

of an impartial and qualified observer, the establishment in Bahá'í circles in New York of a real fraternity between black and white, and an unprecedented lifting of the "colour bar", described by the said observer as "almost miraculous".

Ample materials exist even in English for the study of the remarkable personality who has now passed from our midst and of the doctrines he taught; and especially authoritative are the works of M. Hippolyte Dreyfus and his wife (formerly Miss Laura Clifford Barney), who combine intimacy and sympathy with their hero with sound knowledge and wide experience. In their works and in that of Mr. Myron H. Phelps must be sought those particulars which it is impossible to include in this brief obituary notice.

E. G. B.

### **Robert Watson Frazer, LL.B.**

The world of Indian studies is poorer by the death of Mr. Frazer, a man of very wide reading and interests, acute intuitions and refined literary taste. He had been connected with the Society in several ways, both personally as member (1886-1918), member of Council from time to time, and secretary, and also through his marriage with Miss Hughes (1917), whose long service as secretary is so appreciatively remembered. His studies were concerned mainly with the Dravidian languages, especially the Telugu and Tamil, in which he was lecturer at University College, London, during over thirty years (1885-1916), and at the School of Oriental Studies from 1917 to 1919. He had also a good knowledge of the Sanskrit literature, especially in the sphere of philosophic and religious ideas, and he was intimately acquainted with Indian life. Of his publications the ablest and most interesting was no doubt the last, *Indian Thought, Past and Present* (1915), a work of ripe reflection and wide knowledge. His *Literary History of India* (1898) was stimulating, and, in illustrating the Dravidian literatures in connexion with the Sanskrit, original. *Silent Gods and Sun-steeped Lands*

(second edition 1896) shed interesting lights upon the social life of the Telugu country. In 1897 he wrote the *Story of India* in the well-known series, and in 1907 he compiled for the League of the Empire a Text-book of Indian History.

By birth (1854), temperament, and intellect, Mr. Frazer was an Irishman. He belonged to a notable group of the famous Professor Atkinson's pupils in the Dublin University, who have contributed in an eminent degree to the knowledge of Indian languages, sociology, and history. His work as an Indian civilian (1877-86) was unfortunately cut short by ill-health. Returning to England, he became Principal Librarian and Secretary of the London Institution, as well as Lecturer at University College. In the transfer of the Institution's building to the School of Oriental Studies he played, by way of initiation and influence, an important part. Pensioned in consequence of the transfer, he returned in 1917 as lecturer in Telugu and Tamil, a post which he finally resigned in 1919. As recently as the latter year he was appointed (by the India Office) to the Governing Body.

F. W. T.

---

The Society has just sustained a loss in the person of Mr. Longworth Dames, a much-esteemed member of Council. An obituary notice will appear in the April Journal.