

Sir James Walker, Ph.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.

JAMES WALKER was born at Dundee on April 6, 1863, and received his elementary education at Dundee High School. Entering the University of Edinburgh in 1882, he graduated as B.Sc. in 1885 and as D.Sc. in 1886. He then proceeded to Germany for research work, first under Baeyer at Munich and later under Ostwald at Leipzig. After several years' service as an assistant to Crum Brown at Edinburgh and to Ramsay at University College, London, he was elected to the Chair of Chemistry at University College, Dundee. This position he held until 1908, when he was appointed to succeed Crum Brown at the University of Edinburgh.

Throughout his whole teaching career Walker was recognised as the protagonist of physical chemistry in Great Britain, and he did more to advance this new branch of science, by his research and by his text-books, than any of his contemporaries. His tenure of the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh was distinguished by valuable work during the Great War in connection with the manufacture of high explosives, and by the foundation of the new department at King's Buildings. He retired in 1928, and died on May 6, 1935.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1891, served on the Council in 1903-5, 1910-13, 1922-25, and 1928-31, and was Vice-President from 1916 to 1919. He was awarded the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize in 1894 and the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in 1932. (See also *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society*, No. 4, 1935, p. 537.)

J. K.