

## OBITUARY

DOM ANSELM HUGHES, F.S.A. Humphrey Vaughan Hughes was born in 1889 and died on 8th October, 1974. Educated at Westminster School and Keble College, Oxford, he then went to Ely Theological College and was ordained. In 1915 he became clerical secretary of the Society of the Faith; he was associated with the Faith Press for the remainder of his life. In 1922 he became a monk and joined the contemplative Order of St. Benedict at Nashdom Abbey near Dropmore. He was Prior from 1935-45 and remained at Nashdom until his death. It was at his suggestion that members visited the Abbey at the end of the outing in September 1974. He will be chiefly remembered as a great authority on mediaeval music and his work and influence did much to improve Anglican church music. He was the editor of two volumes of the *New Oxford History of Music*.

SIR HARRY VERNEY, Bart., D.S.O., died on 23rd December, 1975, aged 93. Whilst serving as M.P. for North Bucks between 1910 and 1918, he became Principal Private Secretary to Augustine Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland and in 1914 he was appointed Secretary to the Board of Agriculture; he was thus the last survivor of Asquith's administration of 1908-16, which many consider to be the most talented in English history. He later served in the army, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, winning the D.S.O. and being mentioned three times in dispatches. After living for many years in Anglesey he returned to Claydon in 1955. His enthusiasm for the house and church will be remembered by innumerable visitors. He broadcast on several occasions on his great-aunt Florence Nightingale whom he had known well as a boy. In 1968 he published *The Verneys of Claydon*, a shortened version of his mother's well-known *Verney Letters*, with some new material. He was the senior member of the Society having been elected in 1908.

THE REVD. GEOFFREY C. EDMONDS who died in August 1975 was a keen and talented local historian, and a popular lecturer. In 1964 he published *A History of Chalfont St. Peter and Gerrards Cross*; at the time of his death he was engaged on a study of Milton in Buckinghamshire.

Other deaths recorded are Captain C. W. Clarke of Wendover who was Hon. Assistant Secretary for some years after the last war. G. M. Beckett, Mrs. M. Bennell who left the Society a generous legacy, J. S. Gardner, Mrs. N. G. Hughes, Mrs. M. K. Johnson, Sir Frank Morgan, L. E. Morris, D. W. Plaistowe.