

## OBITUARY NOTICES

### Sir Flinders Petrie, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.B.A.

The death of Sir Flinders Petrie at Jerusalem on 28th July has removed Britain's most famous Egyptologist. The son of a civil engineer and the grandson of a sailor explorer of Australia, he was born in 1853 and, like quite a sprinkling of scholars, was educated privately. Starting his life's work with a survey of Stonehenge and other British remains, in 1880 he turned to the Great Pyramid and wrote a classical work on "The Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh". And his new method of excavation with its conservancy of the smallest fragments from the past laid the foundation of our knowledge of Egyptian chronology, art, and culture, especially of the archaic or pre-dynastic age. Though Petrie was insular in outlook and practice, his scientific method of digging was studied and followed by American, German, Dutch, and other foreign archæologists.

Working first for the Egyptian Exploration Fund, Petrie later with characteristic independence contrived to establish a "British School of Archæology in Egypt" without any government assistance.

Apart from publications on his excavations, his work is enshrined in his catalogues of the Edwards collection at University College, London, and in such books as *The Arts and Crafts of Egypt*. Famous, too, in its day was his article on "The Egyptian bases of Greek History" (*Journal of Hellenic Studies*, xi, 1890), and he was the first to date the middle Minoan period.

From 1892 till 1933 Petrie was Edwards Professor of Egyptology at University College, London, and he was knighted in 1923.

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### Edward Hamilton Johnston, 1885–1942

The death of Professor Johnston will have been widely deplored among friends and orientologists. Elected in 1937 to be Boden Professor of Sanskrit and Keeper of the Indian Institute, and admitted as a Professorial Fellow of Balliol, he was still, at the age of 57, favourably situated for a long continuation of the highly congenial work to which he had brought a vigorous competence. The few war-time students of Sanskrit at Oxford always found him accessible and helpful in their researches; and he had taken up with keen interest the task of cataloguing the very extensive