

March 8th, 1904.—Lord Reay, President, in the Chair.

It was announced that—

Dr. Sarruf,
Mr. W. Gornold, and
Mr. Khaja Khan Sahib

had been elected members of the Society.

Mr. F. W. Thomas opened the adjourned discussion “In what degree was Sanskrit a Spoken Language?”

Dr. Grierson, Dr. Fleet, Mr. Vaidya, and Mr. Krishna Varma took part. The discussion will appear in full in the July Journal.

II. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Ernest Ayscoghe Floyer, M.R.A.S., Mem. Inst. Égypt.

MR. E. A. FLOYER, Inspector General of Egyptian Telegraphs, who died at Cairo on December 1st, 1903, at the age of 51, was the eldest surviving son of the Rev. Ayscoghe Floyer and of Louisa Sara, daughter of the Hon. Frederick John Shore, of the Bengal Civil Service. He was educated by the Rev. C. Boys at Wing Rectory, Rutland, and afterwards at the Charterhouse, until 1869, when he received an appointment in the Indian Telegraph Service, being then in his 17th year. During the next seven years he was stationed on the coast of the Persian Gulf. In January, 1876, when he received his long leave, although at the time seriously ill, he started, on his own responsibility, for the unexplored interior of Baluchistan. His observations and surveys on the difficult and dangerous series of journeys which occupied him until May, 1877 (when he returned to England), earned him the reputation of a bold and intelligent explorer at the age of three and twenty. Shortly after his return to England he was appointed Inspector General of

Egyptian Telegraphs, and went out to take up the appointment in January, 1878. This post he held for twenty-five years until his death in 1903. The department, which had hitherto been conducted at a heavy loss, he so reorganized as to yield a substantial annual surplus, and, as an expert upon questions of telegraphic tariff, he represented Egypt efficiently at the International Telegraphic Congresses. For his services to the military authorities during the campaigns of the eighties he was granted the medal "Egypt, 1882," with clasp "The Nile, 1884-5," in connection with the Tel-el-Kebir campaign, and the Gordon Relief Expedition respectively; and received also the Khedive's "Bronze Star." In 1884 he contributed to the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society a note "On the Nile Route from Halfa to Debba," and in 1887 he surveyed "Two Routes in the Eastern Desert of Egypt" between the Nile and the Red Sea (about N. lat. 26°). In 1891 he was appointed by the Khedive to the command of an important expedition in the more southern part of the same desert, about N. lat. 24°. In this expedition he located and examined the extensive emerald-mines of Sikait and Zabbara, which have been worked at various epochs from very early times, and have now been reopened owing to Mr. Floyer's report of their potentialities. The results of the expedition, antiquarian, scientific, and economic, were fully described in his official publication *Étude sur la Nord-Etbai* (Cairo, 1893). It is a matter of great regret that this remarkable book was not translated into English and published in this country, where the author's "Unexplored Baluchistan" (Griffith & Farran) had appeared in 1882.

During the last ten years of his life, while continuing his linguistic, antiquarian, and scientific work, he gave much attention to the economic development of desert land in Egypt. He originated the Nitrate Mission to Upper Egypt, personally directing the work of extracting the salts; and also became "Director of Plantations, State Railways, and Telegraphs of Egypt." The management of this sub-department "for growing trees and economic

plants which may be profitably cultivated upon waste land" was his particular delight. He grew the *cactus* (for fibre), the *casuarina* (telegraph poles), the *Ficus elastica* (yielding rubber), besides the *Hyoscyamus muticus* (yielding a valuable alkaloid), and many other plants.

He was much beloved by the native employés of his widely spread administration (as the present writer can testify from personal knowledge). Doubtless his perfect mastery of the Arabic was a great help towards the attainment of their confidence, but more was due to the deep-seated kindness of his nature.

He married, in 1887, Mary Louisa, eldest daughter of the Rev. William Richards Watson, of Saltfleetby St. Peters, co. Lincoln, who survives him; and leaves three sons, Ernest Ayscoghe, William Anthony, and John Wadham.

