OBITUARIES

Charles Otto Blagden

Born on 6th September, 1864, Dr. Blagden died on 25th August, 1949. From Dulwich he won a scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he took a first in *Literæ Humaniores*. In 1888 he entered the Straits Settlements Civil Service, but in 1897 was forced by ill health to leave Malaya. In 1898 he joined Gray's Inn as a Holt scholar and was called to the bar in 1900. In 1917 he was appointed a Lecturer in Malay at the School of Oriental Studies and before retiring in 1935 was promoted Reader and then Dean. For 1923–1933 and 1935–1938 he was a Vice-President and from 1938–1949 an honorary Vice-President of this Society.

Dr. Blagden wrote many papers and reviews for the Journals of this Society and its Malayan Branch. In 1916 he translated a volume of essays by Renward Brandstetter on Indonesian linguistics. In 1917 he collaborated with me in compiling a Malay Reader, and in 1934 I induced him to send to the press a MS., over which he had long worked, on an *English Malay Phrase Book*. Between 1920 and 1935 he produced an edition of Mon inscriptions in *Epigraphia Birmanica*. His greatest single contribution to Malayan research was the comparative vocabulary of aboriginal races in *Pagan Races of the Malay Peninsula* (1906).

Dr. Blagden was a sound scholar, whose work was invariably reliable. Its quality was some compensation for a temperamental diffidence that hindered productivity. As a teacher he took infinite pains and commanded the affection and respect of his students.

R. O. WINSTEDT.

Mr. C. N. Seddon

Charles Norman Seddon, late Indian Civil Service on the Bombay side, died at Oxford at the age of 79. Passing into the Service from Liverpool College in 1889, he spent two years at Balliol College before leaving for India, where he had a distinguished career, mainly in the province and Indian states of Gujarat, being at one time Diwan to the Gaikwar of Baroda, Maharaja Sayajirao III. Seddon's

knowledge of the vernaculars of the Bombay Presidency, Marathi, and Gujarati, was remarkable. He also took honours in Persian in a local examination early in his service.

Thus, on retirement, settling in Oxford, he was able to render valuable assistance to the University as Reader in Persian and Marathi.

In 1928 he was Honorary Secretary to the Triennial Congress of Orientalists at Oxford. He was made an M.A. by decree in that year for his contributions to philology. Among his published works are to be noted an *Elementary Marathi Grammar* and a *Chronicle of the Early Safāwis*.

Before retiring, Seddon was for a time a member of the Executive Council and President of the Civil and Military Examination Board in Bombay.

As a good type of scholar-administrator Seddon will be greatly missed. He had many friends in Oxford, but was much cut off from them in later years by increasing ill-health, so that the end came as a happy release. The Society has lost in him a valuable contributor to its *Journal*.

R. E. ENTHOVEN.

Mrs. Frazer

An important link with the past has been snapped by the death, on 18th January, at the ripe age of 84, of Mrs. Frazer, the first woman secretary of the Society.

Appointed (as Miss Charlotte Hughes) assistant secretary in 1892, she showed such sterling qualities that, when in 1905 the higher post became vacant, she was promptly elected. During the next thirteen years she proved herself a most efficient administrator, a competent editor of the Society's *Journal*, and a vigilant guardian of its finances. Her ambition was to move the Society from its cramped quarters in Albemarle Street, but in this she was foiled by the outbreak of the First World War. In 1918 Miss Hughes resigned her post upon her marriage to Mr. R. W. Frazer, a retired Madras civilian and the author of *A Literary History of India*. A happy union was cut short in 1921 by Mr. Frazer's death. Six years later his widow was persuaded to return to the post of secretary but relinquished it finally in 1930. Then, accompanied by her step-daughter, Miss Frazer, she made a world tour, visiting Ceylon,