

widespread cult of a "Mother Goddess", discoverable also in Vedic, and in far earlier, India.

Przyluski's accomplishment in Chinese did not confine his interest in Buddhism to its "Northern" developments. He held that all features of its manifold manifestation must be taken into account: he was founder in conjunction with Mdlle. Lalou, of the *Bibliographie Bouddhique*.

Mdlle. Lalou, who on other occasions also lent her collaboration and whose finely appreciative memoir of Przyluski may shortly, it is hoped, be available in English, insists that behind the rain of multifarious notes there was always the developing structure of a great conception. Mdlle. Lalou informs us that during the war years Przyluski published *La Participation* (1940), *L'Évolution Humaine* (1943), and *Créer* (1943), as instalments thereof, and that he left in the press a volume on *La Grande Déesse*.

Born in 1885 of French nationality, Przyluski had at the date of his death attained his sixtieth year. His Polish descent may be manifest in a vigorous originality which he seems to share with leaders of modern Polish Indology, and which was appropriately recognized (1938) by the Honorary Doctorate of the University of Warsaw.

F. W. THOMAS.

Sten Konow

Professor Sten Konow, whose distinguished activities as an Orientalist had been maintained into his eighty-second year, died on the 29th of June, 1948. Though a very patriotic Norwegian, whose national flag in symbolic size adorned his writing-table in foreign residences, he may be credited also to both German and British Orientalism. His scholarly outlook and method were, no doubt, formed, or confirmed, by his period of study under Pischel in Halle: he entered fully into the spirit of German University life, acquired familiarity with idioms, usages and cliques and formed lasting friendships; his appointment in later life to the Professorship of Indology in the University of Hamburg was not regarded in Germany as in any way abnormal. The claim of British scholarship may be dated from his first association (1900) with Grierson in the compilation of the Linguistic Survey of India: years of service in the Archæological Survey, as Government Epigraphist, familiarized him with a further side of English and official life. His

innate linguistic facility gave the same nearly flawless mastery of the English, as of the German, language. He sincerely appreciated the qualities of the British character : the at times delicate balance of sympathy is reflected in the fact that in India he found occasion to plead for friendliness to Germany, whereas later, when war-time Professor in Hamburg, he published a favourable account of British rule in India. No doubt Konow was always impressed by the unquestionable merits and mass of German scholarship, and highly appreciated his election as Honorary Member of the German Oriental Society and as Corresponding Member of the Berlin Academy ; but he likewise valued his election to Honorary Membership of the R.A.S. and, later, of the Société Asiatique de Paris. The address of congratulation on his seventieth birthday was, of course, international.

Here it would not be possible even to enumerate Konow's abundant contributions to research. His first extensive publication, an edition of Rājasekhara's play, *Karpūra-mañjarī*, reflected the precise scholarship and Prākṛit interests of Pischel. His work as Grierson's Assistant was signalized by editorship of several important volumes of the Survey, including that on Gypsy Language, and it inspired a number of unofficial papers on particular languages and groups. To *Epigraphia Indica* he made many contributions both during his editorship and in later years. The Archæological Survey volume (folio) on Kharoṣṭhī Inscriptions which crowned, but did not terminate, his epigraphical work, was intended as for the most part a critical and final rehandling of records ventilated in long prior research. The work on the Sanskrit Drama (Encyclopædia of Indo-Aryan Research, ii, 2) fulfilled an old engagement, reflecting his earliest studies.

From Konow's India period dates his first approach to the "unknown" Central-Asian language elicited by Hoernle and afterwards intensely studied by Leumann. This, along with allied problems of Central-Asian history, became to Konow a leading interest, and gave birth to many publications, including a volume, of "Saka Studies" and, in his last years, a *Khotansakische Grammatik* : it also led to his most original achievement, the discovery and decipherment of a neighbouring and closely cognate "Saka" dialect preserved in Central-Asian MSS.

