

OBITUARY

SIR JOHN CUMMING

Sir John Cumming, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., died in London on 9th March, 1958, in his ninetieth year. From 1887 until 1920, when he retired on grounds of health, he was a member of the Indian Civil Service. In 1909 he became a Secretary to the Bengal Government and in 1913 Chief Secretary. A few years later Lord Zetland (then Lord Ronaldshay) made him a member of the Executive Council of Bengal.

After retirement he became Vice-Chairman of the London School of Oriental and African Studies (1926–1946) and a member of the Council of this Society, which he joined in 1943, giving it the unobtrusive service that was so characteristic of him.

His published works include Murray's *Handbook for India*, 1924, *Modern India*, 1931, *Political India*, 1932, and *Revealing India's Past* (1939).

As the Marquess of Zetland has remarked: "He was endowed with an innate modesty which tended to mislead a casual observer as to the extent of his abilities."

PROFESSOR E. D. EDWARDS

Professor Evangeline Dora Edwards, Lit.D., daughter of the Rev. John Edwards, died in London on 29th September, 1957, in her sixty-ninth year. After spending nine years in China she joined the staff of the School of Oriental Studies as a Lecturer in 1921, becoming a Reader in 1931 and Professor of Chinese in 1939.

Her most important work was her *Chinese prose literature of the T'ang period*, London, 1937–8. In 1940 she wrote a volume on Confucius. She published also two anthologies of translations and passages on China and the Far East and South-East Asia, the *Dragon Book* (1938) and *Bamboo, Lotus, and Palm* (1948). But devotion to multifarious duties at the School of Oriental Studies prevented her from prosecuting her Chinese studies. Her last service was to act as Head of the Percival David Foundation. Unvarying kindness and consideration won her the affection of her colleagues and many students.

She joined this Society in 1925 and served it both as Honorary Secretary and a Member of Council.

H. G. RAWLINSON

Hugh George Rawlinson, whom death has lately removed, was born in 1880 at Middlesbrough, and went up to Cambridge as a scholar of Emmanuel College. He took a First in the Classical Tripos, gained the Hare University Prize, and in 1903 passed into the Education Service of the Government of Ceylon, which after five years he changed for the Indian service. In India he became Principal of the Karnatak College in Dharwar and later of the Deccan College in Poona, where he stayed until his retirement in 1933.

His copious literary labours were mainly devoted to studies in Indian history and cognate themes. Chief among them were *Indian Historical Studies* (Longmans, 1913), *Shivdaji the Maráthá: his Life and Times* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1915), *Intercourse between India and the Western World* (Cambridge University Press, 1916), *Napier's Rifles: the history of the 5th Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles* (1920), *British Beginnings in Western India, 1579-1657: an account of the early days of the British Factory of Surat* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1920), *Great Men of India* (London, 1931), *Outram's Rifles: a history of the 4th Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles* (1933), *The History of the 2/6th Rajputana Rifles, Prince of Wales's Own* (1936), a good chapter in *The Legacy of India* (1937), *India: a short cultural history* (London, Cresset Press, 1937, and later editions 1948, 1952, 1955), *A Concise History of the Indian People* (Oxford University Press, London, 1938, and later editions), *The History of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Rajput Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own* (1941), *Makers of India* (Oxford University Press, London, 1942), the chapter on "The Rise of the Maratha Empire" in *The Cambridge History of India* (1947), the chapter on the historical background in Sir R. O. Winstedt's *Indian Art* (1947), *The British Achievement in India* (Hodge and Co., London, 1948), and *History of the 8th King George V's Own Light Cavalry* (1948). And his interest in India led him to extend it to other lands, as witness his *Bactria: the history of a forgotten empire* (London, 1912), and *Narratives from "Purchas his Pilgrimes"*, selected and edited by him (1931). He edited Forbes's *Rás Málá* (1924), J. Brown's translation of Kāśirāja's *An Account of the Last Battle of Panipat*, with introduction, etc. (1926), John Ovington's *A Voyage to Surat* (1929), Basil Hall's *Travels in India, Ceylon and Borneo* (selected) (1931), and a revision of Vincent Smith's *The Oxford Student's History of India* (1926, 1929); and he published *A Garland of Indian Poetry* (1946).

Nor does the tale of his publications end with the above. *Musis amicus*, he traversed broad regions of other literature leading him to produce much miscellaneous matter in the capacity of editor. Thus he edited J. A. Froude's "Selected Essays" in Longmans' *British Classics for India* (1915), *Literary Essays* (Macmillan, London, 1920), Morley's *Select Essays*, with introduction and notes (1923), *Selected Essays* of Matthew Arnold (1924), Selections from Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1925), R. L. Stevenson's *Selected Essays*, with introduction and notes (1923, 1925), Walter Pater's *Selected Essays* (1927), A. E. Becher's *Personal Reminiscences* (1930), and Viscountess Falkland's *Chow Chow*, with introduction and notes.

L. D. BARNETT.

WALTER PERCEVAL YETTS

Professor W. Perceval Yetts, C.B.E., D.Lit., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., was born on 25th April, 1878, and died on 14th May, 1957. From Bradfield College he went to Lausanne before beginning his medical studies at London, where he qualified as physician and surgeon in 1903, and entered the Royal Naval Medical Service. He was placed first on passing out of Haslar in 1904, and was awarded the Admiralty Gold Medal in Naval Hygiene. His interest in Chinese art and culture was aroused on his first arrival on the China coast in H.M.S. *Thistle*, and the subject soon began to attract him irresistibly. In 1911 he was promoted Staff Surgeon, but resigned from the service on his marriage in the following year. Then came the turning point in his career. He was appointed Acting Physician to the British Legation in Peking, and at once fell under the spell of the beauty and dignity of that city. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he volunteered to rejoin the Navy, but was promptly commissioned in the R.A.M.C. in which he served with distinction and was awarded the O.B.E. After further service as a medical officer in government departments he retired and devoted himself entirely to the pursuits which had now come to occupy almost the whole of his leisure time.

He had already contributed articles on a variety of subjects to the *Journal* of this Society, in which he was destined to find some life-long friendships. Especially productive was that with L. C. Hopkins, the doyen of Chinese epigraphists in the West, whose writings in the *Journal* were then attracting keen attention. Yetts's