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SIR CHARLES ARDEN-CLARKE, G.C.M.G.

WE have to record with deep regret the death of Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, of whom our Vice-Chairman writes:

Charles Arden-Clarke was born in 1898 and educated at Rossall School whence he joined the Machine Gun Corps and saw active service in France and Germany. He joined the Colonial Administrative Service in 1920 and after serving in Northern Nigeria and the Nigerian Secretariat was appointed Assistant Resident Commissioner in Bechuanaland in 1936. The next year he became Resident Commissioner and remained in Bechuanaland until 1942, when he was transferred to Basutoland. In 1946 he was appointed Governor of Sarawak and from 1949 to 1957 he was Governor of the Gold Coast, becoming the first Governor-General of Ghana in March 1957.

He was an administrator who was more interested in people than in protocol and who had the gift of penetrating to the heart of any matter with which he was concerned. It was these characteristics, coupled with a strong sense of humour and an innate friendliness, which endeared him to all who were privileged to know him.

On retiring from Ghana he soon plunged into other work, notably for the United Nations in connexion with South West Africa, the Advisory Commission on the Review of the Constitution of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and as Constitutional Adviser to Swaziland. He served on the Executive Council of the Institute in 1958 and 1959. He was Chairman of the National Council for the Supply of Teachers Overseas, of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, of the East and West Friendship Council, and of the Royal African Society.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was the restoration of confidence in the Gold Coast in 1949, and the creation of conditions in which that country was able to proceed in an orderly way to political independence. His death at the early age of sixty-four has robbed the Commonwealth of one of its builders.

We mourn a friend and a leader.

GEORGE BERESFORD-STOOKE

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