The following list of Mr. Floyer's publications is as full as I can make it, but owing to his books and papers being still at Cairo, where his lamented and sudden death occurred, it is not improbable that the list is incomplete. I am, however, sufficiently acquainted with my cousin's work to know that this schedule fairly represents his intellectual activities outside the sphere of his administration of the Egyptian Telegraphs. I may add that those who, being unacquainted with his writings, may wish to consult them, will find a store of curious and out-of-the-way facts, and the reflections of an original mind, endowed with a combination of faculties peculiarly suited to grapple with the varied problems encountered among primitive peoples and during exploration in countries as yet imperfectly studied.

VAUGHAN CORNISH, D.Sc., F.R.G.S.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF MR. E. A. FLOYER'S
PUBLICATIONS.

1877. *Report of the British Association*: "On Bashakard in Western Baluchistan." (Abstract of paper read before the Geographical Section.)
1877. *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, vol. xlvii, pp. 188-201: "Journal of a Route from Jask to Bampur."

1882. "Unexplored Baluchistan." (Griffith & Farran. Roy. 8vo; pp. 507, with twelve illustrations and a map.) This work contains the narratives of (1) a journey of exploration from Jask to Bampur; (2) a tour in the Persian Gulf, in which the Island of Henjan and other places were visited; (3) a journey of exploration from Jask to Kirman *via* Anguhran; (4) a journey from Kirman *via* Yezd and Ispahan to Baghdad and Basra, and by sea to England. The period occupied by these journeys was from January, 1876, to May, 1877. Appendix A contains observations on some dialects of Western Baluchistan and others akin to them. Appendix B, list of plants collected. Appendix C, "Geography," contains a list of 47 localities whose positions were determined by sextant and chronometer. Appendix D, meteorological observations from November 1st, 1876, to March 1st, 1877, *en route* from Jask to Baghdad.
1884. *Proc. Roy. Geogr. Soc.*: "On the Nile Route from Halfa to Debba." A short note on the stages of the journey.
1884. *The Times*, September 5th, p. 4: "Turks and Persians." A letter of considerable interest relating to the politics, trade, and agriculture of Koweit, Muhammerah, and the lower Karun.
1887. *Proc. Roy. Geogr. Soc.*, ix, p. 659 et seq.: "Two Routes in the Eastern Desert of Egypt," between the Nile and the Red Sea, with map by the author of route from Kosseir to Jimsah.
1887. *Report of the British Association*, p. 801: "Between the Nile and the Red Sea." (Abstract of paper read before the Geographical Section.)
1891. *Athenæum*, May 23rd, June 27th, and August 8th. "Explorations in Eastern Egypt." (A narrative written *en route*.) This and the next seven entries refer to the Northern Etbai Expedition of 1891.
1892. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October, pp. 811-833: "The Mines of the Northern Etbai or of Northern Æthiopia," with a Map, Water-colour Drawings, and Lithographs, by the Scientific Expedition to the Northern Etbai. (This paper deals with the archæological results of the expedition.)
1892. *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xlviii, p. 576 et seq.: "Notes on the Geology of the Northern Etbai." The author considers the supposition of a "pluvial epoch" not to be necessary in order to account for the aqueous erosion observed in this district.

