

among whom, however, must be included all the English and American authorities on the Egyptian language. But if only he had lived to read Dr. A. H. Gardiner's recently published *Egyptian Grammar*, Professor Naville, conservative as he was in Egyptology and politics alike, would probably have been convinced that after all the "Berlin School" was advancing along the right path!

AYLWARD M. BLACKMAN.

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### Mr. F. E. Pargiter

"Mr. Frederick Eden Pargiter was the second son of the Rev. Robert Pargiter, and was born in 1852. He was educated at Taunton Grammar School and Exeter College, Oxford, where he obtained a first-class in mathematics both in Moderations in 1871 and in the Finals in 1873. He was also Boden Sanscrit scholar in 1872. He passed into the Indian Civil Service and was allotted in 1875 to Bengal, where he served for thirty-one years, becoming Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in 1885, District and Sessions Judge in 1887, and Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, in 1904. He retired in 1906. During his Indian service he was author of the *Revenue History of the Sundarbans* (Delta of the Ganges) from 1765-1870, *Bengal Municipal Acts*, and a revised edition of a book, *Land Acquisition Acts*, written by his father-in-law, Mr. Beverley. He also devoted much of his spare time to the Bengal Asiatic Society, of which he was Secretary 1884-5, and President 1903-5. He became in 1905-6 a Fellow of the Calcutta University. He married Florence, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Beverley, Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, and had one son, now a Major in the Royal Artillery, and one daughter, Mrs. A. R. Farmer, now in Canada. His wife's death in 1905 was one of the main reasons for his early retirement from the I.C.S. He settled down at Oxford, where he lived, at 12 Charlbury Road, until his death, on 18th February, 1927, in his 75th year. For a few years he took a part in municipal affairs and served on

the Oxford Municipal Council; but later he gave that up and devoted his time to his Oriental studies and to assisting in the organization of missionary work. During the war he spent most of his time as Treasurer to the Oxford War Pensions, doing invaluable work. During most of his life he was a sufferer from asthma, which prevented him from playing games or taking much exercise, but he was a keen gardener."

The above particulars, kindly supplied by a relative, leave scope for commemoration of that part of Mr. Pargiter's work which was connected with the objects of the Royal Asiatic Society. He belonged to a generation of Indian Civil Servants which could still participate largely in Oriental studies. He was a very conscientious Secretary and President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and he contributed to its *Journal* articles on the Chittagong dialect (1866), on *Ancient Cedi, Matsya and Karūṣa* (1895) and *Ancient Countries in Eastern Bengal* (1897). The first-named was, no doubt, inspired by locality, his service being largely in the east of the Province; but the two last were connected with the preparation of his excellent translation of the *Mārkaṇḍeya-Purāṇa*, which began to appear (in *Bibliotheca India*) in 1888, and was completed in 1905. It was after his return to England that he was induced by the late Dr. Fleet to take up the study of old Indian inscriptions, especially those in the Kharoṣṭhī character. He published several papers in the *Indian Antiquary* (1910), *Epigraphia Indica* (xi-xii, 1911-14), and in this *Journal* (1912-14), the most important being editions of the Wardak and Māṇikiāla inscriptions. Although his readings manifested at some points an excessive scrupulosity in regard to certain peculiarities in the forms of letters, yet in each case he was able to establish new particulars in the interpretation. At the same time he continued his studies in Purāṇic geography and history and published in this *Journal*, to which he had contributed in 1894, numerous articles relating thereto—a list will be found in the *Centenary*

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*Volume.* His *Dynasties of the Kali Age* (Oxford, 1913), giving with a very elaborate critical apparatus the text, and also a translation and discussion, of the Purānic accounts of quasi-historical dynasties, shows the influence of his Kharoṣṭhī studies, since he was led to a theory of an original single version in that character. The culmination of his work upon the Purānas is to be seen in his *Ancient Indian Historical Tradition* (London, 1922), containing a most methodical discussion of evidence for a genealogical tradition among the ruling caste of ancient India. From his sifting of the chaotic material, depraved in its oral and written transmission and contaminated from literary sources, some general outlines do emerge: and, in case some historical *points d'appui* should hereafter be furnished from other sources, his very careful and ingenious study will greatly help in extending the verification.

Mr. Pargiter lent much assistance to the late Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle in his important volume of *Manuscript Remains of Buddhist Literature Found in E. Turkestan* (Oxford, 1916), not only by a contribution under his name, but also by furnishing notes and translations in connexion with the work of others. He also published in this *Journal* (1923, pp. 151-8) a list of Dr. Hoernle's papers deposited in the India Office Library. The *Centenary Volume* issued by the Society in 1923 was largely an outcome of his generous labour as compiler and editor.

Mr. Pargiter's first election as a member of the Council was in 1907. In 1916 he was chosen a Vice-President, in which capacity he acted as a dignified and agreeable representative of the Society at the Joint Session of 1920 in Paris. For the International Congress announced by the University of Oxford in 1924 he was appointed Secretary, as is recorded in the prospectus which was circulated.

F. W. T.