

## OBITUARY

### FRED H. CROSSLEY, F.S.A.

F. H. Crossley, one of our distinguished honorary members, died at Hoole, Cheshire, on 6 January 1955.

Crossley was born in Yorkshire, but he came to Cheshire as a young apprentice farmer in the Knutsford area. In 1892 he joined a village wood-carving class at Over Tabley, and six years later, after studying at the Manchester School of Art, he became an instructor of drawing, design and wood-carving in Cheshire. Church architecture and furnishings became his life's work, and he roamed the country making countless sketches and becoming an ardent photographer. Later he accepted commissions for designing and carving church woodwork at Over Peover, Bunbury, Plemstall and other Cheshire churches. In 1921, conjointly with Thomas Rayson of Oxford, he designed the War Memorial at Chester Cathedral, and in 1938 and 1939 he restored the Cathedral Refectory. But his work in Cheshire is small compared with the volume of work he did in churches outside the county. For many years he served on the Chester, Liverpool and Lichfield diocesan committees for the repair of churches, as well as on the London Central Council and the Northern Provincial Committee for the care of churches.

Crossley was the author of many books and articles. His books include *English Church Woodwork* (1917), *English Church Monuments* (1921), *The English Abbey* (1935), *English Church Craftsmanship* (1941), *English Church Design, 1040-1540 A.D.* (1945), *Timber Building in England* (1951), and *Cheshire* (1949), one of the most popular volumes in the County Series published by Messrs. Robert Hale. His articles and papers are too numerous to list, but they will be found in the volumes published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and The Chester and North Wales Archaeological Society, as well as in the pages of other learned societies up and down England and Wales. He became a member of this Society in 1915 and was elected to honorary membership in 1946. He contributed the following papers to the *TRANSACTIONS*:

- Vol. 68. Stallwork in Cheshire.
- Vol. 69. The Church Screens of Cheshire.
- Vol. 70. On the remains of mediaeval Stallwork in Lancashire.
- Vol. 76. Mediaeval monumental effigies in Cheshire.
- Vol. 91. The post-Reformation effigies and monuments of Cheshire.
- Vol. 92. The Timber-framed Churches of Cheshire.
- Vol. 95. Church building in Cheshire during the Thirteenth Century.
- Vol. 97. Designs in Screens and Stallwork found in the borderland of England and Wales.

P. CULVERWELL BROWN