

of the members. But the best arrangements and the most carefully laid plans may miscarry if the guiding hand be other than adroit. One of the most striking remembrances of the Buxton Meeting, to those who were privileged to attend, will always be the consummate tact with which Mr. Alderman Rawson, the President, guided the affairs of the Meeting. Vice-Presidents had a sinecure, for he was always in his place; diffuseness and loquacity were conspicuous by their absence from the debates, for gently yet firmly had time-limits been set; and an air of good-humour pervaded every discussion as a reflex of the genial chairmanship. That of 1896 will be remembered as a practical meeting under practical chairmanship.

The Summer School.

THE Examiners have awarded to Mr. A. Keogh, of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library, the prize of £2 2s., offered by Mr. MacAlister for the best report on the work of the Fourth Session of the Summer School, 1896. An unusually high level of ability was displayed by the competitors; and the Examiners, in distinguishing Miss Cooper, of Norwich, for honourable mention, stated that a good general grasp and appreciation of the whole subject was shown by all the writers of the papers.

The Committee is now considering arrangements for next Session; and, as soon as possible, a forecast of the programme will be given in THE LIBRARY. It is proposed to attempt to found a small library of text-books for the use of those students who cannot otherwise obtain for study the books recommended by the Committee.

Mr. Charles Welch has again accepted the post of Chairman of the Committee for the new year; and, as Mr. H. D. Roberts, of Southwark, has undertaken the Hon. Secretaryship (which Mr. Doubleday is reluctantly compelled to relinquish, on account of stress of work), there is every prospect of a highly successful session in 1897.

W. E. DOUBLEDAY, *Hon. Sec.*

Obituary.

ASHTON BRADLEY.

WE record with much sorrow the death of this member of the Library Association, which took place at Wrexham on July 31st. Mr. Bradley, who was about forty years of age, was a solicitor and one of the proprietors of the *Wrexham Advertiser*. He was also Clerk to the Wrexham School Board, and for a long time had acted as Hon. Secretary of the Public Library and the Science and Art Schools, in all which organisations he took the deepest interest. He joined the Association in 1887, and ever since had been a welcome figure at the annual meetings. He unfortunately met with a carriage accident during the Cardiff Conference, and it is thought that to the consequences of that mishap his untimely end is due.

JAMES SMITH, J.P.

This gentleman died at his residence, Brookside, Newton-le-Willows, August 4th, in his sixty-third year. He was an alderman and magistrate of Wigan, a former Mayor of the Borough, and an active member of the Committee of the Public Library. He had been a Member of the Library Association for years, and attended several of the annual meetings, as one of that genial group—the Wigan contingent of representatives.