

The Very Rev. Dugald Mackichan, M.A., D.D., LL.D.

WITH great regret the Society records the death on 7th April 1932 of this distinguished missionary, who was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1926.

Born in Glasgow in 1851, Dugald Mackichan, after passing through the High School of that city, proceeded to the University, and there in 1869 graduated M.A. with Honours. As a student he showed remarkable aptitude in Natural Philosophy. In 1873, when holding the position of Thomson (Lord Kelvin) Research Scholar, he communicated to the Royal Society of London a paper which carried out the determination of the ratio of Electrostatic and Electromagnetic units and was published in the *Philosophical Transactions* of that Society, vol. clxiii, pp. 409–427. From various quarters he was encouraged to follow a career in science, and throughout his life he remained an eager student of science in various departments. He had set his heart, however, on being a missionary, and it was in the teaching of Science in the Missionary College in Bombay that his early attainments found an outlet. After studying Theology in the Glasgow Free Church College and also at Leipzig and Berlin, he was ordained as a missionary to India in 1874, and in 1875 was appointed to the staff of the Wilson College, Bombay. There, with remarkable rapidity, he rose to a position of commanding influence. Within three years he was elected a Fellow of Bombay University, and four years later, at the age of thirty-one, he became Principal of the Wilson College. In 1888, at the age of thirty-seven, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University for a period of three years. This office was no sinecure, for it laid upon him the chief responsibility for the shaping of the policy of the University which controlled all the higher education in Western India. To this office, later in his career, he had the unique honour of being thrice recalled for similar periods of service, and to this day the University of Bombay bears the stamp of his statesman-like discernment and rare administrative gifts. In 1902 he was appointed a member of the Indian Universities Commission set up by Lord Curzon; and again and again he was called to serve on similar Commissions. In these and many other ways, for the long period of forty-five years, with untiring devotion, Dr Mackichan rendered invaluable service to the cause of Higher Education in India alike in its scholastic and in its Christian aspects. That cause for the last hundred years has been nobly served by the Missionary Colleges of the Scottish

Church, and the name of Dr Mackichan will take rank alongside the names of Alexander Duff of Calcutta, John Wilson of Bombay, and William Miller of Madras—the great personalities of an earlier generation.

When Dr Mackichan began his work it was still the day of small things. There were but 30 students in the College and about 160 pupils in the School. When he retired in 1920 there were over 800 students in the College and 500 pupils in the High School. Under his able administration handsome new buildings were soon erected on a valuable site, and from time to time additional equipment was provided, all without cost to the Home Church beyond the initial contribution of £6000 collected in Scotland by Dr Mackichan himself during his first furlough.

In the midst of all these varied activities as statesman and educationalist, Dr Mackichan remained, first and last, the Christian Missionary. Possessed of rare linguistic gifts, he made himself familiar both with the ancient Sanscrit and with the vernacular of the people among whom he lived. His knowledge of the Marathi language opened avenues of service to him which he used to splendid purpose in aiding the progress of the Marathi Christian Church. At the request of the British and Foreign Bible Society, he took a leading part as Chairman of Committee in the revision of the earlier Marathi version of the Bible. To the Church at home, also, he gave valuable service as Lecturer on Evangelistic Theology and as Chalmers Lecturer; and in 1917 he was called to the Moderator's Chair of the General Assembly. When he left India in 1920 remarkable public testimony was borne to the high appreciation in which he was held alike by Europeans and by Indians. After his retiral he maintained his keen interest in the missionary enterprise; and to the close of his long life his strong personality, his unflinching courage, his sound judgment, and his deep convictions won for him a high place in the esteem of his brethren and a position of commanding influence in the counsels of the Church.

It is fitting to add here that in 1877 Dr Mackichan married the daughter of the Rev. M. MacRitchie. Mrs Mackichan, who died in 1920, was a true helpmeet to her husband, and in Bombay—the Gateway of India—exercised a gracious hospitality for which her memory is still cherished alike by the missionaries of the Church and by many other visitors to the East. They are survived by two daughters, Mrs Williamson and Mrs Service, with whom, in their bereavement, the members of the Royal Society record their sincere sympathy.

R. F.