

DR. THOMAS ASHBY.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Thomas Ashby, the leading English authority on the archæology of Rome. Thomas Ashby was born on Oct. 14, 1874, and was educated at Winchester and Christchurch, Oxford, where he took first-class honours in Classical Moderations and Literæ Humaniores. He won the Craven Scholarship in 1897, and in 1906, the year in which he took his doctorate of letters, he was also awarded the Conington Prize.

As Ashby's father resided in Rome, his interests were almost inevitably directed towards the antiquities of the city in which he spent his vacations. Under the guidance of Commendatore Lanciani, at that time the foremost authority on Rome, he became an enthusiastic student of the topography and history of Rome and the Campagna. When the British School at Rome was founded in 1901 he became a student. In 1903, he was appointed Assistant Director, and in 1906 became Director in succession to Stuart Jones. He continued to hold this position until certain administrative changes were made in 1925, and his appointment, which was triennial, was not renewed. Afterwards he resided in Rome without any official appointment. During the War, Ashby served with the Red Cross on the Italian Front, where his knowledge of Italian was invaluable, and afterwards was interpreter to the British Military Mission with the Italian Supreme Command.

Ashby's position as an authority on the archæology of Rome from the earliest times to the Renaissance was universally recognised as unrivalled. His annual contributions to the *Times Literary Supplement* on the year's archæological work in Italy were packed with information concisely expressed, which showed that he had every detail of Italian archæology at his finger ends. His knowledge of his subject was encyclopædic. This characteristic grasp of detail, which, however, never failed to evolve a logically reasoned general plan, was particularly to be remarked in the accounts of his work of exploration which it was his custom to contribute to the proceedings of the British Association at its annual meetings. For many years he carried out excavations on Roman sites in Britain for a Committee of the British Association, and was responsible for their excavation of Caerwent (Venta Silurum).

Ashby was the author of many papers which appeared in the *Papers* of the British School and in the periodicals of learned and scientific societies. In 1927, he published "The Roman Campagna in Classical Times", and revised and edited "The Topographical Dictionary of Ancient Rome" left unfinished by Prof. G. B. Platner. He was the author of several works on the archæology of Roman Italy, of which the most notable was perhaps "The Aqueducts of Ancient Rome". He also published a volume of Turner's studies of Rome in which the letterpress was worthy of the painter's genius, and a book on Italian festivals and folklore. Ashby was elected a fellow of the

British Academy in 1927, and since last year had been a research student of Christchurch, Oxford. Those to whom he gave his friendship could appreciate a warmth of nature which was not apparent on the surface, and they will long mourn their loss.

PROF. E. P. CULVERWELL.

By the death on April 15 of Edward Parnall Culverwell, the scientific side of the University of Dublin loses one of its most untiring supporters. E. P. Culverwell was born in 1855. He was the youngest son of Joseph Pope Culverwell. He won a mathematical scholarship in Trinity College, Dublin, in his twentieth year, and a senior moderatorship in mathematics and experimental science in 1877. He was elected to a fellowship in 1883.

By his marriage with Edith, daughter of the Rev. Wm. Fitzgerald, Bishop of Killaloe, Culverwell became connected with George Francis Fitzgerald; a connexion which may have been in some part influential in the life-long interest of Culverwell in applied mathematics and in education, Fitzgerald being a very great exponent of both.

Culverwell's earlier publications were a series of papers on the "Calculus of Variations". These appeared consecutively in 1892, 1893, and 1895 in the *Journal* of the London Mathematical Society. In 1895 he contributed to the *Geological Magazine* two papers on "A Criticism of the Astronomical Theory of the Ice Age and of Lord Kelvin's suggestion in Connection with a Genial Age at the Pole". These papers will be in the recollection of many who may read these lines. They criticise the earlier views of Croll and of Sir Robert Ball as regards the origin of the Ice Age. They brought their writer into notice as a clear-headed and incisive critic. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the controversy. Culverwell's arguments against the adequacy of Croll's theory as explanatory of the origin of the Great Ice Age appear to the present writer as convincing. They are also inimical to the adequacy of Ball's views. Culverwell rightly refers to the necessity of taking into account, as additional to direct solar heat, the considerable convective transport of heat at the surface of the globe. An interesting résumé of the whole subject and of the nature of Culverwell's criticism will be found in "The Quaternary Ice Age", by Dr. W. B. Wright (Macmillan and Co.) of the English Geological Survey.

Later in life, in the year 1913, Culverwell published "The Montessori Principles and Practice" (Bell and Sons). Culverwell at this time was professor of education in the University of Dublin. This book—now out of print—is a most interesting study of a very great subject. Indeed, the book is in itself so educational that the writing of it confers on its author the status of a most effective educationist.

In 1890, Culverwell published a little book on "Mechanics and Dynamics", intended as an introduction to these subjects. It contains many ingenious suggestions helpful to beginners. J. J.