

OBITUARY NOTICES

William McDouall

By the death of Mr. William McDouall, who passed away at Khanikin in Iraq, on November 2nd, at the age of 69, the Royal Asiatic Society and the British community in Iraq and the Persian Gulf have lost one of their oldest members. He was the son of the Reverend W. S. McDouall, rector of Owsden, Suffolk, and descended on both sides from old Galloway families—McDouall, of Freugh, and Dalrymple Hay, of Dunragit Park, Wigtonshire. He was educated at Uppingham under Dr. Thring, and in 1875 went to the Persian Gulf on appointment to the Indo-European Telegraph Department. He served at Jask, Charbar, and Fao, amongst other stations, until his appointment in 1889 to Mohammerah, where he was the first incumbent of the Vice-Consulate established there in 1891 in connexion with the opening of the Karun to ships of all nations. He held this post, which was subsequently raised to the status of a Consulate, till 1909, when he was transferred to Karmanshah in a similar capacity. On his retirement, in 1917, from the Consular Service, he served in Mesopotamia as Assistant Political Officer at Badrai, near the Persian frontier, till 1921, when he took up his residence at Khanikin, where, until the date of his death, he acted as adviser on local affairs to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Limited.

His kindly, though retiring, disposition, and his intimate acquaintance and sympathy with Oriental ways and thought, endeared him to a wide circle of Arab and Persian, as well as of British, residents at Mohammerah, where he spent the best part of his life, and enabled him to do valuable pioneer work in connexion with the first beginnings of British trade in Arabistan. He was for nearly forty years a member of the Royal Asiatic Society, and during his long residence in the Gulf had amassed a curiously varied stock of information on

local topics and on local languages, to the study of which he devoted in early days much of his spare time.

A. T. WILSON.

C. H. H. Macartney

The Society has lost by death Mr. C. H. H. Macartney, who was a member for fourteen years. He earned the gratitude of Arabic scholars by his elaborate edition of the Odes of Dhu'l-Rummah, an Umayyad poet, famed for the wealth of his vocabulary, but more than ordinarily monotonous. For this edition Mr. Macartney availed himself of practically all existing materials, and his work constitutes a monument of accurate scholarship. To appreciate these odes seems to require not only a great command of the language of the desert, but a very special taste, such as few Europeans possess or acquire.

D. S. MARGOLIOUTH.
