

Alfred William Braithwaite (1901-1975)

A BRIEF announcement in our last issue recorded the death on 19 March 1975 of Alfred Braithwaite, editor of the *Journal* since 1959. The *Journal* has been fortunate that among his many concerns Alfred Braithwaite found time to carry forward through the third quarter of this century the Braithwaite contribution to Quaker historical studies. Alfred Braithwaite's presidential address to the Historical Society in 1956 was appropriately concerned with a lawyer—"Thomas Rudyard: early Friends' 'Oracle of Law' ". His legal training and knowledge enabled him at various times to shed new light on some obscure corners of Quaker history as well as to bring a disciplined approach to topics of enquiry and a persuasive presentation of results.

As editor since 1959 his sensitive assistance to authors who contemplated writing on themes of Quaker interest has been highly regarded. To be successful the *Journal* requires a full flow of articles and papers submitted for consideration, and writers have appreciated his wise counsel and enlightening encouragement, which played an essential part in our attempt to secure a balanced periodical reflecting the many shades of interest which readers find in Quaker history.

Twice Alfred and Millior Braithwaite visited the United States; on the second occasion Alfred delivered an address on the Penn-Meade trial at the Spring Meeting of the Friends Historical Association in 1971.

A fuller account of his life and service appeared in the *Friend*, 4 April 1975, pp. 345-6. This was largely reproduced in the testimony from Hampstead Monthly Meeting, transmitted to Yearly Meeting, and printed in *Quaker work in 1975*, pp. 189-90, from which we quote the final paragraph.

The public has often been puzzled how the Society has been able to survive without a paid ministry to give it continuing stability. The Society has its own spiritual strength, but it owes more than is sometimes recognised to the devoted work of those who, like Alfred Braithwaite, have from a busy and successful career made time and opportunity available to nurture the structure at its various levels, to give the Society the image it possesses. His life has been an inspiration for which we are grateful.