



NAILSWORTH MEETING HOUSE

(From the drawing by Estella Canziani, by kind permission of the artist. See article, page 31).

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publishing Office : Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

American Agency : 304 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Communications should be addressed to the Editor at
Friends House.

Alfred Neave Brayshaw

SINCE our last issue the Friends' Historical Society has suffered, in the passing of Neave Brayshaw, the loss of one who has supported it from its earliest years. He was President in 1910 and parts of his address on the Study of Quaker History are printed in this *Journal*, Volume VIII, 1911. He was a devoted researcher into Quaker record and an able exponent of our history. His books, *The Personality of George Fox* and *The Quakers : Their Story and Message*, have each seen three editions and the latter is probably now the most widely read Quaker history. It was Neave Brayshaw's habit to support his theme with plentiful and apt illustrations and quotations and to be always on the look out for fresh instances or telling passages. He never seemed to regard a book as finished, but almost from the time of its publication he looked forward to its improvement in a future edition. In fact his anxiety to have his work as perfect as possible combined with his wandering life to make him sometimes the despair of editors working to go to press by a given date.

The travelling ministry which occupied the latter half of his life brought him often to London and he was a constant visitor and faithful friend of the Society's Library, of whose treasures he made a historian's use. Here it was his habit to ask for any books or MSS. of special interest recently acquired, and then to peruse a volume or two of seventeenth century tracts or perhaps some old volumes of *The Friend*, in any of which his knowing eye would often find some gem

of teaching or a fresh gleam of light on Quaker history. He would annotate a library copy of each of his principal works in preparation for the next edition ; and a copy of George Fox's *Epistles* also bears in its margins hundreds of his cross references to recurring elements in Fox's teaching. But although Fox was his great love, every period of Quakerism had a living interest for him and he was probably more familiar than anyone else with the significant detail of the life of Friends in three centuries. His knowledge was not kept for private enjoyment because his calling was to interpret our spiritual heritage and his understanding was cultivated for the growth of others into understanding. He was therefore widely beloved not only in this country but among Friends in America, where he travelled several times.

The little book entitled *A. Neave Brayshaw, Memoir and Selected Writings*,¹ will be welcomed by the wide circle of those who knew and loved him and valued his message and service. It has been compiled to give in handy form at a price within the reach of all a brief memoir of the man and a representative selection of his writings, with special attention to teaching of permanent value or of special significance at the present time. It is better to have this book now than to have waited longer for a bigger and more careful life history at a higher price. Some, however, will hope to see some day a fuller account of a Friend whose influence was so widely felt and highly valued for a generation.

A list of his published writings is printed later in this *Journal* and if the Memoir is reprinted it might be worth while to give it a place there. An index would also be useful.

J.L.N.

¹ Friends Book Centre, Friends House, London, 2s. 6d.

Editorial Note

WAR conditions have further curtailed such activities as historical research or editing its results. It has been thought better, however, to bring out the present issue as it now is than to wait longer. There are already several papers offered for the next *Journal*, which will be put in hand as soon as possible. Contributors who have Quaker historical papers based upon original sources and likely to be of general interest are invited to submit them to the Editor, c/o The Library, Friends House, London, N.W.1.