

## OBITUARY NOTICE

COLONEL GEORGE AUGUSTUS JACOB, HON. LITT.D.  
(CAMBRIDGE).

COLONEL JACOB came of a family which has contributed many members to the Indian services, including the celebrated Brigadier-General Sir John Jacob, Organizer of Sind, and Sir Swinton Jacob, who has done so much for the Arts and Architecture of Rajputana and of India generally. A brother (Henry Jacob) served in the Indian Educational Department, and a son (Colonel H. F. Jacob, C.S.I.), lately liaison officer at Cairo, belongs to the Indian Army, and was for a long period attached to the Political Department, chiefly as Political Agent at Aden.

Colonel Jacob was born at Bromsgrove on August 21, 1840, his father being the Rev. George Andrew Jacob, D.D., afterwards Head Master of Christ's Hospital. He was educated at the Sheffield Collegiate School, where his father was at the time Head Master; at the age of 16 he went out to India, by the Cape, to join the 22nd Bombay Infantry, arriving in March, 1857. Becoming a member of the Bombay Staff Corps (1858), he was engaged from 1857 to 1861 in regimental and Staff duty, and in the latter year he joined the Poona School of Instruction, being shortly after nominated Acting Assistant Superintendent of the Native Army School, with which, in the capacities of Assistant Superintendent (1862), Acting Superintendent (1862-5), and Superintendent (1865-89), he remained connected until the time of his retirement. He was also Director of Military Instruction for the Bombay Presidency. Returning to England in 1890, he settled at Redhill, and concentrated all his energies upon the Sanskrit studies which had been the main interest of his Indian career.

His Orientalist attainments commenced with the indispensable Urdu, which he acquired on the voyage out. As a Bombay man, he quickly passed on to Marāṭhī, which he studied with a philological thoroughness, becoming an authority on the literature, so that he was on several occasions appointed to examine in the subject for the Bombay University. The Marāṭhī leads naturally, and no doubt with especial promptness in Poona, to Sanskrit. Colonel Jacob was first attracted to the poetic and dramatic literature, which he studied almost exclusively for fifteen years, annotating and indexing a considerable number of works. But he published only a literal translation of the *Meghadūta* (1870). He passed on to the technical and philosophical writings, in connexion with which his main work was done. Two valuable articles published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1897 and 1898, including a first edition of Udbhata's work, attest his mastery of the literature of Poetics, or *Alaṃkāra*, and he has left a large number of annotated texts and manuscript indexes belonging to this sphere. A manuscript volume containing elaborate indexes to the *Mahābhāṣya* of Patañjali will be a valuable aid to grammatical studies. In philosophy he studied especially the Yoga, *Mīmāṃsā*, and *Vedānta* systems, and the *Upaniṣads*, to the last two of which his most important publications belong. His editions of *Upaniṣads* comprise two volumes in the Bombay Sanskrit Series (*Mahānārāyaṇa-Upaniṣad* with commentary, B.S.S., No. xxxv, 1888, *Eleven Ātharvaṇa Upaniṣads*, B.S.S., No. xl, 1891, 2nd ed., 1916), to which also he contributed his edition of Sureśvara's *Naiṣkarmyasiddhi* (B.S.S., xxxviii, 1891) and his monumental *Concordance to the Principal Upaniṣads and the Bhagavadgītā* (B.S.S., xxxix, 1891). His *Manual of Hindu Pantheism*, an annotated translation of Sadānanda's *Vedāntasāra*, passed through three, or four, editions (1881, 1888, etc.)

in Trübner's Oriental Series, and has been widely used as a highly interesting introduction to the Vedānta; the text of the *Vedāntasāra* he twice (1894 and 1911) edited for the Nirṇayasāgara Press in Bombay. His last work, in some respects the most valuable of all, was a collection of maxims (*Laukikanyāyāñjali*, a *Handful of Popular Maxims*) employed in the philosophical literature. These he gathered and illustrated from his very extensive reading, elucidating their obscure sense and application, and their not infrequent humour. It was not at all surprising that the three parts of this delightful compilation (1900, 1902, 1904) each attained a second edition. His manuscript remains consist chiefly of indexes, but include a translation of the *Kirātārjunīya*, which will probably be published.

Colonel Jacob was a very profound and laborious scholar, who thoroughly mastered the departments of Sanskrit literature in which he was interested. He worked by himself, but was in correspondence with not a few of his colleagues, both European and Indian, among whom may be named his revered friend the late Professor E. B. Cowell of Cambridge and Professor Ganganath Jha of Benares. He was highly respected by both the Indian and the Anglo-Indian communities in Bombay. In 1914 he received the Honorary Degree of Litt.D. from the University of Cambridge.

Colonel Jacob was married in 1864. He died on April 9, 1918, leaving a widow, three sons, and four daughters.

F. W. T.