IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET MONCRIEFF EVANS

The vitality of our late member, Mrs. Margaret Evans, was such that it is hard for us to realise she is no longer with us. For years she worked for the Society, steadily but always unobtrusively. She had a quality which can only be described as a gentle firmness of purpose; she kept us all up to the mark with her own enthusiasm and that individual point of view which is ever an invaluable contribution to any collective effort such as ours.

But above all was the example of her indefatigable work. Rarely did any of our Society’s functions pass without her presence, be it an excursion, a monthly meeting, a Council meeting, or a social event for visiting organisations. Yet her greatest effort was in a sense unseen, because she gave much of her time to the Museum’s day-to-day running. As Curator for many years she presided over Museum Committee meetings with infectious dedication. And she certainly practised what she preached, because not only did she perform a mighty proportion of duty as a supervisor, but attended on untold occasions of special openings for schools and clubs. Indeed the Museum was her baby; having with her excellent husband, the late Arthur Evans, brought up six very successful children, she largely brought up this other foster-child of hers, to its lasting benefit. She had many willing helpers, and unquestionably every one of them would acknowledge her consistent devotion and the value of her work. Even as age and ill health came upon her, to the extent of enforcing her resignation as Curator, she kept going to the best of her ability. She died, as it were, with her working apron still on.

Though one might well have thought she had no time left for anything else, this was far from true. The YWCA and YMCA came to mind, and she was active in affairs of her church. Moreover she had many other interests. A science graduate of the University of Tasmania, she was proud of her native island, and it was our community’s gain when her husband’s life work removed the family amongst us. Like her friend and co-equal in Museum affairs, the late Essie Mackreth, she will be hard to replace, but her example will ensure her due successors. She surely would wish for no more lasting memorial.

—E.B.