

OBITUARY

MAJOR P. W. P. CARLYON-BRITTON

THE death of Major P. W. P. Carlyon-Britton has removed from the field of numismatic research one of its most enthusiastic and successful workers. He will always be remembered for his masterly papers on the Norman mints which appeared in the earliest volumes of the British Numismatic Society. Although he was a well-known member of the Numismatic Society (it was not "Royal" then), he realized that there was far more work to be done in connexion with purely British coins and medals than a society dealing with those of all countries could possibly accomplish within a reasonably short time. So being a man of great activity and impatient at delay, he determined to found a society himself devoted entirely to the numismatic history of this Empire. He hoped by this means to get completed during his lifetime a good portion of the important work which he realized there was still to be done. He succeeded in gathering round him a number of the best numismatists of the day, and with their assistance founded in 1904 the "British Numismatic Society" of which he was elected President. Its first volume, when it appeared, was quite a revelation of what could be done in dealing with English coins in a scientific manner. A high standard was set by the President himself, who began in it his treatise on the coins of William I and II, and he was ably supported by works on later periods by some of the other writers who had joined him in his new venture. New methods of study and research were introduced. Domesday Book, the Pipe Rolls, Close Rolls, and Mint accounts and many other contemporary documents were consulted, and writers were enabled to deal with their subjects with an accuracy that had not before been possible. The result of these labours are to be found in the volumes of the British Numismatic Society, now in the thirty-sixth year of its existence. Truly a splendid memorial to its founder.

Neither must his achievements in another field of action be forgotten. He had when younger been an energetic Volunteer officer and was well trained in military matters, but when the War started he found himself with a big legal

practice and a staff sadly depleted by the departure of many of its junior members. Although well over age his friends were somewhat surprised when he announced his intention of remaining at home, as he put it, to "look after the Shop". But almost immediately afterwards it became known that he had been given a commission in the West Yorkshire Regiment and was in daily peril in a front-line trench. He got through the War without actual injury and at its close was granted the rank of Honorary Major in the Army. So passes a very gallant gentleman, a great worker, and a valued friend. He is survived by a married daughter and a son, Mr. Raymond Carlyon-Britton, who has inherited much of his father's interest in numismatic research and has himself done valuable work in this connexion.

J. S.-F.

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This Medal is awarded by ballot of all the Members triennially "to the Member of the Society whose paper or papers appearing in the Society's publications shall receive the highest number of votes from the Members, as being in their opinion the best in the interest of numismatic science".

The Medal was founded by the late John Sanford Saltus, Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, of New York, a Vice-President of the Society, by the gift of £200 in the year 1910; and so that the triennial periods should be computed from the inauguration of the Society, the Rules provided that the Medal should be awarded in the years 1910 and 1911, and thenceforward triennially.

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