

OBITUARY NOTICES.

PROFESSOR KIELHORN, C.I.E.

IN the person of Professor Franz Kielhorn, who died suddenly at Göttingen on the 19th March, there has passed away a great scholar, whose loss will be felt in every line of Indian research. Born at Osnabrück in Westphalia on the 31st May, 1840, he was educated as a boy in the Gymnasium at Bernburg, Duchy of Anhalt. He subsequently studied under Benfey at Göttingen, under Stenzler at Breslau, and under Weber at Berlin. And he took his Doctor's degree, at the age of twenty-one, at Leipzig. He then proceeded to England, and worked during four years, 1862-65, with Professor Monier-Williams, in helping that scholar to compile his Sanskrit-English Dictionary. He then accepted an appointment under the Government of India, to the Educational Department in the Bombay Presidency; and he remained in that service from February, 1866, to December, 1881. Leaving India on account of indifferent health, he was then appointed by the Prussian Government to the Professorship of Sanskrit at the University of Göttingen. And he retained that post, working with intact intellect and energy on the duties connected with it and on everything else in which he was engaged, up to the time of his death.

During Professor Kielhorn's service in India, his substantive appointment was always that of Superintendent of Sanskrit Studies in the Deccan College, Poona: but he was also in charge of the College as Principal for some eight years; and for about six months he acted as

Educational Inspector of the Presidency Division. His official work in India, however, was by no means confined to the actual duties of the posts which he held. In conjunction with Professor Bühler, he founded, not long after his arrival in India, the Bombay Sanskrit Series, the well-known merits of which are largely due to its having been started and for so long a time controlled by two such eminent scholars. And with Professor Bühler he also initiated, shared, and laid down the general lines of, the work connected with the search for Sanskrit manuscripts in Western India. It may be added here that, on the death of Professor Bühler in 1898, he succeeded that scholar in taking over charge of the responsible and laborious duties of Editor of the *Grundriss der Indo-Arischen Philologie und Altertumskunde*, the German Encyclopaedia of Indo-Aryan Research, written by various scholars in Germany, Great Britain, India, and America.

We cannot aim at offering a list of Professor Kielhorn's numerous contributions to the cause of Oriental learning: his attainments were manifold; his talents were versatile; and his writings were very many.¹ It may be said, however, that his speciality was Sanskrit grammar. He has given us, in that department, at the request of the Bombay Government, a Sanskrit Grammar, which ran through four editions, and is a standard guide for those who seek an introduction to the language according to the usual Western method. But that was only an incidental item in his work. His chief aim, from the time of his arrival in India, was to study and elucidate the Native system of grammar, with the help of the best Pandits. And the first-fruits of his labours showed themselves in his

¹ His notes published at pages 499, 502, above, are perhaps the last articles finished off by him for publication. It devolved upon the writer of this notice to take them through the Press: if they should contain anything not quite accurate, the cause is to be found in that.

edition of the text, with translation, in the Bombay Sanskrit Series, of Nāgōjibhaṭṭa's Paribhāshēndusēkhara : the text was issued in 1868, and the translation, published in three instalments, was completed in 1874 : and his treatment of this, admittedly the most difficult of all Indian writings on grammar, showed that he had already mastered the subject to an extent never previously attained by any European scholar, and, in fact, to the same degree with the Native Pandits themselves. He then applied himself to showing, in a small book entitled " Kātyāyana and Patañjali," published in 1876, the real nature of the groundwork of Indian grammar, the Mahābhāshya of Patañjali. And he then published, again in the Bombay Sanskrit Series, a critical edition of the text of that work itself, in three volumes, the last of which was issued in 1885. A second edition of the first volume was issued in 1892, and of the second in 1906. On a revision of the third volume, Professor Kielhorn was engaged at the time of his death : and it is believed that it is completed and only remains to be taken through the Press by other hands. It was his intention to supplement the work on this occasion by a fourth volume, containing a glossary, with detailed explanations and a commentary, of the technical terms of Indian grammar : but it is feared that this guide, which would have been so invaluable, is lost to us, his notes being apparently too concise and summary to be worked up by anyone save himself.

Such are, in outline, the results of Professor Kielhorn's work in connection with Sanskrit grammar. But there is also another line in which he established a reputation. About 1883 his attention was attracted to the ancient inscriptions of India, the extreme importance of which, from the literary and other points of view, as well as in respect of the political history, was quickly realized by him : and from 1886 onwards his labours were, in

fact, chiefly devoted to epigraphic work. He edited a large number of Sanskrit inscriptions, from all parts of India, in the *Indian Antiquary*, in the journals of various Societies, and notably in the *Epigraphia Indica*, the official journal of the Government of India: and, in illustration of what his wide knowledge of Indian literature enabled him to do in this line, we may point in particular to his treatments of the Aihole inscription of Pulakēsin II. dated in A.D. 634-35 (EI, 6. 1), of the Tālgund inscription of Kākusthavarman (EI, 8. 24), and of the Junāgadh inscription of Rudradāman dated in A.D. 150 (ibid., 36). He also applied himself largely to elucidating the subject of the various Hindū eras and other reckonings, chiefly in articles which appeared in the *Indian Antiquary* from 1888 (vol. 17) to 1896 (vol. 25); and there is probably not an important date of any inscription, capable of being tested, which was not, in the course of that work, subjected by him to a searching critical examination. In this department, we may further point to his Lists of the Inscriptions of Northern and Southern India, published as Appendixes to vols. 5 and 7 of the *Epigraphia Indica*: these Lists, with their Supplements and the Synchronistic Tables of the Dynasties in vol. 8, must always form the basis of work for anyone applying himself to deal with the history of India from the fourth century A.D. onwards.

We have lost, in Professor Kielhorn, not simply a great scholar who will not easily be replaced, but one who was esteemed and loved by everyone who had the privilege of coming into personal contact with him. He was the beau-ideal of both a scholar and a teacher: in the former capacity, painstaking, complete, and accurate in everything that he took in hand; in the latter capacity, equally thorough, generous, and kindly in communicating his knowledge to everyone who applied to him for assistance.

He has left a large circle of private friends to mourn the loss of him, in Great Britain as well as in his native land. And his labours and attainments did not fail to meet with public as well as private appreciation. The Academies of Berlin, Munich, and Göttingen, the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and the American Oriental Society, enrolled him amongst their Corresponding and Honorary Members. The Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen conferred on him the Honorary Degree of LL.D., and the University of Oxford that of D.Litt. From his own Sovereign he received the title of Geheimer Regierungsrat. And by Her Majesty Queen Victoria he was invested in 1886 with the distinction of a Companion of the Indian Empire.

J. F. FLEET.

J. FRANCIS HEWITT.

MR. HEWITT, a member of our Society for twenty years, and at one time on the Council, died on the 14th March last at Holton Cottage, Wheatley, in Oxfordshire. He had an attack of influenza, and this being followed by pneumonia, he passed away, after a short illness, and in the 72nd year of his age. Some years before this he had a disastrous accident when cycling which resulted in the loss of a foot. He was the son of a clergyman, the Hon. J. P. Hewitt, and was born in Ireland, but was educated at Westminster and Christ Church. He had lived much in Warwickshire, near Coventry, and I remember his telling me nearly fifty years ago, when there were still doubts about the authorship of the "Scenes of Clerical Life" and of "Adam Bede," that he had recognised the house described in Mr. Gilfil's "Love Story," and had often played cricket with the original of the "Vicar of Shepperton." Mr. Hewitt entered, by