

## PAUL COLLINET.

**J**EAN JOSEPH POL COLLINET (whom we knew as Paul Collinet) died suddenly on December 9, 1938, at the age of sixty-nine, on the eve of his retirement, his tenure of his chair having been extended, by reason of his eminence, beyond the age limit prescribed by the règlement. His main work was in Roman Law, both at Lille, where he began his professorial career, and at Paris, where he was appointed Professor of Roman Law in 1919. But he taught other matters, and a bibliography of his numerous writings would show not only how much work he did, but also how wide were his intellectual interests. In early life he contributed to Celtic studies, under the influence of d'Arbois de Jubainville. He did notable work, too, on the history of the Ardennes, where he was born, and on that of the Artois, where he first taught. In papyrology also he made his mark. But the chief work of his later life was on the law of the Eastern Empire, and, especially, of its Procedure; it is by this that he will be, and probably would have preferred to be, chiefly remembered.

All this was done under a severe handicap, for his health was never good. In academic circles at Lille he met Mlle. Guérin, whom he married, and who survives him. It is not too much to say that to her constant care we owe the preservation for thirty years of a life held on exceptionally precarious tenure, and to her intellectual sympathy the ardour and courage with which Collinet worked under the handicap of frequently recurring illness.

He was a born Professor, but he was more than a Professor. When his work at Lille was ended by the German occupation, he threw himself into the very practical and onerous work of the revictualling of the occupied areas, a work which earned for him the Cross of the Legion of Honour. This readiness to help was only an expression of his most salient characteristic, his friendliness—there were no unkind words in his vocabulary. No one worked harder than he, by addresses to assemblies in many places, under the auspices of the Association 'France Britannique', and in other ways, to foster good relations between his country and ours. This friendliness made him a welcome figure at Congresses, and he loved Congresses. It

was natural, therefore, that he should be frequently chosen for missions of various kinds to foreign countries, from which he returned laden with honours. He often visited Cambridge and of course made friends—he could not help it. Two years ago he came as a visiting Professor and gave us two lectures on Roman National Law and *Ius Gentium*. It was characteristic of the man that, within a minute after he began his first lecture, he was on intimate terms with his audience, whom he kept interested and amused throughout his lectures, lectures which, nevertheless, were dealing, and dealing wisely, with very difficult problems. His last visit to us was in July of last year, when he attended the annual meeting of the Society of Public Teachers of Law, to which he belonged as one of the small but distinguished body of Honorary Members. It was a delight to him to meet again friends from all over the country, but it was to be for the last time.

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