subsequently prepared and distributed to the subscribers to the *List* in memory of its author. From the Catalogue at Cambridge a list of wants was compiled, and a series of expeditions began in which Griffin, generally taking with him some of his friends and his chauffeur George, who proved a most able photographer and apt helper, visited many parts of the country for the enrichment of the Cambridge collection. The work continued apace, and the collection increased rapidly until in 1936 it contained adequate rubbings of over three-quarters of the brasses in the British Isles, and became what he meant it to be, a national record, whose value we can only now begin to appreciate in these days of senseless and wicked destruction. In his efforts to complete the Cambridge collection he did not forget our own, and during his expeditions took every opportunity of filling its gaps.

Much space has been given to his work on brasses because it took up much of his time, but it was only one of many subjects of which he had a rare knowledge. Mention must be made of his interest in heraldry and in the great families of the Middle Ages, an example of which was given in his monograph on the bosses of the Canterbury Cathedral cloister. His love of medieval buildings was seen not only in his intolerance of the ignorance and neglect too often shown by the proper guardians, but on the positive side by years of active and devoted service on the Canterbury and London Diocesan Advisory Committees.

His generosity was unbounded. Possessed of considerable means, he did not collect the objects which he loved for himself, but spent a great deal and took infinite pains to ensure that such things found their most suitable home, where they would be seen and properly cared for. But the full extent of his benefactions will never be known, because he rarely mentioned such things. He gave many notable pieces of European porcelain to the Fitzwilliam Museum, as well as musical scores in the handwriting of some of the most famous composers. He rarely visited the University Library or that of his old college without carrying with him some rare book which he thought should find a home there.

Early in 1938 Griffin had an illness which put an end to most of his

activities and from which he never fully recovered, but he was always glad to see his many friends at his house in Circus Road, and his interest in the news they could bring him of the things he loved was as strong as ever. It was a great sorrow to them, as it must have been to him, that the war made it difficult for some and impossible for others to visit him in his last days.

L. C. G. C.