

COMMUNICATIONS.

JOHN PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A.

By F. C. Beazley, F.S.A.

LAST year, in giving a brief memoir of W. H. Rylands, the sudden death of his elder brother, John Paul Rylands, one of the Society's Vice-presidents, had to be recorded with regret. They were the sons of the late Thomas Glazebrook Rylands, F.S.A., &c., of "Highfields," Thelwall, and members of a well known Warrington family. J. P. Rylands was born in 1846 and became a barrister of the Middle Temple, and practised as a member of the Northern Circuit at the Chancery bar in Liverpool. He retired from this professional work some twenty years ago. He married in 1882 a daughter of the late Nicholas Smith Glazebrook, of Hayman's Green, West Derby; she survives him, as also do two sons and two daughters. He was a man of wonderful energy, and his straightforwardness, geniality, kindness of heart and readiness to help others endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, compelling the respect and affection of a wide circle of friends. He died on 22 March, 1923, and was buried on the 27th in the family vault at Thelwall.

Mr. Rylands became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries so far back as 1873, and was one of the Society's local secretaries for Cheshire. His special interest was in genealogy and heraldry; in the latter he was an acknowledged authority. He was initiated into Freemasonry in 1872, and was one of the founders of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

Mr. Rylands had filled so many offices and been so prolific

a writer in his chosen sphere over so long a period that it is difficult to give anything like full details of all his activities. He was one of the founders in 1878 and for many years president of the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, president of the Liverpool Athenæum in 1910, at one time president of the Ex-Libris Society, a member of the Council of the Harleian Society, and for nearly forty years a member of the Council of the Chetham Society.

To all these Societies and to our own, as well as to such magazines as "The Genealogist," "Miscellanea Genealogica," "The Palatine Note Book," "Local Gleanings," and the "Cheshire Sheaf," he was a frequent and valued contributor.

Perhaps the works by which he is best known are the "Visitations of Cheshire," 1580 and 1613, which he edited for the Harleian Society (the latter in conjunction with the late Sir George J. Armytage, Bart.), "Disclaimers at the Heralds' Visitations," and "the Armorial Bearings of the City of Liverpool." In addition to works appearing under his name he advised and assisted the late Mr. J. P. Earwaker with his "History of East Cheshire," and was constantly consulted in matters of heraldry by the editors of the "Victoria History of the County of Lancaster."

The following is a list of the papers which Mr. Rylands contributed to this Society's *Transactions*:

An old armorial panel painting; 32, 177.

The Claytons of Thelwall, etc.; 32, 35.

Arms in the churches of Prescott, Wigan and Liverpool in 1590, with notes on the Acres family; 33, 247.

Two Lancashire Rolls of Arms, *temp.* Edward III and Henry VIII; 37, 149.

Twenebrokes of Appleton, &c., 1170—1831; 37, 1.

Notes on Book-plates; 40, 1.

An Impressed Placque with portrait of Charles I; 41, 202.

- Lancashire Church notes; 1564-1598, and trickings of arms; 42, 255.
- The Armorial Bearings of Liverpool; 42, 7.
- Disclaimers at Heralds' Visitations; 43, 63; 45, 99.
- Notes on churches in the county of Lancaster, some by Thomas Chaloner, 1598; and some by Randle Holme, 1636 and 1652; 50, 203.
- Calendar of printed Grants of Arms, Grants of Crests, Grants of Augmentations, and Exemplifications of Arms; 52, 221.
- Warrington in 1580; 55 and 56, 287.
- The Monumental and other Inscriptions in the churches of Stoak, Backford, and Thornton-le-Moors; 57, 120.
(In conjunction with Mr. Beazley).
- Some Armorial House Tablets in Lancashire; 58, 99.
- A second article on the same; 60, 154.
(Both in conjunction with Mr. W. F. Price).
- Heraldic Notes on the Inscriptions in the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Peter, Liverpool; 59, 120.
- Armorial Panels in Eastham Church; 61, 212.
- Note to some Armorial House Tablets in Lancashire; 61, 214.
- Merchants' Marks and other Mediæval Personal Marks; 62, 1.
- Greenfield Arms and Epitaphs; 63, 89.
- An Armorial Bench End in Hawarden Church; 65, 171.
- Patents of Arms to the Butlers of Bewsey and Kirkland; 67, 148.
- Heraldic Memorials of the Hulton Family in Deane Church, Lancs.; 68, 107.
- Arms and Crests of John Westby, 1560; 68, 195.
- A Local Puzzle; 69, 146.
- The Monuments at Bunbury Church, Cheshire; 69, 97; 70, 72.
(In conjunction with Mr. Beazley).
- Impressions of Armorial Seals of Cheshire Gentry, made by Elias Ashmole in 1663; 71, 57.