OBITUARY:

We regret to record the death on May 20 of Mr. Harry Purcell, a member since 1962 and a regular attendant at Society meetings. The Council and members of the Society extend their sympathy to his widow and relatives.

PERSONAL:

We note with pleasure that the degree of Master of Arts honoris causa has been conferred by the University of Queensland upon our member, the Ven. Archdeacon Leo Hayes, of Oakey, Queensland. In presenting him with the degree the Vice-Chancellor, referring to him as 'priest, educator, scholar and friend to scholars', said: 'His scholarly interests have been wide and varied, and range from the compilation of local histories to geography, ethnology, geology and literature'.

The Society congratulates Father Hayes upon this signal and well-deserved honour.

Our globe trotting Past President, Mr. Norman King, writes from Oslo, Norway, on 18th June:

"Getting a long way from home and not sure which way I'll get back. Stockholm last week and Copenhagen the week before that. All beautiful cities, well laid out, progressive and fully of activity. These Northern countries are full of castles, statues and paintings dating back to the 11th, 15th and 16th centuries. They were world powers in the 16th century, Sweden especially under Charles XII was very strong. Asked why Germany did not occupy Sweden as they did in Norway, a Swede said, "We had a million men and were armed." Hope our Museum is progressing. Regards to all."

It is a pity we cannot reproduce Mr. King's postcard, which illustrates both the modern and the historic aspects of Oslo.

THE ARTHUR EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

The work of the late Mr. Arthur Evans (for several years an active Society member, whose widow, Mrs. Margaret Evans, is one of our most faithful and energetic workers) for the Illawarra Grammar School, has been commemorated there by the naming of the Arthur Evans Memorial Library. Mr. Evans took a leading part in the foundation of the school, and was active in its management up to the time of his death.

The Library was officially opened and a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Minister for Works, Mr. Davis Hughes, on 24th June. The building was dedicated by Bishop Begbie, who paid a tribute to Mr. Evans's services to the school and to St. Stephen's Church of England, Port Kembla, and St. Michael's, Wollongong.

The recognition of Mr. Evans's services to his Church and community by this splendid and enduring monument will give great satisfaction to all who knew him.

BERRIMA DISTRICT EXCURSION:

On Sunday, 28th May, 36 members and friends travelled to the Berrima district, first to 'Oldbury', Sutton Forest, where Mr. A. V. J. Parry spoke on the history of the property and the house, a beautiful old colonial residence built by James Atkinson between 1822 and 1826, now the property of Mrs. J. McDonald. Thence the party proceeded to Berrima, where a number of the historic buildings were inspected under the guidance of Mr. S. O. Wrightson, Secretary of the Berrima Village Trust. On the way home a visit was paid to 'Throsby Park', Moss Vale, built by Charles Throsby the younger in 1834 and still owned by the Throsby family.

The Society heartily thanks all who contributed to the success of the excursion, particularly Messrs McDonald and Throsby for permission to visit their historic homes, and to Messrs. Parry and Wrightson for giving us the benefit of their expert local knowledge.