

OBITUARY NOTICE

Ernst Hultzsch

On the 16th January Professor Hultzsch died in his home in Halle after a long illness.

Eugen Julius Theodor Hultzsch was born in Dresden on 29th March, 1857. He was educated in the Dresden College of the Sacred Cross, joined the University of Lipsia in 1874 and studied classics and oriental languages chiefly in Lipsia, but one year in Bonn. He attended the lectures of Brockhaus, Curtius, Fleischer, Hübschmann, Loth, Ritschl, Windisch, and Zarneke in Lipsia, and of Aufrecht, Gildemeister and Prym in Bonn. In 1879 he took the degree of Ph.D. in Lipsia with a dissertation "Prolegomena zu des Vasantarâja Çâkuna nebst Textproben," Leipzig, 1879. In 1882 he went as "Privatdocent" to Vienna, where Bühler had occupied the chair of Sanskrit since the preceding year.

The intercourse with Bühler came to decide Hultzsch's further career. He remained connected with the Vienna University till 1886, but already in 1884-5 he undertook an extensive tour in Northern India, and in 1886 he was appointed epigraphist to the Government of Madras, a position which he held till he became Pischel's successor as Professor of Sanskrit in Halle in 1903.

The first greater work which he published after his first dissertation was an edition of the *Baudhâyanadharmasâstra*, Leipzig, 1884, which is dedicated to Bühler, and the importance of Bühler's example becomes still more evident in Hultzsch's work in subsequent years. He devoted much time to the search for and examination of Sanskrit manuscripts, and published three careful and valuable Reports on Sanskrit MSS. in Southern India, Madras, 1895-1905, and above all he turned his attention to epigraphy. He was assistant editor of the *Epigraphia Indica*, vol. i, Calcutta, 1892, and sole

editor of vols. iii–viii and ix, pp. 1–144, Calcutta, 1894–1907 ; he published three volumes of *South Indian Inscriptions*, Madras, 1890–1903, and, finally, the monumental edition of the inscriptions of Aśoka in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, vol. i, Oxford, 1925.

In connexion with the epigraphical work, I may also mention the edition of Madana's *Pārijātamañjarī*, because the existing portion of this nāṭikā is preserved inscribed on a stone. The edition appeared in the *Epigraphia Indica*, vol. viii, and was separately edited, Leipzig, 1906. It was followed by an edition of a commentary called *Parimala*, by Lakṣmaṇa Sūri, Leipzig, 1907. In oriental journals Hultzsch further dealt with a series of little-known Indian plays and took considerable interest in the Sanskrit drama.

As an epigraphist he repeatedly had to occupy himself with Indian dialects. He was an accomplished Sanskrit and Prakrit scholar, and was familiar with the chief Dravidian languages, and in his later years he also took up the study of Turkish. His grammatical studies led him to especially occupy himself with Prakrit, and one of the results was an edition of Siṃharāja's *Prākṛtarūpāvatāra*, London, 1909.

Also Kāvya and Nyāya claimed his interest. He edited Kālidāsa's *Meghadūta* with Vallabhadeva's commentary, London, 1911, and shortly before his death he had completed a German translation of Māgha's *Śīsupālavadha*, Leipzig, 1926. Annambhaṭṭa's *Tarkasaṃgraha* was translated into German, Berlin, 1907, Laugākṣi Bhāskara's *Tarkakaurmudī* the same year in the *Journal of the German Oriental Society*, vol. 61, and Viśvanātha Tarkapañcānana's *Bhāṣāpariccheda* in vol. 74 of the same journal, Leipzig, 1920.

Hultzsch's very last paper, "Sāṃkhya und Yoga im Śīsupālavadha," was published after his death in the *Festgabe*, dedicated to Richard Garbe on his 70th birthday. After he had finished that last autumn, he had to abandon work altogether, his force was broken, his strength had gone.

It is a long series of books and papers which we owe to

Hultzsch's incessant and conscientious work. They are all characterized by critical acumen, unbiassed reasoning, scrupulous accuracy and solid learning. Such qualities made him eminently suited for epigraphical work, and when Indian epigraphy has at the present day reached such a high stage, a large share in the merit belongs to him.

His writings throughout bear witness to the urbanity and gentlemanlike frame of mind, which endeared him to everybody who came into nearer contact with him. And those young scholars whom he initiated in Indian epigraphy were very devoted to him. Many of those Indians who have distinguished themselves as epigraphists since he came to India are his direct or indirect pupils, and they will all remember him with gratitude and affection.

He never hesitated to place his rich store of knowledge at the disposal of fellow students who sought his advice and his help, and in this way and through his personal qualities he had won numerous friends, who will miss the man not less than the scholar. As a token of the high esteem in which he was held by friends and fellow scholars it had been decided to present him with a complimentary volume of essays on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. He was not to live to receive this homage, and the papers collected for the purpose will now be published in the *Zeitschrift für Indologie und Iranistik*. They will, however, be marked as written in his honour, and though they must now be published "in memoriam" they will bear witness to the position he occupied in the learned world.

STEN KONOW.