

Col. Sir Bruce Gordon Seton.

By the death of Sir Bruce Gordon Seton, Ninth Baronet of Abercorn, on 3rd July 1932, the Society loses a Fellow who throughout a life of activities of very diverse nature was impelled by a single motive—to study the individual, and, with the knowledge so gained, to help him. He was born in 1868, and in 1892 passed first into the Indian Medical Service. After active service in Waziristan and in the Tochi Valley he was selected for administrative work, and eventually was appointed Deputy Director-General of the Service. As officer in charge of personnel, he was in a position which gave scope to the qualities which he possessed in so high a degree. On the outbreak of the Great War he was placed in charge of the Kitchener Hospital at Brighton for soldiers of the Indian Army. By the aid of an elaborate system of card indexing, which later was widely adopted, he was enabled to identify the individual and to study his needs. He retired from the Service in 1917 with the distinctions of Honorary Physician to the Viceroy and Companionship of the Bath, and found a new sphere of work in the engineering firm of Stewarts & Lloyds. As assistant secretary he was called upon to deal with a large staff of employees, and shortly afterwards he was elected secretary of the Scottish Tubemakers' Wages Association. The words of the Vice-Chairman of that Society summarise a story fraught with humour and pathos. "He came into close contact with the men's leaders and delegates when delicate and difficult matters relating to rates of wages and conditions of work had to be negotiated. By his tactful and courageous handling of these matters he secured the confidence and respect, not only of the employers, but also of the men. To his skilful handling of these questions we can largely attribute the fact that during the period of his office the many difficult problems which arose were in the end settled to the satisfaction of both sides, and in no case did any strike or stoppage occur."

It was almost natural that the study which attracted him was that of biographical history. For the Scottish History Society he prepared *The Prisoners of the '45*, in three volumes, a work of permanent and very great value. He completed and edited the late General Mahon's *Tragedy of Kirk o' Field*. *The Pipes of War*, a large volume, relates largely to the part played by pipers in the Great War. He edited Cordara's *Commentary on the Expedition of Prince Charles Edward Stuart*, and also contributed

numerous articles to the *Scottish Historical Review*, including one on the orderly book of Lord Ogilvie's Regiment, and another on "Wemyss of Bogie." Shortly before his death he completed a history of the Seton family from the twelfth century onwards, which he whimsically entitled *Lost Causes*. This remains unpublished. He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1926 on account of his historical researches. The charm of his personality attracted men of all classes, and to each he gave his whole-hearted sympathy. When he gave his friendship, he gave it with both hands.

A. G. M.