

OBITUARY NOTICES

Dr. H. R. Hall

Harry Reginald Holland Hall, the son of Sydney P. Hall, M.A., M.V.O., the portrait painter, was born on the 30th September, 1873. He had always been attracted to historical studies and the collection of antiquities even as a boy, and at the age of 11 had written a history of Persia, and had a private museum of his own, and his later work carried on the promise of his early boyhood. He went to Merchant Taylors' School in 1886, where he ultimately specialized in history, and gained a William Lambe Scholarship at St. John's, Oxford, in 1891. His degree, a second class in *Lit. Hum.*, was but an indifferent indication of his later work, the probability being that he had cast his net too wide in his reading instead of confining himself to a rigid adherence to his subject. In 1896 he entered the Egyptian and Assyrian Department of the British Museum, under Dr. Budge.

Throughout his life he was always attracted by the early history of the Ægean and its connection with the Near East, and few Englishmen have had the same opportunities or facility as he to write of such things. His training in Greats had given him the necessary classical knowledge, while the facilities of his Department, annotated by his own private and official journeys to Crete, Egypt and Mesopotamia, gave him that enlarged view so necessary for the subject. Consequently he was able to build up for himself a reputation as a specialist in this direction, and his succession of books, *The Oldest Civilization of Greece* (1901, when he was 28), *Ægean Archæology* (1915), and finally the *Rhind Lectures* (published under the title *The Civilization of Greece in the Bronze Age*, 1923, and republished with new material two years ago), show how he had gradually widened his own knowledge of the subject and how great a grip he had of the whole. As a bye-product of this knowledge he produced

a large and important volume, chiefly intended for the use of those who were working for Greats at Oxford, his *Ancient History of the Near East* (1913), which was regarded as of such high value that it went into seven editions.

But not only was he a scholar; he was also a practical Orientalist. For three seasons he dug at Deir el-Bahari (Thebes), attached to M. Naville's excavations, and frequently in charge of them for long periods, and it was during the first of these periods (1903) that he discovered the funerary chapel of Mentu-hetep II. Then again in 1918, when his colleague, L. W. King, who had been intended for the work, had fallen ill, he was sent out to explore the ruins in Southern Babylonia, Ur and Abu Shahrain, and what he had learnt in Egypt stood him in good stead in Iraq. His initial excavations at Ur were practical and successful, as also may be said of those at Abu Shahrain: but it was his quick appreciation of a situation which led him to try his luck at the mound of Tell el-'Ubaid, with such magnificent success. Here it was that he found the now historic copper bulls and lions, and the great copper relief of Im-dugud, which form such striking exhibits in the British Museum. His official account, written conjointly with C. L. Woolley, will be found in *Ur Excavations*: but those who wish to see what the man himself was like, with all his charm of manner and boyish vigour, will find it in his more unofficial book, *A Season's Work at Ur*.

Of his life and character it may be permitted to a friend to write with every pleasant and sorrowful memory. He worked hard as a scholar: in the open air he was a good walker (rarely were his holidays started without his bringing a wonderful rucksack—and a quiescent pipe—to the British Museum), and a good swimmer. He loved travelling, and many were the journeys he made to the Continent, and particularly the Ægean. He was a good linguist, knowing French, German, Arabic and modern Greek. In his younger days he had been a keen volunteer in the H.A.C., and when

War came he was made at first a member of the Military Section of the Press Bureau, and subsequently was transferred in 1916 to the Intelligence, until he was sent out to Mesopotamia to dig, attached to the Political Service, where he was mentioned in despatches. He became Assistant Keeper of his Department in 1919 and Keeper in 1924, and was made D.Litt. at Oxford in 1920. He served as Chairman of the Palestine Exploration Fund and was a Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, and a member of Council at one time of this Society, and in 1929 was elected an Hon. Fellow of St. John's, Oxford.

R. C. T.

Sir Richard Temple, Bart.

A much wider circle than the members of the Royal Asiatic Society will mourn the loss of Sir Richard Carnac Temple, whose death occurred at Territet on March 3rd. In his many-sided activities he represented a type of Indian administrator to which Oriental research is so largely indebted, but which is rapidly disappearing, with the march of events. Temple, with Ibbetson, Crooke, Campbell, Fleet, and Risley, to mention only a few of a large and distinguished company, combined the art of efficient public service with a gift of scholarly research which has furnished numerous and valuable contributions to our knowledge of Indian history and folklore.

Born at Allahabad on 15th October, 1850, Temple was educated at Harrow and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1871, went out to India, and was transferred to the Indian Army. After serving in the Afghan War of 1878-9, when he was mentioned in despatches, he commenced his administrative career as cantonment magistrate in the Punjab, and was soon afterwards called upon to deal with the pacification and settlement of Mandalay on the annexation of Upper Burma. At Rangoon, where he was the official head of the Municipality and Port Trust, he left a