

which cover the early iron age and more particularly the period immediately before the Roman invasion, open up a field which a few years ago was unmapped. All sections alike in quality and number of exhibits testify not only to the skill of the investigators, but also to the value of this branch of scientific research in Britain as a source of material for the advancement of knowledge of man's cultural development and history.

Dr. Wheeler points out that recent development in archæological studies implies an elaboration of

technique rather than a change of heart, while the position of General Pitt-Rivers as the founder of scientific archæology remains unchallenged. So long as this obtains, there is the less need for Dr. Wheeler's admonition to the archæologist to bear in mind that he is not merely a mechanic, but is also a student of humanity. If there be any danger, Dr. Wheeler's own excavations of Verulamium and Maiden Castle, which hold an outstanding position in the exhibition, spur his colleagues to emulation and guide them along the right path.

Obituary Notice

Sir Harcourt Butler, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

BY the death of Sir Harcourt Butler, termed one of the greatest administrators in India of his day, which took place on March 2 at the age of sixty-eight years, oriental studies in the University of London have lost one of their strongest supporters.

Spencer Harcourt Butler was the second son of Mr. Spencer Percival Butler, conveyancing counsel to the Office of Works, a nephew of Dr. H. M. Butler, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a brother of Sir Montagu Butler, now Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Born on August 1, 1869, Harcourt Butler was educated at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford. He passed into the Indian Civil Service in 1888 and went to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, where he remained and served with conspicuous success until 1907, when he was chosen by Lord Minto to act as secretary of the Foreign Department, an office which brought him into close personal touch with the native princes. In 1910, Butler was appointed to the newly created post of education member in charge of sanitation, local self-government, archæology and other minor branches of public works. Butler took up the administration of these heterogeneous activities with vigour.

In 1915, Sir Harcourt (as he had become three years before) was transferred to Rangoon as Lieutenant-Governor of Burma. One of his early achievements was to raise a substantial sum for the provision of a teaching university in Rangoon to take the place of the colleges previously affiliated to Calcutta. In 1917 he returned to his old Province to take office as lieutenant-governor; but in 1923 he returned to Burma to become Governor under the new system inaugurated in 1919.

Butler's activities during this second term of office in Burma have met with criticism in two directions. He had already shown enthusiasm for education both in Rangoon and previously in India, where he had encouraged the foundation of universities at Benares for Hindus and at Aligarh for Moslems; while in his time in Oudh the University of Lucknow had been created and the University of Allahabad had been reconstructed. On his return to Rangoon, he found that his scheme for a university was languishing.

He brought forward fresh legislation, and schemes were framed for raising money. Both measures met with much opposition and even aroused some personal animosity.

In another direction, Butler's actions have been regarded as not in the best interests of those he intended to serve. This was the abolition of slavery and human sacrifice in the land of the savage Nagas known as the Triangle, the then unadministered territory bordering on the Hukwang Valley. Butler was successful in stamping out these practises; but while they are repugnant to civilized ideas and not permissible under British administration, the anthropologist has to recognize that the abolition of slavery, at least without adequate substitute, economically has had a damaging effect in forcing land out of cultivation and reacting adversely on the morale of the tribes.

On leaving Rangoon in 1927, Butler was appointed chairman of the Indian States Committee to report on the relationship between the Paramount Power and the States. The report issued in 1929 proved a standard of reference on the question of federation in the Round Table Conference which followed.

On his return to England, among numerous other activities Butler accepted in 1931 the chairmanship of the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies, and took a prominent part in the arrangements for the new quarters of the School in Bloomsbury, now approaching completion. Among the numerous honours bestowed upon Sir Harcourt Butler were honorary doctorates from the University of Oxford and several of the Indian universities.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. E. A. S. Fawcett, C.B., chief engineer to the Ministry of Health from 1921 until 1930, on April 1, aged sixty-nine years.

Mr. Edward Meyrick, F.R.S., assistant master at Marlborough College from 1887 until 1914, an authority on Australian Lepidoptera, on April 1.

Mr. T. H. Digges La Touche, formerly of the Geological Survey of India, on March 30, aged eighty-two years.