

OBITUARY NOTICES

John F. Baddeley

At Oxford, on 16th February, aged 85, died a Member (since 1917) of the R.A.S. (and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and Vice-President of the Georgian Historical Society) whose name will live long. We have lost a man of whom we may be proud.

His standard work, *Russia, Mongolia, and China* (1919), is a thing of beauty and scholarship, and no sooner was it out than he began another great book and now leaves it complete in repeatedly revised proof sheets with fine plates of his own making, for he was an artist not only in words. This posthumous book deals with the Caucasus and its mountaineers, in which he had shown a lively interest for more than fifty years, as a traveller, geographer, historian, anthropologist, archæologist, journalist, botanist, sportsman, and warm friend of brave people now doomed to dispersal and death.

His very valuable collection of books on the Caucasus, particularly the high lands, has found a home in the London Library (already holding his mother's unique set of historical London portraits and prints), and will remain a fine memorial, helpful to many generations of students of one of the richest and least known fields of research.

His *Russian Conquest of the Caucasus* (1908), dealing with the war in Daghestan (cf. also *Georgica*, pp. 44-9, October, 1936), of which Shamyl was the chief hero, reminds us of Baddeley's excellent work through many years as a journalist, for he writes of bygone days as vividly and accurately as if he had been a contemporary, present at army headquarters on both sides and in the field everywhere.

There can be now few alive who knew Baddeley fifty years ago, in the days chronicled in his *Russia in the 'Eighties* (1921), when he played a useful part in Anglo-Russian affairs,

as a trusted friend and adviser of British diplomatists in St. Petersburg, but they will certainly agree that to the end of his life he kept undimmed that courtly charm of manner, warmth of heart, and vivacity of mind which made a most attractive, amiable, and inspiring personality, clad in a handsome, athletic form, thoroughly English.

A short obituary notice appeared in *The Times* on 21st February.

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O. W.

C. Mabel Rickmers

The death of Mrs. Rickmers on Christmas Eve, 1939, has left another gap in the small band of English women who towards the end of last century took up the study of Indian languages and literature. Mrs. Rhys Davids and Miss Ridding are still with us, and Mrs. Bode has left scholarly contributions to the Pāli Text Society and to our own Prize Publications Fund.

Mabel Duff was the granddaughter of that pioneer among Scotch missionaries in India, Dr. Alexander Duff, and doubtless inherited his interests in India and the Indian peoples. She studied Sanskrit at Kiel under Dr. Paul Deussen, the eminent Vedānta scholar, and translated into English his *Manual of Vedānta Philosophy*.

Her best known contribution to Indian Studies is her *Chronology of India*, Constable, published in 1899, a much wanted and useful book of reference, the compilation of which took patient study and research. She married in 1897 the well-known explorer and mountaineer, Willy Rickmers, living for some years in London, where they had a large circle of friends, before they undertook their first expedition into Central Asia. Starting from Bokhara they made a three weeks' journey on horseback into the wild fastnesses of Turkestan. Some of their adventures were recounted by Mrs. Rickmers in a paper to the Society.