

OBITUARY

Professor Alice Werner

The death of Dr. Alice Werner, which occurred at Welwyn Garden City on 9th June, 1935, was an irreparable loss not only to African studies but to all who knew her personally. Born at Trieste on 26th June, 1859, she had lived in her early youth in New Zealand, Mexico, the United States of America, and on the European Continent, and was educated partly in Germany and later on in England, eventually going to Newnham College, Cambridge. Thus she became a good linguist, with a cosmopolitan outlook in the best sense of the word.

But the ultimate goal of her destiny was Africa, and a visit in 1893 to Nyasaland, followed by one in 1894 to Natal, laid down the main lines of her subsequent career. In 1899 she undertook the task of teaching Afrikaans and Zulu in London, and another African tour in 1911–13, this time to East Africa, brought her into contact with Swahili and other languages of that region.

In 1917 she joined the School of Oriental Studies as one of the original members of its teaching staff; and, rising through the grades of Lecturer and Reader, she eventually became Professor of Swahili and the Bantu languages. During the years that intervened till her retirement at the end of the session 1929–1930 hundreds of students passed through her hands and benefited by her teaching. During part of this time she also gave instruction at Oxford and Cambridge, and both there and in London her sister, Miss Mary Werner, co-operated with her.

In 1928 Dr. Alice Werner received the degree of D.Lit. (London) and in 1930, after her retirement, she was given the title of Emeritus Professor by the same University; in 1931 she was awarded the silver medal of the African Society, of which she was a Vice-President, and also received the honour of a C.B.E.

In addition to her varied activities as a member of the teaching staff of the School, she made a number of contributions on African subjects to our *Bulletin*, as well as to other journals, and produced several standard works of permanent value on African philology and mythology. But those of her colleagues who are not specialists in the

African field, while fully recognizing her great achievements as a scholar, will chiefly remember her as an amiable and genial friend and fellow-worker in our School.

C. O. B.

In Memoriam : Jarl Charpentier

There are many who grieve for the loss of the great orientalist who passed away with startling suddenness last summer, and amongst the sincerest mourners are his friends in this School, with which for many years past he was associated by intimate ties. Here he delivered a lecture of very high importance on the original home of the Indo-Europeans, which was printed in this *Bulletin* (IV, 147 ff.); and our pages were often enriched by other articles and reviews by him. In losing him we have lost very much.

Jarl Hellen Robert Toussaint Charpentier was born in Göteborg on the 17th December, 1884. His father, Major Robert Charpentier, was of French extraction, and the blend of Gallic and Scandinavian blood bore happy fruits in his son. His Alma Mater was the ancient University of Uppsala, where he became Docent in Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in 1908. He speedily made his mark. He had very great powers of work, with a notably retentive and orderly intellect, to which was added the rarer gift of a sound and vigorous judgment. In his short life he wrote much—innumerable articles in learned periodicals and not a few books in his native Swedish, English, French, and German—but all that he wrote was of high quality, and his University duly recognized his outstanding talents by promoting him in 1927 to the chair of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in succession to his master Johansson. In purely linguistic studies his best work was perhaps *Die Desiderativbildungen der indoiranischen Sprachen*, which appeared at Uppsala in 1912 as vol. 6 of the *Archives d'Études Orientales*; but he produced many other excellent philological studies, e.g. *De indoeuropeiske Språken* (Uppsala, 1915), and *Die verbalen r-Endungen der Indogermanischen Sprachen* (ibid., 1917). He gave more attention to the ancient languages of India—Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit—with their literatures, and to Indian history and antiquities. His *Paccekabuddhageschichten*, of which the first part was issued in the *Uppsala Universitets Årsskrift* of 1908, and his *Buddha* (Stockholm, 1910) revealed wide knowledge of Buddhist texts; and his critical edition of the *Uttarādhyaṇa*, a Jain Prakrit canonical