

Douglas A. Gilchrist, B.Sc.

DOUGLAS ALSTON GILCHRIST was born at Bothwell in 1860; he was educated at Hamilton Academy, the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College, and at the University of Edinburgh, where he was one of the early group of graduates who took the newly instituted degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

In 1889 he was appointed Lecturer in Agriculture in the newly established Department of Agriculture at the University College of North Wales, Bangor; this was the first department of agriculture founded in connection with a University College in England or Wales and was the model on which the later departments at University Colleges were based.

In 1894 he was elected Head of the Agricultural Department at University College, Reading, where he did useful work in the development of agricultural teaching. In 1902 he became Professor of Agriculture at the Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Director of the Cockle Park Experimental Station in Northumberland. The well-known experiments on the use of basic slag for the improvement of poor pasture had been started there by Professor Sir William Somerville in 1897; the experiments were developed by his successor, Sir Thomas Middleton, and continued by Gilchrist; Gilchrist spent much of his time and energy in bringing the results to the notice of farmers, large numbers of whom visited Cockle Park every year. He undoubtedly did much to increase the use of basic slag in agriculture. Gilchrist was also prominently identified with the introduction of wild white clover as a constituent of pasture grass mixtures, which has done so much to improve the quality of pastures in this country.

He resigned his chair in the early part of this year and died suddenly on 4th April 1927, a few weeks after his resignation. He will be held in affectionate remembrance by a large circle of friends and pupils.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1900.

A. L.