

running the archæological section of the British Association and many learned societies, including the Palestine Exploration Fund. He planned and carried out the building of the new library at New College; though even here the doubter is tempted to ask whether great ingenuity has not occasionally outrun practical sense. In his last years arthritis crippled him, but with unflinching courage he completed the two volumes of *Scripta Minoa* which Sir Arthur Evans had left unfinished. He died on 6th March, 1954, as he would have wished, still working.

G. R. DRIVER.

Dr. Philippus Samuel van Ronkel

Dr. Philippus Samuel van Ronkel was born at Zutphen on 1st August, 1870, and died at Leiden on 3rd July, 1954.

After passing the final examination of the Leiden gymnasium he studied Semitic and Indonesian languages at Leiden under Professors De Goeje, Kern, and Vreede. In 1895 he got his Ph.D. for a thesis on "De roman van Amir Hamza. Until 1913 when it was abolished, he taught Malay and Muhammadan Law at Batavia in a School for the instruction of administrative officials. Then he was entrusted with an inquiry into the religions current on Sumatra's West Coast.

In 1920 van Ronkel was one of the founders of the Oriental Society of the Netherlands, of which he became President in 1939. In 1920, too, he was elected a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and from 1921 to 1941 he was Professor of Malay at Leiden. His principal works were Catalogues of the Malay (1909) and Arabic (1913) MSS. in the Museum of the Batavian Society, and of the Malay and Minanghaban MSS. in the Leiden University Library, and editions of the fifteenth century Malacca Laws (1919) and of *'adat radja-radja Melajoe* (1929). He contributed numerous articles to the *Bijdragen Koninklijk Instituut* (1896-1946) and to the *Tijdschrift Bataviaasch Genootschap* (1899-1914), including two important papers on Tamil words in Malay (vols. 45 and 46). A paper on the study of Malay in seventeenth century England appeared in *Feestbundel Bataviaasch Genootschap* (pp. 309-315).

Best known to the public for his Malay Dictionary (1918) which ran into a fifth edition (1947), and has been superseded only on

account of the new Indonesian vocabulary, van Ronkel made his greatest contribution to scholarship by his invaluable catalogues of MSS. To more than one generation of students he was endeared by a genial disposition.

The Society's respectful condolence is extended to his widow.

J. PH. VOGEL.
R. O. WINSTEDT.

23rd International Congress of Orientalists

This Congress, which was sponsored by the Society and organized by members of it, was held at Cambridge from 21st to 28th August, 1954. Its President (Sir Ralph Turner) opened it at the Senate House, which along with the Arts Schools and the Mill Lane lecture-rooms was generously lent by the University for the sessions of the Congress. The Organizing Committee, of which Prof. H. W. Bailey was Chairman and Mr. Denis Sinor Secretary-General, were also indebted to individual colleges for providing accommodation for many of the 940 delegates attending.

Approximately 350 papers were read in the ten sections.

On Monday, 23rd August, the Mayor and Mayoress of Cambridge gave a reception in the Guildhall; on Tuesday a reception was given by the Faculty of Oriental Languages in the University of Cambridge; on Thursday the Council of the Society gave a Garden Party in Queens' College, and on Friday Her Majesty's Government held a reception in Trinity College.

The Transactions of the Congress will be published later.

The Society is greatly indebted to the Soviet Delegation for the generous gift to its library of sixty-six Russian works on Oriental subjects.