

Obituary.

THE HON. HENRY A. HANNEN.

ON Thursday, June 8th, 1933, died the Hon. H. A. Hannen, one of our trustees and long a member of our Council. By his death we lose not only a wise and helpful friend but also a most kindly member of the Society to whom we instinctively turned whenever a difficult point arose in its management, as happened quite recently when the question of the retention of the Society's rooms in the Maidstone Museum came to the front. Thanks to him and our President, Lord Conway, this very urgent and difficult matter was happily settled. Of his many activities the public press has given a full account. A traveller "surveying mankind from China to Peru" he not only noted the geography but became an authority on the ethnology of the regions he covered. At home he was always fully occupied: J.P., D.L. and Chairman of the West Kent Quarter Sessions, Prison Visitor and member of the Prison Committee, Chairman of Malling Petty Sessions for over twenty years, no doubt his legal training as a barrister helping his natural aptitude for magisterial work.

He was the son of that remarkable judge, Lord Hannen, President of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty division of the High Court of Justice, of whom a brother judge said, "there had not been a greater Judge in his lifetime of 73 years." Mr. Hannen was a keen archæologist, specializing in Kent books and maps. He had a large library of over 15,000 volumes, some 700 of which related to this County. One very interesting and unique item is Phillipot's MS. copy of the first issue of Lambarde's *Perambulation* with a MS. map, one of the earliest, if not quite the earliest, of the maps of Kent. Another is the first issue of Symondson's large map, 1596, of which he had a number of photostats

made and distributed to his friends. But I would here testify to the extraordinary charm of our friend. The quiet voice, the courteous interest taken in what you were saying, the apt remark on the subject spoken about, and the direct point taken in any discussion, especially if the subject was a difficult or involved one : all this made him an outstanding personality and one to whom all were willing to listen. To me, personally, now well on in years, his loss is great. We were frequent correspondents on Kent subjects, especially books and maps, and I miss his acute and accurate mind in all that relates to Kentish Bibliography and Cartography, no less than that kindly friendship which is indescribable in words, but is felt in spirit.

F. WILLIAM COCK.