

Miss Hull was daughter of Professor Edward Hull, F.R.S., and was educated at Alexandra College and the Royal College of Science, Dublin. Celtic she studied under Pedersen, Kuno Meyer, and Professor Flower, whose teaching was fruitful in the long series of publications whereof she was author, or with which she was connected. She was also President of the Irish Literary Society of London and a member of the Council of the Folk-lore Society. At the time of her death she was within two days of her seventy-fifth birthday.

F. W. THOMAS.

Professor Zoltán Gombocz

The death of Professor Zoltán Gombocz at the comparatively early age of 58, which took place with tragic suddenness in the middle of a Faculty meeting on 2nd May last, has deprived Finno-Ugrian philology of one of its two *altmeister*. By a sad coincidence, the death of the other, Professor E. N. Setälä of Helsinki, also took place this spring and the subject has thus suffered a double loss in one year.

Zoltán Gombocz started his career at a time when the scientific study of Hungarian was still in its infancy. In the University of Budapest he worked under the great Zsigmond Simonyi who did so much essential pioneer work, not only in the specially Hungarian field, but also in the application of the scientific *junggrammatisch* ideas of the time to the new subject. At the age of 21 Gombocz produced an important methodological study on the "Principles of present-day Philology". Later he made more direct contact with the *junggrammatiker*. In Germany he worked with Hermann Paul and Wilhelm Wundt and acquired at this early date that admiration for a rigid method which has always distinguished his work. He also worked in Paris and Helsinki, meeting in the latter place the great Finnish philologists of the time and acquiring the practical mastery of spoken Finnish which is so

difficult for all Finno-Ugrian philologists whether they already speak a related Finno-Ugrian language or not.

After being Professor of Finno-Ugrian philology at Kolozsvár and Szeged, Gombocz came to Budapest to occupy the chair of this subject; later he became Director of the famous Eötvös-College where, in addition to continuing uninterruptedly his research-work, he showed his ability in another direction—as a practical organizer.

Gombocz' chief work was on Finno-Ugrian philology. In this field he is distinguished from all others by having been the first to make a scientific attack on the major problem afforded by the extraordinarily difficult reconstruction of the vowel-system and vowel-ablaut of Primitive Finno-Ugrian. Up to the time of Gombocz this problem had been regarded as insoluble, but he has gone a long way towards solving it. He and Setälä (who was responsible for the reconstruction of the Primitive Finno-Ugrian consonant-system and consonant-ablaut) have thus together laid the foundations of Finno-Ugrian phonology. In Hungary Gombocz' best-known work is undoubtedly his *Outline of a Historical Hungarian Grammar*. This is divided into five parts: Methodology, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Semantics. It is an important work for many reasons, admirable for its clarity of method and accuracy and, while the fact that it embodies many of Gombocz' new conclusions renders it indispensable to the research-worker in the difficult field of Hungarian philology, it can nevertheless be used with advantage by students of all grades, even the most elementary. The "Semantics" deserves special mention; it is the only book on the subject in any language which is extremely rigid in method and at the same time suitable for elementary students. I should much like to see a translation into English (with English examples substituted for Hungarian ones) which could be used by philological students in English universities. The great etymological dictionary of the Hungarian of all periods by Gombocz and Dr. János Melich which is

still appearing is of the highest importance. It is the first scientific etymological dictionary of a Finno-Ugrian language in print; although highly cautious, it contains a wealth of new etymologies, and, further, full references to the extensive and scattered literature of the subject.

Gombocz specialized also in another field; he was a great turkologist. Of his purely Turkish studies I do not feel competent to write, but I must mention one book bearing on the two subjects—his *Turkish Loan-words in Hungarian*. This is the standard work on the subject, outstanding for its completeness and for the important conclusions as to pre-Hungarian phonology. Summarizing, it may be said that Gombocz' work was remarkable for a rigid application of the scientific method to a subject which had not hitherto known it.

In conclusion I must add that Professor Gombocz was a remarkable practical linguist, that he was a member of many learned institutions at home and abroad, that he possessed the rare ability to instil his ideas into students worthy to continue his work and that he was extremely popular with both staff and students at Budapest. For myself, I will merely say that I shall always remember him for his kindness and hospitality, some years ago, to one beginning a difficult subject *via* the medium of a foreign and difficult language, and for his continued guidance since that date.

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ALAN S. C. ROSS.