

OBITUARY

Alfred Lacey Hough

After many years of Government service in Burma, Mr. A. L. Hough was engaged from 1907 to 1916 in teaching Burmese at University College, London. On the establishment of the School of Oriental Studies, he accepted a transfer to it, and from the time it opened its doors in January, 1917, he devoted all his energies to the further advancement of his subject in the new surroundings. He was not only a highly successful teacher, but also spent nearly all his spare time in research. He accumulated a very large amount of material for a new Burmese grammar and for additions to and corrections in the existing dictionaries, both Burmese-English and English-Burmese. By the kindness of his widow this material has now become the property of the School.

After an illness of some months' duration, he died on the 9th March, 1925, to the great regret of all his colleagues and friends, with whom his relations had always been of the most cordial nature.

C. O. BLAGDEN.

Professor Henri Cordier

It may be stated with confidence that no one has done more to foster scholarly knowledge of the Far East than Henri Cordier. Of his personality I am unfortunately ill qualified to write; for only once had I the advantage of speaking with him, and that was on his visit to London in July, 1923, for the centenary celebrations of the Royal Asiatic Society. He told me then that the grand total of his writings just exceeded one thousand items.

On the 16th of last March death cut short this stupendous record, but not before a bibliography of his works had been published to mark the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. It is a satisfaction to know that the memorial of his services to sinology was compiled during his lifetime when the opportunity of personal supervision rendered completeness possible.

Cordier landed in China in 1869, and two years later became Honorary Librarian of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. While holding this post, he made the beginnings of what is perhaps his greatest work, the vast bibliographical dictionary, entitled *Bibliotheca Sinica*, of publications in European languages relating to

China. The first edition appeared between 1881 and 1885, and was awarded the Prix Stanislas Julien. Supplements came out in 1893 and 1895, and a second edition was published between 1904 and 1908. Since 1922 four supplementary parts to this edition have appeared, thus increasing the work to nearly 4,500 columns of closely printed matter—a true monument to the wide learning, painstaking enthusiasm, and genius for accuracy which signalized the author in all his undertakings. Unhappily the necessary index had not been finished at the time of his death, but every student of things Chinese will rejoice to know that it is now in the able hands of Madame Cordier.

Among the general public in this country Cordier is best known as editor of Yule's *Marco Polo* and *Cathay and the Way Thither*, both of which owe much of their value to his versatile contributions.

Few men have won wider recognition than the late Henri Cordier. Honours were showered upon him from many countries in addition to his own, and it is appropriate here to mention that the long list includes honorary membership of the Royal Asiatic Society and corresponding membership of the Royal Geographical Society and the British Academy.

W. PERCEVAL YETTS.