1892. *Bull. Soc. Khédiviale de Géographie*, Série iii, Numero 9 :
 "Note sur les Sidoniens et les Erembes d'Homère."
1892. *Kew Bulletin*, December: "Disappearance of Desert Plants
 in Egypt." (Attributed to the arrival of the Arab and his
 camel.)
1893. *Geographical Journal*, May, pp. 408-431, illustrated :
 "Further Routes in the Eastern Desert of Egypt." (The
 best general summary of the results of the expedition of 1891,
 with a good account of the re-discovery of the Emerald Mines.)
1893. "Étude sur la Nord-Etbaï entre le Nil et la Mer Rouge,"
 avec quatre cartes et quinze illustrations, pp. 192, 4to, Cairo,
 1893. (Mr. Floyer's official account of the expedition.)
1894. *Institut Égyptien*: "Note sur l'emploi d'une Argile comme
 Fertilisant dans la Haute-Egypte." (Reference is here made
 to the author's discovery of Nitrate of Soda in the expedition
 of 1891.)
1894. *Institut Égyptien*: "Identification de la moderne Kénch
 avec l'ancienne *Καινίπολις* et arguments qu'on peut tirer de
 sa situation géographique actuelle."
1894. *Institut Égyptien*, February 2nd: "L'Ancien mur de
 Dendera, Tentyris, Coptos ou Ombos."
1894. *Institut Égyptien* (read December 7th): "Note sur quelques
 plantes utiles" [les plus propres à relier les sols sabloneuse, etc.].
1895. *Institut Égyptien* (read January 11th): "Quelques tom-
 beaux inexplorés aux environs de Mualla."
1895. *Institut Égyptien* (read March 2nd, 1894, published
 February 4th, 1895): "Les Cadrans Solaires Primitifs dans
 la Haute-Egypte."
1895. *Athenæum*, October 5th: "Primitive Sundials in Upper
 Egypt."
1895. *Institut Égyptien* (read May 3rd): "L'Abaissement de la
 Culture et les nitrates de soude en Egypte." In this is
 included a copy of report by the author as "chef de la mission
 des nitrates dans la Haute-Egypte" to the Under-Secretary of
 State for Public Works.
1896. *Institut Égyptien* (read Nov. 8th, 1895): "L'Age du Grès
 Nubien, et note sur l'érosion par le vent et l'eau" (illustrated
 by photographs, plans, and sections). Contains an account of
 a cloud-burst at Helwan, near Cairo, and of its effect in
 erosion and transport of material. An important contribution
 (in which the author was assisted by Dr. Georg Schweinfurth)

- to our knowledge of erosion by water in desert regions. The author continues the discussion on the age of the Nubian Sandstone and on a "pluvial epoch" commenced in the Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 1892, vol. xlviii.
1896. *Institut Égyptien*: "La Culture du Sisal en Egypte." Rapport Annuel, 2^me Année, 1896.
1897. *Kew Bulletin*, December: Correspondence with Mr. Floyer relating to "the promising result of an attempt to produce rubber from *Ficus elastica* in Egypt."
1898. *Geographical Journal*, May, pp. 559-563: "Notes on Mr. Vaughan Cornish's Paper on the Formation of Sand Dunes, in Geogr. Journ., March, 1897." Illustrated by sketches of sand dunes between Kuntara and El Arish. These sandhills were subsequently visited by Dr. Vaughan Cornish (at Mr. Floyer's suggestion and with his assistance in the matter of transport). A paper by Dr. Cornish "On Sand Dunes bordering the Nile Delta" (Geogr. Journ., January, 1900) contains some account of Mr. Floyer's plantation experiments, with illustrations.

During the revision of proofs I have received, through the kindness of H.E. Yacoub Artin Pasha, President *Inst. Egypt.*, copies of the papers read by Mr. Floyer before the *Institut*, which, in addition to those cited above, include the following:—

1896. February 7th: "Notes relatives aux récentes découvertes sur les phénomènes de nitrification dans les sols arables."
1896. February 7th: "Evaporation quotidienne d'une eau provenant de la lissive des argiles à nitrate (à Moualla)."
1896. November 6th: "Lettre sur le résultat de ses recherches sur les puits forés en Egypte, et relevé des coupes par M. Joannidis."