Konow's wide information and interests, independent judgment and promptitude were prolific in treatment of most Indological

questions agitated in his time: in which abundance his frequent recurrence to Kanīṣka and his era (on which matter he had until 1913 advocated the views of Fleet) and allied matters loses its prominence. A bibliography is to be desired. Here we cannot omit to cite, as one of his latest writings, a sound and elaborate analysis of a Buddhist canonical text, a recension of the *Prajñā-pāramitā*: not indeed a solitary excursion into Indian religion and philosophy, as witness, e.g., his two little volumes (Norwegian) on "Hinduism" and the substantial contribution (German) "Die Inder" to a *Lehrbuch der Religionsgeschichte*. A complete bibliography is hardly to be expected, since Konow, who started as author of a Norwegian "Pocket Encyclopedia" and editor of a stout descriptive volume "Norway", is said to have been a frequent contributor to non-specialist journals, etc., in his country.

From a grandfather, a merchant, who in 1836-7 had been a guest at Belvoir Castle and at Hatfield House and who had published "A Visit to England" (English ed., London, 1868), Konow inherited an interest in things English, which was stimulated by the visits of British sportsmen to the Valdres (Central) region of Norway, where his father was a pastor. There also was initiated a lasting friendship with the Bjørnsen family. In Christiania Konow was a pupil of Sophus Bugge and took a Degree (1891) in Classics and German Philology. Two years (1886-7) with Pischel in Halle led up to the D.Phil (1893) and then to appointment as Assistant Librarian (1894-6) in the Royal Library, Berlin: from 1896 to 1899 he was Lecturer and Assistant Professor in Christiania. After the collaboration with Grierson (1900-3) and the Indian service as Government Epigraphist (1906-8), he returned to Christiania (Oslo), where he became Professor of Indian Philology and where, except for the years of the Hamburg Professorship (1914-19) and a Visiting Professorship in Shāntiniketan (1924-5), the remainder of his life was spent. He was an active participant, sometimes as representing his nation or university, in Orientalist and other international Congresses, etc.: at the London "Joint Session" of 1919 he originated a project of co-operation between the Orientalist Societies of Denmark, Holland, and Norway, resulting in the publication, from 1923 onwards, of the valuable *Acta Orientalia*, whereof Konow, under a common direction, edited the first twenty annual volumes.

Konow's marriage (1903) brought him, along with a charming

helpmeet, two step-daughters, of whom the elder is the wife of his pupil and successor in the Professorship, the eminent scholar and explorer, Dr. Georg Morgenstierne. Prior to the heavy blow of his wife's death in 1931, but also afterwards, he delighted to receive the visits of scholar friends in his Oslo residence or in his retreat on the Christiania Fiord or later in his tiny island off the coast.

F. W. THOMAS.

Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, C.S.I., F.R.G.S.

By the death of Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, in November, at the age of 80, at his residence in Kensington, the Society has lost a valued member, who for years past took an active part in its affairs. Mr. Oldham joined it in 1924, and, after serving as a Member of the Council, became Honorary Secretary from 1935 to 1941, after which he was elected as an Honorary Vice-President, which he continued to be until his death. He was always ready to advise on the Indian Section of the Journal, and until recently was a constant reviewer.

Charles Evelyn Arbuthnot William Oldham was educated at Galway Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford. He passed into the Indian Civil Service in 1885 and, after being engaged in Secretariat and District work in Bengal, became Director of Agriculture in 1906, Secretary to the Government in the Financial and Municipal Department in 1908, and then Commissioner of Excise. When the Province of Bihar and Orissa was created, in 1911, he was transferred to that Province, where he had served as a District Officer, and there completed his service as Commissioner of the Patna Division and, finally, as Member of the Board of Revenue. He retired in 1919. Oldham received the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal for work in the famine in 1902, and the C.S.I. in 1918.

Throughout his service he took a keen interest in the language and customs of the people of Bihar, and in archæology, and, especially in the Magadhi, Maithili, and Bhojpuri varieties of the Bihari language spoken in districts, which he knew intimately. He compiled an exhaustive list of proverbs in those languages, though he did not publish it.

After retirement Oldham was for several years Assistant Editor of the *Indian Antiquary*, of which the second Sir Richard Temple was then editor; on Sir Richard's death, in 1931, he became the Editor, until, for financial reasons, publication ceased in 1934. He also edited,