

OBITUARY NOTICES

Dr. Renward Brandstetter

At Lugano on 17th April, 1942, died the second distinguished Swiss student of Malay. The first was George Hendric Werndly, who, born at Zurich in 1699, went as a clergyman from Rotterdam to Netherlands India, helped there in the translation of the Bible and wrote a well-known Malay Grammar before he died at Batavia (Java) in 1744. The second was Dr. Renward Brandstetter, born at Beromünster on 29th June, 1860, who after taking a course in Sanskrit and Indo-germanic languages at Leipzig, became a teacher of German at Luzern Canton School, until in 1826 he was pensioned off. His interest in Malay arose from a chance meeting with Professor G. K. Niemann, of Delft. Brandstetter's main interest was philology and four of his important essays were translated (and highly and deservedly praised) by Dr. C. O. Blagden, and published as one of this Society's monographs with the title "An Introduction to Indonesian Linguistics".

Brandstetter next started a series of monographs: *Wir Menschen der Indonesischen Erde*, with such titles as *Die indonesische und die indogermanische Volksseele* (a parallel based on linguistics); *Der Intellect der indonesischen Rasse mit indogermanischen Parallelen aus Philosophie und Sprachwissenschaft*; *Grundsteine zur alt-indonesischen Literaturwissenschaft für Sprachforschung und Völkerpsychologie*; *Verwandtschaft der Indonesischen mit dem Indogermanischen*. The fact that he had never even visited Asia made some of these studies rather academic.

Brandstetter twice received encouragement from France to undertake a comparative dictionary of Indonesian languages—it should, of course, have come from Holland or England. And at the time of his death he was engaged on *Ein Muster für all-indonesische Sprachvergleichung*. His career as a student of peoples so remote from his surroundings should be an inspiration to cloistered scholars.

R. O. WINSTEDT.