

knowledge of the vernaculars of the Bombay Presidency, Marathi, and Gujarati, was remarkable. He also took honours in Persian in a local examination early in his service.

Thus, on retirement, settling in Oxford, he was able to render valuable assistance to the University as Reader in Persian and Marathi.

In 1928 he was Honorary Secretary to the Triennial Congress of Orientalists at Oxford. He was made an M.A. by decree in that year for his contributions to philology. Among his published works are to be noted an *Elementary Marathi Grammar* and a *Chronicle of the Early Safāwis*.

Before retiring, Seddon was for a time a member of the Executive Council and President of the Civil and Military Examination Board in Bombay.

As a good type of scholar-administrator Seddon will be greatly missed. He had many friends in Oxford, but was much cut off from them in later years by increasing ill-health, so that the end came as a happy release. The Society has lost in him a valuable contributor to its *Journal*.

R. E. ENTHOVEN.

Mrs. Frazer

An important link with the past has been snapped by the death, on 18th January, at the ripe age of 84, of Mrs. Frazer, the first woman secretary of the Society.

Appointed (as Miss Charlotte Hughes) assistant secretary in 1892, she showed such sterling qualities that, when in 1905 the higher post became vacant, she was promptly elected. During the next thirteen years she proved herself a most efficient administrator, a competent editor of the Society's *Journal*, and a vigilant guardian of its finances. Her ambition was to move the Society from its cramped quarters in Albemarle Street, but in this she was foiled by the outbreak of the First World War. In 1918 Miss Hughes resigned her post upon her marriage to Mr. R. W. Frazer, a retired Madras civilian and the author of *A Literary History of India*. A happy union was cut short in 1921 by Mr. Frazer's death. Six years later his widow was persuaded to return to the post of secretary but relinquished it finally in 1930. Then, accompanied by her step-daughter, Miss Frazer, she made a world tour, visiting Ceylon,

India, Burma, Siam, Cambodia, China, Japan, and the United States. In 1933 the indefatigable pair went again to India to study village conditions, and while there for over two years they ran a dispensary in the Central Provinces.

Then came peaceful retirement in an English country home until heart failure suddenly ended an alert and happy life.

W. F.