

## OBITUARY NOTICES.

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**Alexander G. Burgess, M.A., D.Sc.**

DR ALEXANDER G. BURGESS, Rector of Rothesay Academy, died on 29th March, aged fifty-nine. He was born in Wishaw, where his father was a highly respected banker. His early education was received at Wishaw Academy, whence he proceeded to George Watson's College, Edinburgh. Here he distinguished himself in Mathematics and gained many honours, including the Welsh Mathematical Bursary for entrance to the University of Edinburgh. At the University he had a brilliant career, and in 1894 graduated with 1st Class Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. On leaving the University he entered the teaching profession and gave valuable service in Merchiston Castle School, the Edinburgh Ladies' College, and finally as Rector of Rothesay Academy since 1917. A man of untiring energy, he gained the respect and admiration of his pupils and of his colleagues. His success as a teacher was shown by the high honours obtained by his pupils on entering the Universities. He was also a well-known and successful tutor for the Army and Higher Civil Service Examinations. In 1902 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He took an active part in the proceedings of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society, of which he was Secretary for three years. To its *Proceedings* he contributed at least thirteen articles. Later he was elected President, and it was during his presidency that the first Mathematical Colloquium in 1913 was so successfully carried out in Edinburgh. In 1914 his fine powers of organisation and administration shown during the Colloquium pointed him out as the right man to take charge of the arrangements for the Napier Tercentenary Celebrations in July 1914. His genial tact and enthusiasm again ensured success. In March 1924 his Alma Mater recognised his abilities by conferring on him the degree of D.Sc., for a thesis on Tripolar Co-ordinates. His zeal and untiring energy led him to take part in many other spheres of life. At all times he was a strong supporter of the Educational Institute of Scotland, and in 1924 was elected President of the Renfrew and Bute Branch, while for four years he was

Vice-President of the Bute Natural History Society. He was also a keen Church worker. A man of sound judgment and great experience, he did all he had to do in a quiet unostentatious manner that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. The sudden death of his charming and helpful wife in the autumn of last year was a heavy loss which he suffered with great resignation. He is survived by a son and daughter.

S. G.