

OBITUARIES

Mr. James MacLehose, LL.D.

JAMES MACLEHOSE, chairman and managing director of Robert MacLehose and Co., Ltd., printers to the University of Glasgow, died at his home, 5 Heriot Row, Edinburgh, on December 14, 1943. He was born at Glasgow on April 9, 1857, the second son of that James MacLehose, publisher and bookseller to the University of Glasgow, whose name figures frequently in Mr. Charles Morgan's charming book, "The House of Macmillan".

James MacLehose was educated at the University of Glasgow, to which he proved a loyal son, and with which he was intimately associated both as bookseller and publisher for many years, and as printer for a longer period. From 1899 until 1909 he was vice-president of the board of management of the Students' Union. His services to scholarship fall under four heads: his eminence as a printer, his work as an author, his editorship, throughout twenty-five fruitful years, of the *Scottish Historical Review*, and his value as an active member of the board of trustees of the National Library of Scotland, the Advisory Committee on Scottish Records, the Scottish History Society and similar bodies.

He has himself stated that his "firm has endeavoured, not without some measure of success, to take its share in upholding the reputation of Scottish and also of British printing". This modest claim was fully substantiated by the elegance and accuracy of the work produced. He maintained the Foulis tradition in Glasgow. He was proud of the edition of "Hakluyt's Voyages" in twelve volumes, and of "Purchas his Pilgrimes" in twenty volumes, produced almost forty years ago, and, in recent years, of the great edition of Scott's Letters edited by Sir Herbert Grierson and published by Constable and Co. His press was identified with the production of volumes on higher mathematics and with the "development of colour printing and its use in educational and medical books". Its imprint has appeared on innumerable school and university text-books. Furthermore, he was the historian of his craft. His volume, "The Glasgow University Press, 1638-1931", was marked by painstaking research and an unflinching desire to arrive at the truth.

These qualities had been sharpened and burnished by his editorship of the *Scottish Historical Review* (October 1903-July 1928), his greatest contribution to the intellectual life of Scotland. When he retired from the editorship he was presented with an address by a representative committee. The following sentences are culled from that address prepared, it may now be revealed, by the late Sir George Macdonald: "To you and to you alone belongs the credit alike for its sterling character and for the regularity of its appearance. Inspired by a genuine interest in the past of your native country, you have given of your best to foster that interest in others, sparing neither time nor money in furtherance of the cause you have so deeply at heart, and bearing almost alone the burden of the whole undertaking." The address also referred to the *Review* as "that storehouse of knowledge of which you have been at once the architect and the warder".

As chairman of the Books and MSS. Committee of the board of trustees of the National Library, Mr. MacLehose, by voice, pen and personal persuasiveness, did much to arrest the destruction or dispersal

of family papers of historical and literary value, and ensured their presentation to, or purchase by, the National Library. He was indefatigable. With every inducement to look back over a past packed with achievement, he was, even in old age, when his sight was dim and his natural force abated, ready to live in the present and work, passionately, for the future. "I must home to work while it is called day; for the night cometh when no man can work" might have been his motto, as it was Sir Walter's. The distinguished art of Sir James Guthrie has brought out, most successfully, this eager, forward-looking, vibrant quality in him.

Mr. MacLehose was capped LL.D. of the University of Glasgow in 1915. He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and of the kindred body in Scotland. He married Mary, daughter of Alexander Macmillan, and is survived by her and by a son and two married daughters. His elder son fell in action as an infantry officer in the War of 1914-18.

W. R. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. F. S. Marvin

A HISTORIAN with a keen appreciation of the importance of scientific conceptions in the growth of society and a gift for clear exposition passed away in the person of Francis Sidney Marvin, who died on November 14 in his eighty-first year. Marvin was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and St. John's College, Oxford, obtaining a first in Greats and a second in modern history. After teaching for a time in an elementary school, he became one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, remaining with the Board from 1890 until 1924 and reaching the grade of staff inspector. His chief interest was in history, and from 1915 onwards he organized many courses of lectures for teachers and others. For the session 1929-30 he occupied the chair of modern history in the University of Cairo. After his retirement he was mainly occupied in writing, and in the organization of branches of the Historical Association, to which he frequently lectured.

In August 1914 Marvin was taking part in a meeting of the London Adult School Union at Jordans when war broke out. Feeling that the conception of world history as a unity was sadly lacking, and that this lack had a part in the bringing about of wars, he planned the "Unity History Schools", which met annually, with few interruptions, until the outbreak of the present War. Until 1922 these were held at the Friends' Woodbrooke Settlement, but the 1923 meeting took place in Vienna, and several subsequent meetings were held in Continental cities. Marvin's planning and direction of these schools was admirable. He was most successful in enlisting experts as lecturers, in encouraging discussion, and in summing up the conclusions. A well-grounded classical scholar, he was devoted to the study of history as a continuing record of man's progress. His knowledge of history was wide, but he made no display of erudition, and his style was clear and simple. Although his training had not been in science, he was remarkably successful in seizing the main trends of scientific thought and discovery, which he followed closely, as was shown by his numerous reviews in *NATURE* of books on sociology and the history of science.

Two of the Unity History Schools dealt specifically with science: that of 1922, when the subject was "Science and Civilization", and that of 1935, when "Science in the Modern World" was discussed in