V. C.

S. Arthur Strong.

WE much regret to learn that Mr. Sandford Arthur Strong, Librarian to the House of Lords, died on January 18th. He had been out of health since last Spring, but lately he was thought to be convalescent, and the end came with unexpected quickness. He was only 40 years of age, having been born in 1863, one of the three sons of Mr. Thomas Banks Strong, who till lately was chief clerk in the Adjutant-General's department at the War Office. One of his two brothers is the present Dean of Christ Church. Arthur Strong went as a boy to St. Paul's School. Doubtless it will come as a surprise to many to learn that from school he passed at the early age of 15 into Lloyd's, where he remained from 1878 to 1880. In spite of marked business capacity, however, the attraction of scholarship proved too strong and drew him to a University career. He entered first King's College, London, and went subsequently to St. John's College, Cambridge. The fact that he was handicapped by a break in study at a critical period of intellectual development, the delicacy of his health, and above all the rebellion of an original mind against prescribed lines of study sufficiently explain why Strong did not achieve much distinction of the accepted Academic kind. Yet in the light of his subsequent achievement it is instructive to note that this great scholar was twice judged unworthy of a Fellowship at his old College. At Cambridge, however, he came under the influence of Professor Cowell, with whom he studied Sanskrit and other Oriental languages, and he quickly developed extraordinary powers in this direction, which were soon to win him recognition in wider circles than those in which he had so far moved.

If Cambridge, then, scarcely proved a true *alma mater* towards one of the most gifted of her sons, Oxford now showed herself a kind foster-mother. Thither Strong migrated in 1885, having been appointed Librarian and Sub-Keeper, under Sir Monier Williams, to the newly founded Indian Institute. There also, in Oxford's genial

and humane atmosphere he was soon 'discovered' by men of the calibre of Max Müller, whose Oriental library he catalogued, of Professor Sayce, who became his lifelong friend, of Professor Legge, under whom he studied Chinese, and of the learned Sub-Librarian of the Bodleian, Dr. Adolf Neubauer. It was by Neubauer's advice that Strong later went to Paris, where his cordial reception by Ernest Renan, James Darmesteter, and other famous scholars is almost a matter of history in learned circles. He studied under Renan, became a devoted and favourite pupil, and soon received the high honour—rarely accorded to the French followers of the illustrious *savant*—of successive invitations to Renan's Breton home. In such surroundings he soon forgot early discouragement, and he returned to England about 1890, an accomplished scholar of rising reputation. For a time he devoted himself to Pali, one of his first undertakings being the publication of an *editio princeps* of the Mahā Bodhi Vaṃsa. This account of the famous Tree of Wisdom, written in the fifth century in a curious and difficult form of Pali, is full of interest, both historical and philological. It was published by the Pali Text Society in 1891 and was dedicated to Renan. Then he took to the study of Assyrian, and quickly became a high authority on the language and the archæological remains of ancient Mesopotamia. He next specialised in Arabic—in which language he published extensively—and in Persian, studied Egyptian hieroglyphics, kept up Chinese with his friend Terrien de Lacouperie, and became proficient in Hebrew. The facility with which he mastered one difficult Oriental language after another was a wonder to those best able to judge of the thoroughness and ability of his work. His mental powers were rather those of a critical scholar than of a linguist; and it is a sane and sober judgment which is the chief characteristic of his Oriental work. Meantime he had applied, on the death of Robertson Smith in 1894, for the Professorship of Arabic in Cambridge, but was again unfortunate. The question of ways and means now pressed heavily upon him; for in England, unless a

