

Thomas Henry Champion

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference

THOMAS HENRY CHAMPION: born in Ramsbury in 1874, he worked first in a grocer's shop, then, having taught himself shorthand, obtained a clerical post. In 1897 he entered Hartley College, where he engaged in friendly rivalry in Greek and Hebrew with Dr. A.L. Wardle and began a lifelong friendship with Dr. A.S. Peake. He served in the Forest Hill, Norwich, Paisley, Kilburn, Manchester, Bury, Skelmersdale and Lowton circuits, exercising an effective and widely varied ministry. His secretarial ability was recognised throughout his ministry. In 1930 he became secretary of Hartley Victoria College, a post he held for fifteen years. In 1940 he retired to Southport where, through the war years, he ministered to a little church on the northern edge of the town. Throughout these many years of ceaseless activity he had a devoted supporter in his wife, whom he married in 1904. After her death he went to live at "Cliff Dene", one of our Homes for the Aged, where he became a respected and beloved member of the community. He continued to work with unabated vigour, writing a weekly article for a northern newspaper, rubbing up his Greek and German, and preaching with great acceptance and regularity in the Whitstable and Herne Bay Circuit until a few months before his death. Failing powers of sight, hearing and movement made his passing a blessed release from an imprisonment which would have been irksome to his ever-ranging spirit. He died on 10 November 1962, in the eighty-ninth year of his age and the sixty-fourth year of his ministry.

References

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