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Obituary

THOMAS GEOFFRY LUCAS.

By the death at Walmer on October 3rd, 1947 of Lucas at the age of 75 the Society has lost an interesting personality. As a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and as a member of the firm of Lanchester, Lucas and Lodge he did much work in Hertfordshire, and especially about his home town of Hitchin. His work as a partner from 1919 included Leeds University, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Beckenham Town Hall, various housing schemes, and buildings in India. A church at Hubli, Bombay was one of the firm's commissions and Lucas was closely connected with its design. A rather unsympathetic obituary of him and his work at this period and earlier appeared in the R.I.B.A. *Journal* for November 1947.

Although well versed in domestic work Lucas' main bent was towards ecclesiastical architecture and in his later years this veered towards the antiquarian side. This gained him admission to the Society of Antiquaries. An enthusiasm for the development of church plans gradually led him to consider that in all there was an underlying basis of squares which held throughout. At the A.G.M. in 1935 Lucas lectured on "The Plan-Design of the Earliest Kentish and some other English Churches", and put forward his theory with drawings shown on the epidiastroscope. Canon Livett, who spoke, said "he regarded the subject as a difficult one, even to those who had paid special attention to the matter". Up to the last, Lucas continued his measurements of churches to prove his theory and the writer had long discussions with him on these squares and on the growth of church plans, and suggested on several occasions that he ought to put together his conclusions which with illustrations should be submitted to some society, but this unfortunately he never did. Many drawings and tracings are at present in the hands of the writer. These eventually should have a permanent habitation.

W.P.D.S.