

OBITUARY NOTICE

Robert Sewell

Mr. Sewell, who recently died at the age of 80, had a long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service. Educated at St. Peter's College, Radley, he entered the service in 1866, and arrived in India on the 19th December, 1868. The substantive appointments which he held were those of Assistant Collector and Magistrate (North Arcot, 1869, Godavari, 1873), Special Assistant Collector and Magistrate (Chingleput, 1880, Malabar, 1881), Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate (Tinnevely, 1884), District and Sessions Judge (Kistna, S. Malabar, and N. Malabar, 1888, Salem, 1889, Bellary, 1890), and Collector and Magistrate (Bellary, 1890 and 1891), besides officiating in various other capacities. He retired in December, 1894, and thenceforth devoted himself with characteristic vigour to the historical and chronological studies in which he had already won distinction. His contributions, which included many valuable papers in this *Journal*, the *Indian Antiquary*, and the *Epigraphica Indica*, are too numerous to catalogue here; we need only mention his "Report on the Amaravati Tope and Excavation on its Site" (1880), "Chronological Tables for South India" (1881), "Lists of Antiquarian Remains in the Presidency of Madras" (1882 and 1884, forming vols. i-ii of the *Archæological Survey of South India*), "A Sketch of the Dynasties of South India" (1883), "Indian Chronology," prepared in conjunction with Mr. Śankar Bālkrishṇa Dikshit (1894), with the supplementary "Eclipses of the Moon in India" (1898), "Indian Chronography" (1912), and "The Siddhantas and the Indian Calendar" (1924), and "A Forgotten Empire—Vijayanagar" (1900, new ed. 1924). The last of these works, in which he retold the story of the forgotten glories of the Vijayanagar Empire, is probably the most popular of his works, and has had

a profound influence on historical studies, especially in India. But all his work was good. He had the true scholar's capacity for taking infinite pains, especially in archæology and chronology: the immense series of valuable mathematical tables which he prepared seemed to be produced by him, in the Sanskrit phrase, *līlayā*. Almost to the end he worked on with undiminished strength of intellect, and to those who loved and admired him it is consoling to know that his last work on the Chronology of South India, on which he was engaged for many years past, is now safely in the hands of the printers at Madras, and will see the light in due course.

Non omnis mortuus est.

L. D. B.