

a prominent part until failing health compelled him to retire. In the conduct of the business, as well as in the discussion of professional subjects, his ripe experience, sound judgment, and charming personal qualities had much to do with the successful development of the institution, the membership of which includes not merely naval architects and marine engineers, but naval officers, shipowners, yachtsmen, officers of the mercantile marine, and many other classes interested in or connected with shipping.

At the Royal United Service Institution also Sir John Hay did good service, and gave proof of his love for and acquaintance with many branches of science, as well as his desire to utilise all departments of knowledge for the improvement of the Royal Navy. In short, for a man born early in the nineteenth century, and employed at sea from a tender age until he had reached the prime of life, Sir John Hay was remarkable; and he may be fairly described as a pioneer in the class of scientific naval officers which has now become both numerous and influential.

Of his political career this is not the place to speak, but allusion may be made to his services as a Sea Lord of the Admiralty in 1866-8. Although the appointment of Sea Lords was then made largely on political as well as professional grounds, and his political future might have been seriously prejudiced by the independent action which he took in November, 1866, he refused to sign the Navy Estimates, and tendered his resignation because he considered the new programme of shipbuilding to be inadequate. This action showed the temper of the man, who, under a most pleasant and conciliatory manner, concealed great strength of character and readiness to act up to his convictions. His business capacity was considerable, he was a capable speaker, and an agreeable writer, as his books dealing with the naval service showed. He died full of years and honours, mourned by many friends; but some years of retirement, accompanied by blindness towards the end, had prevented him from being so much before the public as formerly. His work was done and well done, and many of its results will abide.

DR. A. H. KEANE.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. A. H. Keane on February 3, after a long illness. He was born in Cork in 1835, was educated in Dublin and elsewhere, and completed his student career in Rome, finally taking his degree with honours in the Roman Catholic College in Dublin. Later he studied in Germany, and thereafter devoted himself to literary work, his first important book being a "History of the English Language" (1878). Shortly afterwards he taught English, German, French, and Hindustani at the Hartley Institute, Southampton, and subsequently a professorship of Hindustani was created for him at University College, London, which he resigned in 1885. After a short visit to the United States, he settled down in Hampstead, where he resided until his death.

Anthropology loses in Dr. Keane one of its most prolific and erudite students. His literary training and great command of languages predisposed him to collation and synthesis, as is proved by several excellent studies in the Journal of the Anthropological Institute; for example, "On the Relations of the Indo-Chinese and Inter-Oceanic Races and Languages" (1880), "The Botocudos" (1883), "The Ethnology of the Egyptian Sudan" (1884), "The Lapps" (1885), and others. He also contributed very numerous articles on ethnology to NATURE, *The Geographical Journal*, *The Academy*,

The Encyclopaedia Britannica (ninth edition), *Chambers's Encyclopaedia* (1890-1), and *Cassell's Storehouse of General Information* (1890-94). Of more permanent value are his admirable monographs on Asia, Africa, Central America and West Indies, and South America in "Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel." Amongst other publications are "The Boer States, Land, and People" (1900), "The Gold of Ophir" (1901), and numerous translations, as, for example, "The Earth and its Inhabitants" (Elisée Reclus), "Peruvian Antiquities" (W. Reiss and A. Stübel), "The Science of Language" (Abel Hovelacque), "Philosophy, Historical and Critical" (A. Lefèvre), "Travels in Africa" (W. Junker), and "The Second Deluge" (J. Rodenberg).

But Dr. Keane's reputation will rest mainly on his "Ethnology" (1896), "Man Past and Present" (1899), and "The World's Peoples" (1908). The first deals with the physical and mental evolution of man, the antiquity of man, criteria of race, and the primary ethnical groups. The second is a masterly summary of the ethnology of all races and peoples, and is an indispensable book to all interested in such subjects. The third, as its subtitle explains, is a popular account of the bodily and mental characters, beliefs, traditions, and political and social institutions of the world's peoples; the numerous photographs add greatly to its value.

Dr. Keane was a typical library student, and being of retiring disposition, was rarely to be seen at scientific meetings. He had strong views and could express them with vigour, but he did not seek controversy. Although lack of opportunity prevented him from making any original investigations, the vast extent of his reading enabled him to marshal in an orderly manner the observations of other people, and often to throw a fresh light upon them.

A. C. HADDON.

NOTES.

WE regret to announce the death, on February 2, in his sixtieth year, of Dr. H. T. Bovey, F.R.S., formerly Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

M. BIGOURDAN has been elected president of the Paris Bureau des Longitudes for the present year. M. Baillaud becomes vice-president, and M. Andoyer secretary.

THE gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded by the council to Mr. A. R. Hinks, for his determination of the solar parallax from observations of Eros.

THE Canadian correspondent of *The Times* announces the death, at eighty-seven years of age, of Sir James Le Moine, who for many years was an industrious writer on historical and ornithological subjects, and in 1894 was elected president of the Royal Society of Canada.

REUTER'S AGENCY reports that two British officers, one belonging to the Survey of India, have been detached to locate the falls of the Brahmaputra, which are reputed to exist in the hitherto unexplored reach of the river which lies between Assam and the great bend of the river to the northward. Attempts have been made by native surveyors and others to locate these falls and to traverse this part of the river where its valley cuts across the great Himalayan chain, but so far without any success.

FURTHER evidence shows that, of the four reported earthquakes referred to in our last issue (p. 459), that felt in Glenfruin on January 26 was probably not of seismic origin. The shocks at Lennoxton on January 20 and