

his work he had till the end of his days the devoted and assiduous help of his wife, whose hand as a copyist of inscriptions is seen in all his books.

H. R. HALL.

*Charles Lethbridge Kingsford*, who died after a short illness on 27th November 1926, was elected a Fellow on 7th January 1909. He was chosen one of the Council in 1912 and again in 1917, and served as Vice-President from 1920 to 1923. At the time of his death he had been a member of the Library Committee since 1920 and of the Executive Committee since 1923. He was a regular attendant at the meetings, at which he made many communications, all printed in *Archaeologia*.

He was born at Ludlow on Christmas Day, 1862, the third son of the Rev. Sampson Kingsford, and was educated at Rossall School, which afterwards made him one of its Governing Body. He was elected in 1881 a Scholar of St. John's College, Oxford, and obtained a second class in Classical Moderations in 1883, a first in Literae Humaniores in 1885, and a second in Modern History in 1886, and won the Arnold Prize in 1888 with an essay on 'The Reformation in France'. He entered the Education Office as an Examiner in 1890, and was an Assistant-Secretary there from 1905 to 1912, when he resigned. During the War he was Private Secretary to Sir A. Boscawen at the Ministry of Pensions. In 1923-4 he was Ford Lecturer in English History at Oxford, and was elected in 1924 a Fellow of the British Academy.

Mr. Kingsford was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and had served as a member of its Council and as a Vice-President. He was also Vice-President of the London Topographical Society, and Chairman of the Council of the Canterbury and York Society. His unflinching good-temper and serene practical wisdom were, in this field, even more valuable than his learning.

Although his historical reputation rests mainly on his singular knowledge of the fifteenth century, he rendered notable services to the history of other periods, as is shown by the list of his books. He joined the staff of the *Dictionary of National Biography* in 1889, and his contributions began to appear in the volume published in that year. They were mostly lives of minor characters of the twelfth century, but those of Henry V and of Sir John Stonor are indications of his future interests. His first book, an excellent edition of *The Song of Lewes*, appeared in 1890. In 1894 came *The Crusades*, written in collaboration with T. A. Archer. *Henry V* (Heroes of the Nations), published in 1901, was followed in 1905 by *Chronicles of London*, an edition of three chronicles covering the years 1189-1516. London topography, his favourite subject at our meetings and one on which he was an acknowledged master, came next, his most important work, the edition of Stow's *Survey of London*, being published by him in 1908. An edition of *Two London Chronicles from the Collection of John Stow* appeared (in the Camden Miscellany) in 1910, and in 1911 that of the *First English Life of Henry V*.

*English Historical Literature in the Fifteenth Century*, which definitely marked him as an authority, was published in 1913. *The Grey Friars of London* was issued by the British Society of Franciscan

Studies in 1915. In 1919 he published the *Story of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment*, and *The Royal Warwickshire Regiment* in 1921. *Stonor Letters and Papers* (Camden Society), in the same year, was followed by *Supplementary Stonor Letters and Papers* (Camden Miscellany) in 1923. His Ford Lectures, *Prejudice and Promise in Fifteenth-Century England* and *The Early History of Piccadilly, Leicester Square, and Soho*, appeared in 1925. He also edited the Manuscripts of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley for the Historical MSS. Commission, and contributed a chapter on *The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem* to the Cambridge Medieval History. He was a diligent reviewer, both for the *English Historical Review* and for the *Antiquaries Journal*.

If the term were not appropriated to a particular school, Kingsford might be classed as a 'romantic' historian. His choice of subjects suggests, what was indeed the case, that persons were of more interest to him than abstract ideas or administrative machinery. He had a keen eye for the picturesque, for the homely details of private correspondence, or the style and furniture of a sixteenth-century house. He was a hard worker, and his latest work shows no signs of failing power. Hence the shock which the news of his sudden illness produced in those who knew him. His person, too, conveyed a suggestion of rugged health, as did the friendly and somewhat quizzical smile with which he would look up to greet an acquaintance. So, when the sudden attack did not prove immediately fatal, his friends began to nurse hopes that he might at least partially recover his health, hopes fated to a speedy disappointment. It was characteristic of him that among his latest cares should have been the proofs of a forthcoming article and a kindly remembrance of his many friends in the societies to which he belonged. He died at his house in Kensington and was buried at South Tawton, the home of his mother's family. As an historian he will be remembered not only for his learning, but for his generosity and modesty. He gave his knowledge to others without reserve, and was always ready to learn from them in return. C. J.