

In Memoriam

SIR BERNARD PARES

THE DEATH of Sir Bernard Pares (April 17, 1949) has thinned further the ranks of that little band of outstanding Englishmen who, in the early years of the present century, envisaged the future significance of Russia in world affairs and made that country and its people their life work. Many trips and active study in Russia, both before and after the Revolution of 1917, kept Sir Bernard's contacts with the country ever fresh, and he made authoritative use of his rich experience and knowledge as an official correspondent with the Russian Army during the First World War; in education as Professor of Russian History and Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in the University of London; in scholarship as the founder of the *Slavonic and East European Review*, author of books and articles on Russia, and the brilliant translator of Krylov's *Fables* and Griboedov's *Wit Works Woe*; and in extensive public lecturing on Russia in both England and America.

As a historian, Sir Bernard in a unique sense lived the history that he wrote, for he brought to it a wealth of personal experience and a wide acquaintance with many of the important figures who helped to make the history of Russia over the last forty years. Though the events of 1917 disillusioned him, he finally reconciled himself to the Soviet regime, and in his last years he advocated an accommodation between the West and the Soviet Union as an answer to the danger of an alliance of Germany and Russia against the West. Of his many books, perhaps his *History of Russia* and *The Fall of the Russian Monarchy* will be regarded as his most significant contributions.

Sir Bernard's contribution, however, is larger and more important than any which can be measured in terms of his scholarly works. When he began his Russian studies he found educational circles in the English-speaking world relatively uninterested and unprepared for such a development. With a deep and abiding love for his subject and the passion of a crusader, he tirelessly advocated the pressing need for an understanding of, and widespread permanent education on, Russia and the Russian people. And few men in either England or America have been so instrumental in recent years in the establishment of such studies. Those who will remember him best and most regret his loss are the many young men who were inspired by his forceful and charming personality to enter upon careers in the field of knowledge to which he devoted his life.

ERNEST J. SIMMONS