

OBITUARY NOTICE.

---

*Mr. Marcus Nathan Adler.*

THE death of Mr. Marcus Nathan Adler, to which the President referred at the Sessional Meeting on the 27th February last, removes from the ranks of the Institute a man of singular versatility, and with very varied interests.

Born in Hanover in 1837, Mr. Adler was educated at University College, London, where he soon made his mark, especially in Mathematics. He graduated as M.A. in Mathematics at the London University, and, later, was one of the founders of the London Mathematical Society and the Royal Statistical Society. He entered the service of the "Alliance" in 1857, was appointed

Actuary to that Company in 1867, and retired in 1902 with the title of Consulting Actuary, which he retained until his death.

Since his retirement he had not been seen frequently at the Meetings of the Institute, but formerly he had attended regularly and had taken a prominent part in its discussions. He served on the Council for many years, for some time as a Vice-President. His principal contributions to the Proceedings of the Institute were his Memoir of Gompertz (*J.I.A.*, vol. xiii), and his papers on the Government Schemes of Annuities and Assurances, to be found in the twelfth volume of the *Journal*.

Mr. Adler's principal interests lay not so much in the scientific side of the profession to which he belonged as in the applications of its science to problems not directly connected with the profession. As an instance of this may be mentioned his very happy and original suggestion which led to the creation of the "B" Annuities of the Indian Railway Companies. In his earlier days he took a prominent part in some of the most important amalgamations which followed the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1870.

Outside the Actuarial profession, Mr. Adler's interests were chiefly educational and philanthropic. For the greater part of his life he was President of the Stepney Jewish Schools, and he took the deepest interest in social work among the members of his community in the East End of London. In Jewish literature he was a *savant* of considerable distinction and originality. At the Oriental congress of 1891 he contributed a paper on the Vital Statistics among the Jews and the Health Laws of the Bible, which created great interest, and his later contributions include articles on the Chinese Jews, Jewish Pilgrims to Palestine, and his new critical edition and translation of "The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela," published in 1907.

Mr. Adler was a man of tender sympathies and a charitable disposition, and his geniality and kindness of character endeared him to the many friends who will mourn his loss.