

## OBITUARY NOTICE

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SIR WILLIAM LEE-WARNER, G.C.S.I.

By the death of Sir William Lee-Warner, G.C.S.I., Hon. Litt.D. (Cambridge), which took place on the 18th January, this Society and the retired ranks of the Indian Civil Service have lost a distinguished member. Born in 1846, and educated at Rugby, whence he went to St. John's College, Cambridge, he passed the open competition examination for the Indian Civil Service in 1867, and then, in November, 1869, after graduating with honours in the moral sciences tripos, went out to India on the Bombay establishment. He soon began to make his mark; first, in 1872, as Private Secretary to the Governor, and very shortly after that as Under-Secretary in the Political, Judicial, and Educational Departments. The rest of his service was spent almost entirely in the Secretariat, —chiefly in Bombay, but for a time as Under-Secretary in the Foreign Department of the Government of India,— with short periods as Director of Public Instruction, Political Agent at Kolhapur, and Resident at Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg. He left the Service in September, 1895, in order to be appointed as Secretary in the Political and Secret Department of the India Office. In November, 1902, he was made a member of the Council of India. And he held this last post till November, 1912, when he retired from official life. The first recognition of the value of his services was shown in 1892, when he was made a C.S.I. He was promoted to be K.C.S.I. in 1898. And in 1911 there was conferred on him the exceptional honour of elevation

to the rank of a Knight Grand Commander of the Order, —a distinction which has been mostly limited to Viceroys, Governors, Secretaries of State, and Indian potentates of very high position.

Sir William Lee-Warner did not take a part in the scientific work falling within the scope of this Society's operations: his interest lay in current affairs of the present day. But he was a writer of repute. He was a substantial contributor to the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and *The Cambridge Modern History*. He also wrote from time to time for the monthly and quarterly reviews. And he did much by lectures, as well as by his writings, towards spreading a knowledge of India and its affairs among the general public. In the way of separate publications he gave us —in 1894, "*The Protected Princes of India*", of which a second edition was issued in 1910 under the title of "*The Native States of India*"; in 1897, "*The Citizen of India*", of which a revised edition was issued in 1907; in 1904, "*The Life of the Marquis of Dalhousie*" (two volumes); and in 1908, "*Memoirs of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman*". Of these books the first two are of special practical value. The first of them, "*The Native States of India*" according to the title of its second edition, is well known as a standard work on the history and status of those parts of India which are under the independent administration of the Native princes and other rulers, on the rights and obligations of the possessors of those territories, and on the position and policy of the British Government with regard to them, especially with a view to securing their co-operation in promoting the moral and material welfare of the Indian Empire in general. The preface to the original edition of the second book, "*The Citizen of India*", tells us that:—"It is the main purpose of the author of this little volume to place before Indian

school-boys a few simple facts about the land in which they live ; but it is believed that older citizens of the British Empire may find in its pages some information about India which will be of interest to them." The revised version takes a different stand. The original book, which was prepared and published with the approval of the Government of India, had been used in colleges, and then had been introduced into schools, where, however, its language was found too difficult. The book was accordingly rewritten : the arrangement of the subject was preserved as far as possible, but at the same time was considerably changed : but a simpler style was used ; additional matter was introduced ; various details and statistics were brought up to date ; and the revised edition, with an increase of sixty-nine pages and mostly a quite new set of illustrations, is in fact almost another work. To the older class of readers the book will probably appeal most in its original form, of which there were several issues, carried on up to date, before the revised version was taken in hand : but in either shape it might be read to great advantage by every young man who enters the Indian service in any department and capacity whatsoever : it would teach him more in a week, than he could learn in a long course of actual experience, about the organization, aims, and methods of the Indian Government, the responsibilities and powers devolving on him as even a junior member of the great administration that he is joining, and the way in which he might best play his part. In 1910 the revised edition was translated into Burmese, and in that form was made an official school-book in that province. Whether the book has received any similar recognition in India, is not known : but it could reach in a vernacular garb a vast and important body of people to whom it is inaccessible in English. It is open to question, however, whether the best treatment of the work for the future would not be as follows :

(1) for colleges and general readers; to take the latest improved issue of the original work which was sent out before the book was recast, and to bring that version up to date and keep it so in reissue from time to time; and (2) for schools and vernacular readers; not to attempt a full translation of the whole book, but to confine that to those parts of it which contrast the British rule with the Native rule which preceded it, and which explain the purely local district and municipal administration, and, for the rest, to give only a brief abstract.

In the India Office from 1895 to 1912, perhaps more than anywhere else, Sir William Lee-Warner played an important though quiet part in the guidance of Indian affairs. His influence and action in some directions unfortunately created a certain amount of ill-feeling against him on the part of the extremely progressive section of Indians. But, in reality, the Indian people of all classes—in particular, the agriculturists out there, and here in England the students who come to complete their education and training on European lines—have seldom if ever had a friend more warmly and actively devoted to their interests. It is greatly to be regretted that his death, following so soon after his retirement from official work, has cut short a career in which he might still have done much towards helping to promote the welfare of the people of India and to strengthen the British rule.

J. F. FLEET.