

Obituary for Albert Reginald Powys, *The Shirburnian*, June 1936.

A.R. POWYS.

On March the 9th the death occurred at Hindhead at the age of 54 of A.R. Powys, C.B.E., F.S.A. (c, 1895-99), the Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. He was the fourth of six brothers who started their education in the Preparatory School, five of whom passed on to Sherborne School. He took no prominent part in School life; he was no great athlete; in fact, as has happened with many another, cricket meant little or nothing to him; but the beauty of the country round Sherborne, and the Abbey, the School buildings, the churches and old houses of the neighbourhood, and the workshop of the School meant much; and it was largely here that the seeds were sown which bore fruit in his valuable life's work. For his work was of national importance. Through his society, of which for nearly a quarter of a century he was the guiding spirit, many an old building, a priceless heritage, has been preserved; many an old cottage beautiful to look upon and telling the story of the past, but doomed as uninhabitable, has been readapted and saved; many a famous bridge has been spared. Sherborne may well be proud that through the zeal, the energy, and the enthusiasm of one of her sons the ideals of this Society and the value of its work have become more and more understood and appreciated throughout the length and breadth of the country. No more fitting ending to this short tribute to his memory could be made than to quote the final words spoken of him in the little church of Winterborne Tomson beneath the south wall of which his body now lies: "His Spirit, as they believed, would carry on his work, finding gladly, where it could, kindred hearts and minds to inspire and guide, learning still in wider spheres, and as it learned teaching others in turn to finish what he began."