

Walter Hume Kerr, M.A., B.Sc.

WALTER HUME KERR, who died at Jedburgh on August 9, 1936, was born at Duns, Berwickshire, on June 25, 1861. He was the second son of the Rev. Daniel Kerr, minister of the South United Presbyterian Church, Duns. Mr Kerr was educated at Wellfield Academy, Duns. He then entered the University of Edinburgh, and obtained the degree of M.A. under the old Arts regulations in 1882. Thereafter he went to the University of Oxford, but two years later a breakdown in health necessitated his taking a long voyage, and he spent some time in New Zealand. On his return to Great Britain he took up practical training in engineering and simultaneously attended the Edinburgh University Engineering Course, graduating B.Sc. in Engineering in October 1893. On graduating he became Assistant to the late Professor Armstrong in the Engineering Department of the University of Edinburgh, and remained on the staff of the Engineering Department until 1928, when he retired under the age limit. For a long period of years he had full charge as Lecturer of the degree courses in Engineering Drawing and Design, and devoted much of his spare time to investigating novel methods of dealing with the stresses in masonry arches.

Mr Kerr was a keen archæologist and an expert in the art of photography, the results of his work in archæology and photography being embodied in many lectures delivered in Edinburgh and elsewhere.

During the War he served as Sub-Director of Army Education, and assisted in organising educational work in France, being stationed at Étapes, and continued this work as Education Officer to the Army of the Rhine during 1918-19.

Another proof of his wide sympathies and intellectual activities was shown by his keen interest in the Edinburgh University Musical Society, of which he was an active member for many years.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1913.

T. H. B.