

OBITUARY NOTICES

Professor M. Th. Houtsma

Martinus Theodorus Houtsma, who died, ninety-two years of age, on the 9th February, 1943, had been an Honorary Member of the Society since 1902. Born on the 15th January, 1851, at Irnsum, he was educated at the Latin School at Dokkum in his native Friesland and subsequently at the University of Leyden. In 1875 he graduated as Doctor of Theology with a dissertation entitled *De strijd over het dogma in den Islam*. From 1874 to 1890 he was Assistant Keeper of the Oriental MSS. at Leyden and for part of this period Lecturer in Persian and Turkish at the Islamic Institute. In 1890 he was appointed Professor of Hebrew at Utrecht and elected a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences. In 1917 he retired from his professorship, but continued to live at Utrecht.

The series of Houtsma's works opens with the dissertation mentioned above. In 1877 he published the index volume to the *Catalogus codicum orientalium Bibliothecae Academiae Lugduno-Batavae*. He and his senior, de Goeje, were jointly responsible for the first volume of the greatly enlarged second edition of the *Catalogus* published in 1888. In 1878 appeared the first of his editions of Oriental texts, *Akhtal, Encommium Omayadarum*. Two more Arabic texts followed, the *Kitāb al-addād* of Ibn al-Anbārī in 1881 and the important history of al-Ya'qūbī in 1883. From 1886 to 1902 were issued the four volumes, two in Persian, one in Arabic, and one in Turkish, of his *Recueil de textes relatifs à l'histoire des Seljoucides*. In view of his special acquaintance with the authorities for Saljūqid history he was naturally asked to write the article on the Seljūks in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. In 1921 he published the small volume entitled *Choix de vers tirés de la Khamsa de Nizāmī* and he contributed an article entitled "Some remarks on the dīwān of Nizāmī" to the *Volume of Oriental studies presented to Edward G. Browne* (Cambridge, 1922). Not the least of his services to Oriental studies was rendered as Chief Editor of the *Encyclopædia of Islam*, and it is probably in this connection that his name is best known at the present time.