

Union presented him with the Godman-Salvin gold medal. Shortly afterwards he went to live at Berlin, and here he had a room in the Museum where he continued to work at birds until within two or three days of his death.

The retirement of Hartert in 1930, the sale of the great Tring collection to New York in 1932, and now the death of this great figure in the bird world, close an important chapter in the history of ornithology.

H. F. W.

SIR R. FORSYTH SCOTT

WE regret to announce that Sir Robert Forsyth Scott, master of St. John's College, Cambridge, died on November 18, at the age of eighty-four years. He had for some time been in failing health but he retained his keen interest in the affairs of the College and was glad to see his friends until a few days before his death. Only a few weeks before, he had completed fifty years in the service of the College, twenty-five years as senior bursar and twenty-five years as master. To this service he gave himself without reserve. His acute mind, with a combination of mathematical and legal training, added to his knowledge of and sympathy with men, made that service invaluable to the College during a long period of difficult finance.

Scott was born at Leith on July 28, 1849, son of the Rev. George Scott, minister of the Established Church of Scotland at Dairsie, Fife. He was educated at the Edinburgh High School and afterwards in Stuttgart. After spending a time as a student at King's College, London, he went into residence at St. John's College, Cambridge, with an entrance exhibition in mathematics. A fellow student was William Burnside, who however migrated from St. John's to Pembroke—it is said to do more work. In the Tripos of 1875, Scott was fourth wrangler, Burnside being bracketed with Chrystal just above him: three Scots. Remaining in residence for two more years, Scott maintained his interest in mathematics and at the same time continued to row in the College boats; his interest in the success of the College on the river, begun then, he continued throughout his life.

In 1876 Scott was elected to a MacMahon law studentship, and in 1877 to a fellowship. For two years after that he held an assistant mathematical mastership at Christ's Hospital, but he had chosen the law as a profession and in 1880 he was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn. The end of his active career as a mathematician was marked by the publication in that year of his "Theory of Determinants", one of the earliest of the advanced mathematical treatises published by the Cambridge University Press. Written in a fresh, unpretentious style, this book must be counted a great achievement in the state of mathematical teaching in Cambridge at that time. It has remained until the present day, in the form of the second edition revised by G. B. Mathews, as the only substantial

work on the subject in English, and present-day developments in mathematics are causing its value to be appreciated again. From 1880 until 1884 he was a member of the Council of the London Mathematical Society. Glaisher is remembered to have said that Scott was a great help to the Society in a time of considerable difficulty.

After practising in Lincoln's Inn for three years, Scott, somewhat reluctantly, abandoned the legal profession to accept the invitation of his College to become senior bursar. But, like everything else he had attempted, he made an outstanding success of his new work, and laid well the foundations of prosperity for the College. At the same time he entered with great interest into undergraduate life. It is said by one who knew him well that in 1888 he was one of the most effective and yet popular of proctors. His breakfasts given to the College boats when in training will not be forgotten by those who partook of them. His gift for public affairs was turned to good account as a member of the Council of the Senate and of the Cambridge Town Council. In 1898 he married a daughter of Lieut.-General T. E. Webster. Ten years later he became master of St. John's and in 1910-12 was vice-chancellor of the University.

As master of St. John's, Scott showed how deeply the College had taken root in his affections by the labour which he bestowed on the College records. He had published in 1903 the second volume of the "College Admission Register" with biographical notes; and the accumulated work of his period as master was published so recently as 1931 in the third volume of the "Register". This work is rich in interest, and the biographical notes display the same human interest and sense of humour which characterised him at all times.

Scott was an honorary LL.D. of the University of St. Andrews, and in 1924 he received the honour of knighthood.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. F. G. Crookshank, a well-known medical man and author of "The Mongol in Our Midst", on October 27, aged sixty years.

Mr. B. H. M. Hewett, engineer-in-charge of the Mersey Tunnel Scheme, who was also connected with the construction of the London Underground railways and with tunnelling projects in New York and Mexico, on November 14, aged fifty-nine years.

Mr. John Lister, a well-known antiquary, a founder-member of the Halifax Antiquarian Society and for about thirty years its president, on October 12, aged eighty-six years.

Prof. Wilhelm Mielck, director of the Heligoland Biological Station, on October 5, aged fifty-four years.

Prof. L. R. Sutherland, emeritus professor of pathology of St. Andrews University College, Dundee, on November 6, aged seventy years.