

Sir George Hart, K.B.E., C.I.E.

WE regret to record the death, at Barberton, Transvaal, on April 16, of Sir George Hart, formerly inspector-general of forests to the Government of India. Born on April 14, 1866, he was educated at St. Paul's School and at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill. He joined the Indian Forest Service in 1887, and was posted as assistant conservator in the Punjab, where he served until 1906, when he was transferred to the Central Provinces as conservator of forests. Two years later, he went to Bengal as conservator, and in 1910 was re-transferred to the Central Provinces as chief conservator. In 1913 he was appointed inspector-general of forests, in which capacity he served until 1921, when he retired. He was made C.I.E. in 1911 and K.B.E. in 1919. On retiring from India he settled down at Coolmore, in the White River district, Transvaal, where he stayed until his death.

Hart's service covered an important and interesting period in the history of Indian forestry. Before his arrival, much pioneer work had been done in the way of saving the forests from destruction. Reservation and demarcation had made progress, and protective measures had been begun. Working-plans operations were being extended, and he took his full share in pushing on this important work. In the Punjab, large irrigated plantations, rendered necessary by the demand for timber and fuel in the canal colonies, were in process of creation and development.

At the time Hart assumed the duties of inspector-general of forests, forestry was more centralized under the control of the Government of India than it became some years later; and although the functions of the inspector-general were purely advisory, he was able to exercise considerable control in working-plans matters, and thus on the management of the forests in the different provinces. He also exercised direct administrative control over the Forest Research Institute and College at Dehra Dun. Hart's term of office as inspector-general covered the War period, when the forest department's energies were taxed to the utmost in supplying timber for military purposes.

Hart will be remembered as a sound practical administrator rather than as a scientific investigator, for although his interest in science was by no means negligible, his strong point was the confidence which his personality inspired both in his Government and in those serving under him.

Prof. A. W. Borthwick, O.B.E.

THE death on April 19 of Albert William Borthwick, in spite of the fact that he had been in ill-health for some time, came as a shock to his many friends and admirers, perhaps more especially in Scotland, where he played a not inconsiderable part in the progress of forestry; which cause had no more ardent or more enthusiastic supporter during the past quarter of a century.

Prof. Borthwick was born on October 16, 1872, the third son of the late Mr. W. H. Borthwick, of Crookston and Borthwick Castle, Midlothian, a

descendant of ancient stock, dating back to the Scottish barony of 1452, now extinct or dormant. He was educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, and the University of St. Andrews, where he graduated B.Sc. in pure science, obtaining first-class honours in botany, physiology and mathematics. After graduation, he proceeded to Germany and passed four years in studying forestry and forest botany at Munich. On returning to Scotland he was appointed assistant to the professor of botany, the late Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, and lecturer in plant physiology, at the University of Edinburgh. On the inauguration of the degree of B.Sc. in forestry at the University in 1910, Dr. Borthwick was appointed lecturer in forest botany. At the same time he lectured on forestry in the East of Scotland College of Agriculture and also gave the course in this subject at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Dr. Borthwick did not remain at the University. In 1915 he was appointed chief advisory officer to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. During the War, he served on the committee for the Supplies of Home Timber. From the Scottish Board, on the inauguration of the Forestry Commission in 1920, Dr. Borthwick was transferred to the Commission as chief research and education officer, and visited Canada as one of the representatives of the Commission at the meeting of the Empire Forestry Conference held in that Dominion. In May 1926, he was appointed to the new chair of forestry established in the University of Aberdeen, which he held to his death.

Borthwick's chief and best work was probably done in research. He was a first-class forest botanist, and this enabled him to play so great a part in advising private owners of woodlands, whose requirements at the time were chiefly on that border line where sylviculture and forest botany came into close affinity. He had another invaluable trait. He possessed in a high degree the power, at conferences of experts and others with varying interests in forestry, of assembling opposed points of view and placing them in a light which resulted in a general acceptance.

For some years Prof. Borthwick edited the *Journal* published by the Royal Scottish Arboricultural (now Forestry) Society, and was president for a period. He was unmarried. He was made an O.B.E. after the Great War.

E. P. STEBBING.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. J. H. Field, C.S.I., formerly director of observatories in India, on May 19, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. Albert Griffiths, formerly professor of physics in Birkbeck College, University of London, on May 24.

Prof. S. H. Langdon, F.B.A., professor of Assyriology in the University of Oxford since 1919, on May 19, aged sixty-one years.

Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, senior, founder of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and of the Rockefeller Foundation, on May 23, aged ninety-seven years.