

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM A. H. FISHER.

THE death of Mr. William A. H. Fisher, on April 2nd, 1957, at the age of 81, has removed from our midst one of our foremost authorities on the history of the Vale of Glamorgan, a researcher who should find a place in the gallery of the famous historians of the Vale, Rice Merrick, Thomas Wilkins, Thomas Truman, Iolo Morganwg, David Jones of Wallington, etc. He was born in London in 1876, and was adopted by his uncle, who was a schoolmaster at Llantridddy and afterwards at St. Athan. He was educated at the Pengam School and King's College, London, and became an Inspector of Taxes. He served as an Inspector in Durham, Darlington, Neath, Pontypool and Aberystwyth. But his heart was in the Vale, and in 1920, he decided to retire to his old home in St. Athan so that he could devote all his time to the study of the history of his beloved Morgannwg. Even before this, he had spent all his leisure hours in the British Museum, the Record Office, Somerset House, the National Library of Wales and the Cardiff Free Library, and he had already made fairly complete transcripts of the registers of many of the parishes of the Vale, and of many genealogical MSS. Thus he became one of our leading authorities on the old families of Morgannwg, and his famous copy of Clark's *Limbus Patrum* is well known to all the students who visited him in St. Athan, and afterwards in Aberthin and St. Mary Church. His vast collection of note-books (with a complicated index) contains an inexhaustible supply of facts for the local historian concerning the old families, the old ways of life, and the old traditions. These represent the researches of more than sixty years. In one field he was supreme. He was undoubtedly our greatest authority on the lower Vale, and in particular, on the history of the four parishes of Gileston, St. Athan, Flemingston and Eglwys Brewys. His erudition and great generosity impressed all students who came to see him. All those who were interested in the history of the Vale were his friends. In Aberthin he lived in the old Tŷ Mawr, and when he moved to Thomas Wilkins's old house in St. Mary Church (Llan-fair) in 1955, he found his spiritual home. 'Do you realize', he asked me when I saw him a few weeks before his death, 'that you are now in the room that once housed *Llyfr Coch Hergest*, *Llyfr Ancr Llanddewibrefi*, the earliest copy of *Gwasanaeth Mair*, *Llyfr Baglan*, Rice Merrick's *Booke of Glamorganshires Antiquities*, *Y Marchog Crwydrad*, *Dives a Phawper*, *Y Drych Cristianogawl*, and various copies of *Brut y Brenhinoedd* and *Brut y Tywysogion*, the room in which Thomas Wilkins actually wrote his *Fragments of ye Antiquities of Glamorganshire*?' This gave him great satisfaction. Yes, he had found his spiritual home. We mourn the loss of a great lover of Bro Morgannwg,

and a most generous friend. I sincerely hope that the results of his researches will be made available to Welsh historians, and in particular, to the readers of this Journal.

G. J. WILLIAMS.