

OBITUARY NOTICES

Samuel Charles Hill

By the sudden death on 6th May of Mr. Samuel Charles Hill the study of Indian history has sustained a severe loss ; for while he had to his credit a considerable quantity of solid and valuable work, his many friends had every reason to hope that much more would yet come from his pen.

He belonged to a family which had already devoted itself to the service of India for two generations. As *The Times*, in an obituary notice, reminds us, his grandfather, the Rev. Micaiah Hill, went out to Calcutta as an agent for the London Missionary Society in 1822, and two years later founded the mission station at Berhampore ; his son, the Rev. Samuel John Hill, succeeded him, and conducted the mission from 1856 until his death in 1891. Of this distinguished missionary Samuel Charles was the second son, and was born at Berhampore on 16th July, 1857. He was educated at the Blackheath school for the sons of missionaries, at University College School, and at University College, London, where he took the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc. Appointed to the Bengal Educational Service in March, 1881, his first post was that of professor at Dacca College. For the next eighteen years he went the usual round of appointments as professor or principal of various colleges and inspector of schools ; and then, in March, 1899, he was selected to take charge of the Imperial Record Department and the Imperial Library at Calcutta—a post in which he was confirmed in November of the following year, upon the retirement of Sir George Forrest. To the duties of his new office Hill applied himself with zest ; and in addition to organizing the work of the department in various directions, he rapidly produced a number of valuable publications, including a biography of Claud Martin (1901), an abstract of the Foreign Department records, 1756–62 (1901), a list of the Europeans in Bengal at the time of the Black Hole (1902), *Three Frenchmen in Bengal* (1903), and, above all, his monumental *Bengal in 1756–57*, which appeared in the Indian Records Series in 1905. In July, 1904, an offer of the

post of Director of Public Instruction for the Central Provinces drew him from Calcutta to Nagpur, and he spent the rest of his Indian service in that capacity.

Retiring in July, 1912, Hill settled in London, joined the Royal Asiatic Society, and devoted himself to research work in his favourite historical studies. In 1913 he contributed to the *English Historical Review*, under the title of *The Old Sepoy Officer*, notices of the careers of four native officers of the Madras Army ; while in the next year he followed up this vein in his *Yusuf Khan, the Rebel Commandant*. He next undertook an important piece of work in the shape of an analytical catalogue of the Orme MSS. in the India Office Library, which was published in 1916. At the time of his death he had completed a similar but larger catalogue of the Home Miscellaneous series of the India Office records, and this work was passing through the press. In addition he had made various valuable contributions to the *Indian Antiquary*, *Bengal Past and Present*, the *Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society*, etc.

In all his work Hill was thorough and painstaking in his investigations, and clear and masterly in his presentation of the facts. Although his knowledge was wide, as well as deep, he never wrote to order, preferring to confine himself to subjects that interested him. To other students he was lavish of assistance when applied to ; and for this, as well as for more personal reasons, he will be sorely missed by a wide circle of friends.

W. F.

The Late Maha-Mahopadhyaya Dr. T. Ganapati Sastri

We regret to announce the death of MM. Dr. T. Gaṇapati Śāstrī. He was in 1860 born, of a family famed for Sanskrit learning, the son of Rāmasubbayyar of Taruvai (a village in the Tinneveli District) and a descendant of the famous Sanskrit scholar Appayya Dikshita, who lived in the sixteenth century. Having spent his boyhood in his native village, he came in his sixteenth year to Trivandrum and studied