

**Albert William Borthwick, O.B.E., D.Sc.**

By the death of Professor Borthwick, at the age of sixty-four, on April 19, 1937, British Forestry has prematurely lost one of its best-known and most highly respected Foresters.

Borthwick was a member of a very old Scottish family, being the third son of the late W. H. Borthwick, 29th Laird of Crookston and Borthwick Castle. He studied Science at St Andrews University and graduated B.Sc. in 1895. Thereafter he became interested in Forestry and studied that subject in Germany for three years under Professors Tubeuf, Hartig and Mayr. He was therefore one of the very first in this country to have received a thorough training in scientific forestry.

In 1899 he was appointed an Assistant to the late Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour and lectured on Plant Physiology, and was awarded the Degree of D.Sc. for a Thesis entitled "Production of Adventitious Roots and their Relation to Bird's-Eye Formation in the Wood of Various Trees." In 1905 he was appointed Lecturer in Forestry in the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, and from 1908 to 1914 was Lecturer in Forest Botany in the University of Edinburgh. In 1914 he was appointed Chief Advisory Officer to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, and after the War, when the Forestry Commission was at last appointed, he became its Chief Research and Education Officer, which post he held till he was appointed to the Chair of Forestry in Aberdeen in 1926.

For many years he was a very active member of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society. From 1911 to 1913 he was Vice-President, and from 1913 to 1929 he was Honorary Editor of the Society's Journal. In 1930 and again in 1931 he was elected President. From 1902 until his death he was Honorary Consulting Cryptogamist.

Besides being a forester he was also a botanist—and he loved trees. Consequently the subject of forest botany was his chief hobby, and it was his delight to wander in an arboretum—and it was a joy to be with him there. This aspect was suitably recognised when he was elected President of the Botany Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1934.

Borthwick was of a retiring nature, ever willing to give sound advice or help, with that peculiar quiet smile of his. Yes, Borthwick was just one of Nature's own gentle-men.

The present progress and development of Forestry in this country owes much to him.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1925.

J. L.-P.