

Peter Pinkerton, M.A., D.Sc.

PETER PINKERTON died on 22nd November 1930.

Born in 1870, he received his early education in Kilmarnock Academy. He left this school, medallist in Classics and Mathematics, and proceeded to Glasgow University in 1886. Four years later he graduated M.A. with first-class honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. He was awarded at the same time the Breadalbane and John Clark Scholarships in those subjects.

Having decided to prosecute still further his studies in these favourite subjects, he attended for two years the Royal College of Science, Dublin, where an intimate association with Professor Orr greatly influenced his intellectual outlook.

He was appointed a Mathematical Master in Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, in 1893, and during six years' splendid work in this school he laid the foundation of a great teaching career.

From 1899 to 1902 he was Headmaster of the Mathematical Department of the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast; from 1903 to 1913 he was head of the Mathematical Department in George Watson's Boys' College, Edinburgh, acting also as Deputy-Headmaster in this school during his last two years of service. The extraordinary success of his pupils at Edinburgh University and elsewhere bears eloquent testimony to his brilliant mathematical teaching.

In 1909 Glasgow University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, and in 1930 that of Doctor of Laws.

From January 1914 to his death he was Rector of the High School of Glasgow, and his occupancy of this distinguished post still further enhanced his great reputation as an educationist and administrator.

He always took a leading interest in the affairs of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society. As an author, the publication by which his name is most widely known is the book on the *Elements of Analytical Geometry* which he wrote in collaboration with the late Professor Gibson of Glasgow University.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1905.

W. A.