

**Frank Spence, M.A., B.Sc.**

By the death of Frank Spence on 21st May 1929 the Society lost one of its oldest members and the teaching profession one of its outstanding personalities. Born at Newcastle in 1861, he matriculated at Edinburgh University in 1884, after an apprenticeship as a teacher in his native city. Studies of a mathematical and scientific nature were particularly congenial to him, and in due course he graduated with a double honours degree in Arts and Science. In later years he specialised in Economics, and at various times acted as external examiner in that subject, in addition to undertaking some lecturing work in it during the War.

But successful as Spence's career was at the University, his association with Moray House Training College was more intimate, and it will be as a lecturer there that his memory will be best conserved. He entered there as a student in the same year that he began his studies at the University, and in 1886, immediately on the conclusion of his period of training, he joined the Staff on the invitation of the then Rector, Dr Maurice Paterson. Events soon proved Dr Paterson's choice a happy one, and from the start the young lecturer won the affection and respect of his students.

The passing years brought him steady promotion and increasing responsibilities, until the Provincial Committee appointed him Head of the Science Department when that body took over the management of the Training Colleges from the Churches. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1922.

In every schoolhouse in the country Spence's name is familiar and his influence as a teacher will long remain. Nothing gave him more pleasure than to guide the studies of promising students, and many to-day recall with gratitude his counsel. The essential feature of his work was an intense desire for sincerity and woe befell the student who attempted to camouflage ignorance under the simulated guise of verbiage or profuse explanation. Blessed with the gift of humour, he could correct with a smile and reprove without rancour.

In his somewhat scanty leisure Spence was a keen chess-player, and was well read in the literature of the game. For many years he was a member of Edinburgh Chess Club, and often played in its representative matches.

After his retiral he spent some time in South America with his daughter, by whom he is survived. For the last year or two failing health curbed his activities but not his interests, and his friends enjoyed his companionship till the end, which came suddenly but peacefully.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1896.

A. M.