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OBITUARY

MEMBERS of the Institute will have heard with regret of the death of Governor Félix Eboué in the French Hospital in Cairo on 17 May.

Born of African stock at Cayenne in French Guiana in 1884, Monsieur Eboué studied at the Lycée at Bordeaux and then entered the École Coloniale in Paris and obtained his degree in law. His first appointment took him to the Colony of Oubangui in French Equatorial Africa, where for twenty-five years he occupied various administrative posts. In 1932 he was appointed Chief Secretary of the Government of Martinique, and after a short period of service in the French Sudan he became Governor of Guadeloupe in 1936. In 1938 he returned to Africa as Governor of Chad Colony, and in 1940 was appointed Governor-general of French Equatorial Africa.

His genuine sympathy with the people under his administration and his natural understanding of the African enabled him to do outstanding work in all the territories with which he was connected. While in Guadeloupe he was responsible for a programme of important social reforms. In Africa he pursued a policy in which the interests of the native community were always in the forefront. The way in which he developed cotton-growing on a commercial scale in the Chad region commanded the respect and admiration of the experts. When he was appointed to the Governorship of Chad Colony he was warned that, in case of war, his territory might have to play an important role, and he lost no time in preparing the Colony for all eventualities. When France signed the Armistice, he hesitated not a moment in rallying to the cause of General de Gaulle. His prompt action was the signal for the French Cameroons and the whole of French Equatorial Africa to join the Allies.

This Institute had been in correspondence with Monsieur Eboué, who showed great interest in our work, and we were looking forward to a closer collaboration in which his experience would have been of the greatest help to us.

HANNS VISCHER

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