

OBITUARY NOTICE

Thomas Hunter Weir

The Society has lost one of its older members by the death of Thomas Hunter Weir, D.D., Lecturer in Arabic at Glasgow University, who passed away at his home, 38 Hamilton Park Terrace, Glasgow, on 5th May, at the age of 62. Dr. Weir had a long association with the University, having been born at the Old College, where his father, the Rev. Duncan Harkness Weir, D.D., from 1850 onwards was professor of Semitic Languages. He began his Oriental studies at Glasgow in 1885 under his father's successor, Professor James Robertson, and proceeded to the degrees of M.A. and B.D. Shortly afterwards he spent two years in Western Australia, returning in 1893 to take up the appointment of assistant to Professor Robertson. He pursued his study of Arabic in Germany, Syria, Egypt, and North Africa. He knew North Africa well, particularly Morocco, where he made frequent and prolonged visits in the course of which he travelled over the whole of that region. In 1900 he was elected a member of the Royal Asiatic Society. In 1907, when an independent lectureship in Arabic was founded at Glasgow University, he was appointed to it and held that position till his death. A few years ago he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by the University of Aberdeen.

Besides articles in various periodicals and contributions to the Encyclopædia of Islam and the Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics, he published in 1899 *A Short History of the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament* (Second edition, 1907); *The Sheikhs of Morocco in the XVIth Century*, 1904; *Arabic Prose Composition*, 1910; Revised editions of Sir William Muir's "*Life of Mohammed*," 1912, and of the same author's *Caliphate*, 1915; *The Variants in the Gospel Reports*, 1920; *Omar Khayyám the Poet* (a verse translation with an introduction and commentary) in the *Wisdom of the East Series*, 1926.

He was of a retiring disposition and had no love of publicity. All who came within the circle of his friendship remained there to the end. The successive groups of students who read with him during the 35 years of his academic life not only participated in the fruits of his exact and profound study of Arabic, Hebrew or Syriac which he delighted to share with them, but in other ways unconnected with learning they found him a never failing source of sympathy, encouragement, and kindness.

A. S. F.