

OBITUARY NOTICES

The Reverend Canon Edward Sell, D.D.

By the death of the Reverend Canon Edward Sell at Bangalore on 15th February, 1932, our Society lost one of its most distinguished older members, one whose literary output was phenomenal, whose scholarship unquestioned, and whose knowledge of Islam unique.

He was born in 1839, educated at the Church Missionary College, Islington, became a Fellow of the Madras University in 1874, received the degree of B.D. in 1881, and D.D. from the Edinburgh University in 1902.

He arrived in India in 1867 and completed sixty-three years of service abroad. In addition to his work in education as Principal of the Harris High School (1865-81) he was secretary for the C.M.S. in the dioceses of Madras and Travancore for thirty-nine years, Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Madras in 1889 and made a Canon of St. George's Cathedral. He possessed marked business ability and was one of the leading spirits in the development of the so-called "S.P.C.K." Press in Madras. His literary output was extraordinary both in its range and character. At the time of his death he was still at work on his fiftieth book. Twenty-three volumes consisted of commentaries on the Old Testament and Bible handbooks to the Wisdom literature. He was most widely known, however, through his works on Islam, especially *The Faith of Islam* and *The Historical Development of the Quran*, both of which passed through three editions. All of his books are marked by painstaking and accurate scholarship. His knowledge of Islam was first-hand and his passion for writing indefatigable. One of the outstanding characteristics in every one of his writings is fairness of judgment and sympathy. In the preface to his book, *The Faith of Islam*, he wrote : " Much that is written

on Islam is either with ignorant prejudice or from an ideal standpoint. To understand it aright we should know its literature and live amongst its people. I rest my case entirely upon Musalman authorities."

The meritorious character of his public services, especially in connection with the University at Madras, was acknowledged by the bestowal of the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal, first class, in 1906. The *Madras Diocesan Magazine* pays this tribute to the Missionary scholar so greatly beloved by all his colleagues and by the wide circle of Christian workers in all Moslem lands: "His life is a monument of the true Christian principle of service. He was not one of those who look first at themselves and then try to find the job which they can do. He saw the work and the need first, and by arduous diligence he fitted himself for it and contributed to it every power he possessed. He never worked for a selfish aim. He might be rigid in his pursuit of the purpose he had set before himself, but there was never a personal object in it. Whatever he had to do, he did it with his might: and he used every talent in the service of his Master, and we may humbly voice on earth the Divine approval given to him who uses all his talents for God: 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'"

S. M. ZWEMER.

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

Dr. Willem Caland

Our Society has lost by the death of Dr. Willem Caland one of its distinguished honorary members, and Indology one of its ablest representatives.

Willem Caland was born at Brielle on the 27th August, 1859, as the son of Pictor Caland, a hydraulic engineer of great merit, whose great achievement it was to provide Rotterdam with a waterway to the sea. At an early age he was unfortunate enough to have a violent attack of synovial