

C. W. HOBLEY, C.M.G.—AN APPRECIATION

The late Mr Charles William Hobley, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, A.M.Inst.C.E., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., died early in this year at the age of eighty after a life of varied and valuable service. Himself the son of an Indian Civil Servant, Hobley went out to Africa in 1890 as Geologist to the Imperial British East Africa Company; but on that Company handing over its rights to the Foreign Office four years later he officially joined the Administrative Branch of the Government, in which, as a matter of fact, he had already been mainly employed. For the rest of his time in East Africa, viz. until 1921, when he retired from the Colonial Service, African administration claimed most of his attention, though he remained the Government's adviser in geological affairs, carrying the title of Commissioner of Mines as well as that of Provincial Commissioner. During part of the 1914-1918 war he served as Chief Political Officer to the British forces in what is now Tanganyika Territory.

Hobley's scientific interests were manifold, anthropology, ethnology, geography and zoology competing with the geological for his attention. Before he left the Colonial Service being already a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and of the Royal Geographical and the Geological Societies, he was awarded the Back Grant of the Royal Geographical Society and, on his retirement, he became busily engaged in all their activities, as the following list of his appointments clearly shows.

During his last twenty-five years of life Hobley served for varying periods as Corresponding Fellow of the Geological Society and as a member of the Geological Survey Advisory Board. He was also a member of the Councils of the Royal Geographical and the Geological Societies and of the Royal Anthropological Institute and a Vice-President of the Geologists Association. In addition to these he was for fourteen years Secretary to the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire. His principal writings consisted of the following: *Ethnology of the A-Kamba*, 1910, *Bantu Beliefs and Magic* 1922; Kenya from Chartered Company to Crown Colony 1929.

This imposing list of his activities reveals not only Hobley's industry and zeal for knowledge but also a kindly nature, which brought him into and kept him in close association with his fellow-men. For many years he was the main-spring of the effort which brought together the large numbers attending the annual Kenya dinner in London. His death marks the passing of another of the very few surviving links with the I.B.E.A. Company: he will be missed, however, not only by that small remainder but also by all who had at one time or another the privilege of working under or with him.

SIR GEOFFRY NORTHCOTE.