

Date

A GREAT ANTHROPOLOGIST.

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COLLEAGUE'S TRIBUTE

Glowing tributes to the work of Dr. A. C. Haddon in anthropology and ethnology were paid at a dinner given at Cambridge on May 23 to celebrate the attainment of his 70th birthday. It was also the eve of his retirement from the post of Reader in Ethnology and Anthropology in the University. Professor Sir William Ridgeway was in the chair.

Sir William Ridgeway spoke of Dr. Haddon as his colleague for the past 25 years, who went to Cambridge when there was no school of anthropology. In the early days Dr. Macalister was endeavouring to carry on some kind of work, and he found a young student in Haddon who "enthused" everyone from the first. He found how difficult it was to create enthusiasm, but he pushed out into new fields. This energy aroused the attention of the speaker, who went to the late Master of Christ's, Dr. John Peile, and asked if he could do anything for anthropology. The result was that 25 years ago Haddon started on a £50 scholarship in the University. His long researches in the field, as well as his published works, had made him one of the leading ethnologists of his time, with a world wide reputation. By his zeal and self-sacrifice he had done more than any man to forward the teaching of this science in the University. To perpetuate his work portraits had been painted by Mr. de Laszlo, one of which would be hung on the walls of his own college; another was for the museum, while the artist had presented a third to the family. Dr. Rivers ought to have succeeded Dr. Haddon, but Rivers had died ten years younger. He was the man to whom Haddon should have handed his torch, but the fates had willed it otherwise.

Mr. Henry Balfour said Dr. Haddon's life had been devoted whole-heartedly to the cause of science. In his early years he had studied comparative zoology, but he had emancipated himself from the lower animals to the higher. One thing was noticeable—his astounding versatility; for he had not been a close specialist in any one branch. He was master of them all. His brilliant memoir on the art of New Guinea was a most effective piece of work, which had set people thinking on lines that were more or less new. At present he was coping with a great problem—that of racial classification and racial diffusion; and he was tackling it with great energy and confidence.

Professor C. G. Seligman spoke of Dr. Haddon's work in London when he gave the first systematic lecture on ethnology in 1904, in the chair founded by Mr. Martin White. He had taken an enormous amount of trouble to put the Anthropological Society on its feet. In the field Haddon was always an optimist, and he had never heard him grumble in the Torres Straits or in New Guinea. He was an extraordinarily good comrade. His success among the natives was that he could always make his opinion clear when occasion arose.

Dr. Haddon, in reply, said that his colleagues had always been most kind to him in every way; there had been no jealousy or rivalry between them. It was remarkable that they had always been a happy family. Reviewing his life, he said that in his early days his father recognized that he was a failure in business, so he sent him to Cambridge 50 years ago. After taking his tripos two years later he accepted the chair of zoology at Dublin; but as he did not like taking second-hand goods over the counter, he determined to see what tropical life was like. He went to the Torres Straits, where he soon got intimate with the natives and got to know them. On his return he was anxious to publish some works on his visit, but he was warned by Sir William Flower that there was no money in them, a statement which he had since abundantly verified. For several years he lectured at Cambridge without stipend, and after another visit to the Torres Straits he returned to the University, but had no appointment. Eventually the University were induced to take up the subject; but they were still going through critical times, and the school was not yet firmly established. The death of Dr. Rivers was a great blow to him.