

OBITUARY NOTICES

DUDLEY FRANCIS AMELIUS HERVEY, C.M.G., M.R.A.S.

THOUGH a member of this Society for more than thirty years, the subject of this obituary notice was seldom seen at our meetings and was not one of our contributing members. But he was one of the founders and supporters of our Straits Branch, which some years ago conferred on him the distinction of honorary membership. This he had well merited by many services, and particularly by contributing to its Journal a number of valuable papers, mainly on the history, topography, and ethnography of the southern part of the Malay Peninsula.

It is in connexion with that field of research that Dudley Hervey's name will be remembered. Few men had a more thorough and intimate knowledge of it or were more keenly interested in it from every point of view than he. As an authority on the Malay language he was probably unsurpassed by any Englishman of his time. But unfortunately the world has never had an opportunity of fully realizing the depth of his knowledge in this department, for with the diffidence of a true scholar he was inclined to hide his light under a bushel, and his critical instinct often deterred him from publishing material which, though of undoubted value, might be still further improved by subsequent revision. In the linguistic field, therefore, his publications were in no way commensurate with his acquirements, and he allowed himself to be outstripped by men who were his inferiors in knowledge, scholarly accuracy, and critical acumen. But he collected and published a considerable amount of lexicographical matter illustrating the dialects of the wild tribes

of the South of the Peninsula. He was also greatly interested in folk-lore, native law and custom, in short in every aspect of Malay and aboriginal life, and he had much more than an average acquaintance with the geology, botany, and zoology of the country. In fact, his knowledge of all matters connected with Malacca, the Nĕgĕri Sĕmbilan, and Johor was almost encyclopædic.

Dudley Hervey was a son of the late Rev. Lord Charles Amelius Hervey, rector of Chesterford, Essex, and a grandson of the first Marquis of Bristol. He was born at Chesterford on January 7, 1849, educated at Marlborough, and entered the Straits Settlements Civil Service in 1867, being the first "cadet" of that newly established service, which thus by his death loses its doyen and one of its most distinguished members. In 1882 he became Resident Councillor at Malacca, a post he continued to hold till his retirement in 1893. During these years he was ex officio a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony, and for some time he also superintended the affairs of parts of the Nĕgĕri Sĕmbilan. In 1892 he was created a C.M.G. After his retirement he married and settled at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. He became a County Councillor and J.P. for the county, with which his family has long been associated, and took a leading part in local political, municipal, and educational matters, besides keeping up his connexion with a number of learned societies. His death occurred unexpectedly on June 1, 1911, at his residence; it was due to heart failure, accelerated by the shock of a carriage accident which had taken place a week before.

Since his retirement from the East he had become so much engrossed in other matters that Orientalism ceased to be the first object of his thoughts, being thrust into the background by the pleasures and duties of family life and the new interests of a different environment. But he never quite lost touch with Asiatic studies, and a chance

meeting with an old friend or colleague from the Straits sufficed to revive his interest in them. It has been my good fortune to meet him occasionally during the last few years, and I shall always remember the cordiality of his welcome and the charm of his conversation. Having had the privilege of serving under him at Malacca, I knew him well, both in his official capacity and personally. There never was a more amiable man, or one that was more considerate and tactful towards his subordinates than Dudley Hervey. As an administrator he possessed in a high degree the invaluable gift of guiding without interfering, and his influence stimulated and encouraged all who worked under him. My own indebtedness to him is greater than I can find words to express. I can but apply to it the Malay saying: *hutang ěmas dapat di-bayar, hutang budi di-bawa mati*; it was a debt that could in no wise be repaid, the sort of debt that creates a lifelong obligation.

C. O. BLAGDEN.