

OBITUARY NOTICES

DONALD WILLIAM FERGUSON, M.R.A.S.

WHEN Donald Ferguson passed away on June 29 last, under sad circumstances, I personally lost a friend to whom I could always turn in confidence for light on obscure points of Oriental knowledge requiring acquaintance with the languages and literature of the European nations connected with the East. For, besides his knowledge of Sinhalese and Tamil, he was well versed in French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, and Spanish.

His tastes were all literary, and though educated as a medical man he spent the greater part of his life in connexion with the *Ceylon Observer*, with which his family have had an honourable connexion for about seventy years. Indeed, it is hard to dissociate that well-known paper from the name of Ferguson. Donald Ferguson's father, A. M. Ferguson, C.M.G., was connected with it as chief proprietor and editor from 1837 to 1892, the date of his death in the island. The subject of this notice was co-proprietor and co-editor with his father for many years till ill-health drove him from Ceylon in 1893. The present editor, John Ferguson, C.M.G., nephew and cousin of those just mentioned, is still occupying that position after nearly fifty years of residence in the country.

Donald Ferguson was born at Colombo on October 8, 1853, and died at Croydon on June 29, 1910. Since 1893 he spent his retirement in studying and illustrating works connected with the history of Ceylon, and also greatly in helping others who were engaged in Oriental studies.

The following is a list of his works extracted from the British Museum Catalogue:—

1. Translation of E. W. A. Kuhn's *Earliest Aryan Element in the Sinhalese Vocabulary*. 1885.
2. Enlargement of William Ferguson's *List of Writers on Ceylon*. 1886.
3. Translation of Daalman's *Belgian Physician's Notes on Ceylon*. ?1888.
4. "Captain João Ribeiro: his Work on Ceylon and the French translation thereof by Abbé Le Grand." Journ. Ceylon Branch RAS. ?1888.
5. Translation of Ribeiro's *Account of the Siege of Colombo in 1655-56*. 1891.
6. *The Reverend Philippus Baldæus and his Work on Ceylon*. Colombo, 1895.
7. *Captain Robert Knox: the twenty years' captive in Ceylon: Contributions towards a biography*. Privately printed, 1896.
8. Edition of Robert Knox's *Sinhalese Vocabulary*. 1897.
9. Edition of the *Travels of Pedro Teixeira*. 1902.
10. Edition, Portuguese and English, of Vieyra and Calvo's *Letters from Portuguese Captives in Canton in 1534 and 1536*. 1902.
11. "Correspondence between Raja Sinha II and the Dutch in 1645-1660." Journ. Ceylon Branch RAS., 1904.
12. *Cartas de Raja Singa II, Rei de Candia, aos Hollandases, 1636-60*, publicadas por D. Ferguson. 1907.
13. "Discovery of Ceylon by the Portuguese in 1506." Journ. Ceylon Branch RAS., 1908.
14. Translation and edition Barros and de Coutos' *History of Ceylon from the earliest times to 1600 A.D.* Journ. Ceylon Branch RAS., 1909.

R. C. TEMPLE.

ALEXANDER ROGERS

THE Society has lost a well-known and respected member in the person of Mr. Alexander Rogers, who died on the 27th of November in his 86th year. Educated finally at