

WILLIAM A. LINDSAY, M.A., B.Sc.

DIED 26TH OCTOBER 1925.

In the death of Mr Lindsay the Society has suffered a distinct loss. During the earlier years of his membership he was perhaps more actively in evidence than of late. He served on the Committee for some years and became President of the Society in 1907. In the discharge of the duties of these offices, as also in his services as Editor of the Proceedings of the Society from 1898 to 1906 his extreme conscientiousness earned the admiration of all with whom he came into contact. In these later years he laboured incessantly to bring the study of Mathematics in schools into close and living relation with the work of the Universities—a cause which has been rightly assumed by our Society as one of its essential aims.

Mr Lindsay's school education was begun in Glasgow and continued in France for four years, his family having removed to Rouen for business reasons. Returning to Glasgow, he trained as a teacher, showing outstanding ability in all his classes. His career at Glasgow University included such varied distinctions as the Cowan Gold Medal in Latin and the Ewing Fellowship in Mathematics. In 1895 he graduated M.A., with First Class Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and, in 1898, B.Sc., with distinction in Astronomy. There are many University men who remember Mr Lindsay's clear expositions and conscientious work during his two years (1897-99) as Assistant to Professor Jack in the Mathematics Department. Later Mr Lindsay acted more than once as Degree Examiner for the University.

In 1898 he was appointed Lecturer in Science and Mathematics in the Free Church Training College for Teachers, a post which he held until the Provincial Committee assumed responsibility for the training of teachers in 1907. Under the new regime Mr Lindsay continued to take charge of the Mathematics Department until early in January of last year, when illness suddenly checked his activities. After some eight

months of confinement and suffering patiently borne, it became evident that his days of life were numbered, and in brave consciousness of this he spent almost his last hours in an endeavour to complete the treatise on Arithmetic which had absorbed his best efforts for several years.

The 26th of October saw the end of a life that had been full of quiet, ordered activity, and that, until the sudden appearance of the malady, had seemed full of promise of completed achievement.

By the many students and teachers who passed through his hands he was regarded with gratitude and profound respect. No detail of his work was too trivial or elementary to receive his best attention. He sought to inspire all teachers—the Elementary School Teacher and the Specialist alike—with a consciousness of the importance and the nobility of their respective contributions to the great cause of enlightenment. To his colleagues he endeared himself by his modest bearing, his helpful sympathy, and his singleness of purpose. And to those few who were privileged to be co-operators with him in his own department of work he was a constant inspiration, whose withdrawal has left a feeling of irreparable loss.

Mr Lindsay's private life was simple and congenial. He was happy in his marriage, and his closest friends throughout were those of his boyhood. He found time for much useful church work, and in particular took a very active interest in the Sabbath School Movement. In spite of all these varied activities he recognised the benefit of relaxation, and on the mountain path or on the golf links he was a delightful companion.

The close of a life so rich and varied in interests leaves many sincere mourners, and the most enduring memorial of William Anderson Lindsay is to be found in the lives he influenced, the enthusiasms he kindled, and the spirit of integrity his own sterling honesty inspired.

R. W.