man holds one of the few available posts in the Universities, the Museum, or the India Office, he cannot 'live of the doctrine' as an Orientalist. For some years Arthur Strong had to face grave difficulties; then the tide of his fortunes suddenly turned. Friends introduced him to Lord Justice Bowen and Lord Acton, and both these eminent men were greatly struck with his profound and varied learning, his keen intelligence, and his power of work. Mr. Gladstone, too, was much impressed by his conversation. Presently the Duke of Devonshire wanted a librarian for Chatsworth to succeed Sir James Lacaita, and Arthur Strong was appointed on the recommendation mainly of his friend Mr. Sidney Colvin. The same year he obtained the long coveted Academic recognition, and he was elected Professor of Arabic in University College, London. But it was at Chatsworth and Devonshire House that he was to obtain scope for that almost encyclopedic knowledge which so far had been little more than guessed at by those outside his immediate intimacy. He set to work to study, and to make known in a more scientific way than had been done hitherto, the celebrated ducal treasures. Among the art collections he was able to return to a cherished pursuit. A pupil of Albert Varley, he had early turned to the critical study of art, bringing to it the equipment of technical knowledge. He had commenced his contributions to the subject at the age of 15 by a paper on the little known Venetian artist *Jacopello del Fiore*, and continued them in a long series of articles, contributed to various 'weeklies,' which it is hoped may be collected one day into a volume. In 1901 he published a book on the Duke of Devonshire's pictures, while from the celebrated Chatsworth collection of drawings by the old masters he only last year issued a beautiful volume of selections with a critical introduction. Nor did he limit himself to Italian and modern art; the superb bronze head of Apollo in the Library at Chatsworth, which had been ignored as of the 'debased' or 'Roman' epoch, he recognized to be a masterpiece of the transitional period of Greek art, a conjecture afterwards confirmed and expanded by Professor

Furtwängler, who published the head as a true Greek work of priceless merit, from the first half of the fifth century B.C. It will be remembered as having been one of the chief centres of attraction at the exhibition of Greek art held last Summer at the Burlington Fine Arts Club, chiefly organized by Mrs. Strong. In 1897 Strong had married Miss Eugénie Sellers, herself a Greek archæologist of distinction.

Meantime he had been invited by the Duke of Portland to reorganize the great library at Welbeck. Other owners of fine collections, especially of drawings, asked for his help; and of the Wilton drawings he published a selection, with critical notes. He had a keen eye, great accuracy of observation, a marvellous memory, and a knowledge of all that the best critics had written; so that his own critical writings on art have great merit, the more remarkable since they came as an epilogue to other work. For he never forgot his old studies; he retained his post at University College, and the more modest one of Reader in Assyrian at Cambridge; if unable to produce as much in the Oriental field as he could have wished, he had the satisfaction of aiding by his newly acquired influence the work of others; thus for the publication of the three great volumes of "Assyrian Deeds and Documents" by his friend and pupil C. W. Johns he obtained an important subvention from the Duke of Devonshire and the Duke of Portland, an instance of enlightened patronage which was gracefully acknowledged by the author in the dedications of his several volumes. Arthur Strong's varied intellectual pursuits had now to be carried on together with his practical duties as Librarian to the House of Lords, to which post he was appointed in 1897, chiefly through the Duke of Devonshire's influence. His work in his new capacity was fruitful, and his great stores of knowledge were of much use to those peers who use the library, and to Royal and other Commissions engaged upon work for which research is needed. Himself an ardent politician and historian, he became a frequent writer on historical questions. Early

in 1903, when he was already ailing, he wrote as an Introduction to the selection he had been at work upon for years from the archives of the Duke of Portland what will probably be considered his most brilliant literary effort. He has left a similar annotated selection from the archives of Devonshire House about half completed, while an article on Warren Hastings which he wrote last Summer for the *North American Review* during his seeming convalescence still has to appear. There were few subjects on which he did not know a great deal; and what he did not know he knew how to learn. Indeed, the vastness of his erudition and the variety of subjects to which he was able to apply his judgment are evidence of what it would be not at all excessive to designate as genius.

We have dwelt upon his gifts as manifested in his published work, but those who were admitted to his intimacy knew also that he was a considerable mathematician and classical scholar, a keen entomologist, and a musical critic of the first order; above all, they knew him for a staunch and devoted friend, untiring in the double service of science and of friendship, inflexible in his standards of right and wrong, intolerant only of cant and pretension. Nor would any account of Strong be adequate that left unnoticed the singular originality of his mind, the charm and wit of his conversation. Last Spring he fell ill; overwork at last told upon his spare and anæmic frame; he had to leave London, and, though he seemed at one time to be recovering, he has died at an age when most men are beginning their careers. He will be greatly missed; for such gifts as his are extremely rare, even taken singly, while it is not likely that in our time they will ever be found again in combination. At the time of his death he was engaged in editing, for the Royal Asiatic Society Monographs, Ibn Arabshāh's poem in Arabic on the life of Jaḳmaḳ, Sultan of Egypt. About one-third of the work was in print, and the Society hopes to be able to complete and publish it. It is pathetic to note that the last time he went out was on

