

**Sir Francis Grant Ogilvie, C.B., LL.D., M.A. (Aberdeen),
B.Sc. (Edinburgh).**

SIR FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE was a scion of an Aberdeen family that produced a number of men well known and distinguished in the educational world of Scotland. His father was Headmaster of Gordon's College; one of his uncles was Headmaster of George Watson's College, Edinburgh. The tradition continues, for his sister is a distinguished geologist, Mrs Ogilvie Gordon; and his only son is Professor of Geography in Edinburgh University.

Sir Francis Grant Ogilvie (born 1858) studied Arts in Aberdeen University. His special subject was Physics, but after graduating M.A. he came to Edinburgh, where in addition to Engineering he devoted much attention to Natural Science. He was a favourite pupil of Sir Archibald Geikie and a friend of Sir John Murray of *Challenger* fame, and throughout his life he was an ardent student of Physical Geology, and in particular of the relation of geology to scenery and the economic applications of geological investigations. In 1880 he became Assistant Professor of Natural Philosophy in Aberdeen University, in 1882 Science Master at Gordon's College, and in 1886 he was appointed Principal of the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and also Professor of Applied Physics in that institution. In that work he spent several busy years, and was well known as a member of committees and learned societies in Edinburgh, serving on the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh during the years 1901 to 1903. In 1900 he became Director of the Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh, and in 1903 he was appointed Principal Assistant Secretary (Technology and Higher Education in Science and Art), Board of Education (London). In 1910 he was nominated Secretary of the Board of Education for the Science Museum and the Geological Survey, and in 1920 he passed over to the newly created Department of Scientific and Industrial Research as Principal Assistant Secretary. From this post he retired on pension in 1922, but continued voluntarily as Chairman of the Geological Survey Board till 1930.

It is sufficient to say of Sir Francis Ogilvie that he left his mark on every one of the numerous official charges that were entrusted to him. Ardent, sincere, and painstaking, he had a very wide knowledge of men and affairs, and was a very prudent and sagacious counsellor, inclined to caution but never despondent or pessimistic.

The high positions to which he attained showed how much his administrative ability was esteemed; and those who were brought into contact with him in the course of official work never failed to appreciate the breadth of his views, his mastery of detail, and his sympathy with all educational advances. In Edinburgh his work for the Heriot-Watt College gave a great stimulus to technological education, and many men who subsequently filled important posts were trained in that school. He knew most of his students personally, and in after life followed their careers with great interest. He took a part in organising displays at various exhibitions at Paris and in America, and the experience thus obtained was the foundation of his subsequent work in the Royal Scottish Museum and the Science Museum (London). At the invitation of the War Office he raised, and for many years commanded, the Forth Division (Submarine Mining) of the Royal Engineers (Volunteers). During the War he was an Assistant Controller of the Trench Warfare Department, and served also in the Chemical Warfare Department. Throughout his life he was essentially an "open-air" man, intensely fond of a tramp on the Braemar Hills or the woodlands of Surrey, and though his opportunities were limited, his geological studies continued till the close of his life; in fact he was engaged in mapping the Cretaceous rocks around Shere in Surrey, where he lived, during his years of retirement after active service in official posts. Although he has left few printed contributions to scientific literature, his influence on education and research was very great. As Chairman of the Geological Survey Board he was responsible for extensive programmes of investigation, and did much to encourage the progress of geological science in Great Britain.

Sir Francis Ogilvie was elected a Fellow in 1888, and died on 14th December 1930.

J. S. F.