December 23rd in order to bring the corrected proofs of this text to the Secretary of the Society. He was then apparently well on the way to complete recovery, but the next day the relapse occurred which was to end fatally in less than a month. Could he have made the choice consciously he would have liked thus to give his final effort to those Eastern studies which had remained the master passion of his maturity, as they had been the inspiration of his youth.

He has also left in preparation the translation with notes of a long Assyrian text as well as of some Egyptian inscriptions which he discovered at Chatsworth.

[Adapted from *The Times* of January 19th, 1904.]

The following is a fairly, if not quite, complete bibliography of Arthur Strong's original contributions to Orientalism:—

1890.

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| (1) "Votive Inscription of Assurnatsirpal." | } Records of the
Past, n.s.,
vol. iv, 1890. |
| (2) "Inscription of Rimmon-nivari III." | |
| (3) "Three Votive Inscriptions of Assurnatsirpal." | |

1891.

- (4) "The Nimrod Inscription of Tiglath Pileser III": Records of the Past, n.s., vol. v, 1891.
- (5) "The Maha-Bodhi-Vamsa": Pali Text Society.
- (6) "Two Edicts of Assurbanipal": Journal of R.A.S., 1891.

1892.

- (7) "Inscription of Assur-Bél-Kala": Records of the Past, n.s., vol. vi, 1892.
- (8) "Prayer of Assurbanipal": Records of the Past, n.s., vol. vi, 1892.
- (9) "Three Cuneiform Texts": Babylonian and Oriental Record, July, 1892.
- (10) "Four Cuneiform Texts": J.R.A.S., 1892.

1893.

- (11) "On some Oracles to Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal": Beiträge zur Assyriologie, ii, 1893.
- (12) "Un texte inédit d'Assurbanipal": Journal Asiatique, 1893.
- (13) "A Letter to Assurbanipal": Hebraica, vol. iv, 1893.

1894.

- (14) "The Fudah al-Habashah, or The Conquest of Abyssinia":
Monograph, Williams & Norgate, 1894.
- (15) "Note on a Fragment of the Adapa Legend": Proceedings
of the Society of Biblical Archæology, vol. xvi, 1894.

1895.

- (16) "Additional Note on the Adapa Legend": Proceedings of the
Society of Biblical Archæology, vol. xvii, 1895.
- (17) "Some Assyrian Alliterative Texts": *ibid.*
- (18) "A History of Kilwa": J.R.A.S., 1895.

1898.

- (19) "A Hymn of Nebuchadnezzar": Proceedings of the Society
of Biblical Archæology, 1898.

1903.

- (20) "Arabic Text of Ibn Arabshah's History of Jakmak, Sultan
of Egypt": to be published shortly by the R.A.S.
- (21, 22) A long Assyrian Text and an Egyptian Inscription have
been left in an advanced state of preparation.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Presented by the Northbrook Club.

- De Sacy (A. J. Silvestre). *Chrestomathie Arabe*. Two
vols. *Paris*, 1806.
- Campbell (G.). *India as it may be*. *London*, 1853.
- Hafiz Shirazi. *Sharh-i-Diwan*. Urdu commentary by
Moulvi Karim al-Din. *Lahore*, 1874.
- Buckley (R. B.). *The Irrigation Works of India and
their Financial Results*. *London*, 1880.
- Lethbridge (R.). *Higher Education in India*. *London*, 1882.

Presented by the Author.

- Drake (J.). *Grammar of the Kūrḱū Language*. 8vo.
Calcutta, 1903.