

efforts in this direction is measured by the very considerable rise in the Club membership during his term of office.

Photographs of Dr Levack appear in the *Journal* at Vol. IX. (1920) and at Vol. XI. (1925).

SIR HENRY ALEXANDER, LL.D.

THE death of Sir Henry Alexander at his residence, 31 Queen's Road, Aberdeen, on April 7, 1940, came as a great shock both to his relatives and fellow-citizens alike, on account of its alarming suddenness. In the manner of his passing, however, none can regret that there was no lingering illness, for the best that we can wish for those we love is that they may be spared prolonged and hopeless ill-health.

Sir Henry was born in Aberdeen on June 20, 1875. He belonged to a family which for many years held a distinguished position in the public life of his native city, and particularly in Aberdeen journalism. He received his education at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, graduating M.A. in 1895. His interest in educational affairs as author, editor, and administrator led to his receiving from his University the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1935. He was Convener of the Editorial Committee of *The Aberdeen University Review*, 1914-28. In 1914 he succeeded his father, the late Mr Henry Alexander, as Editor of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, a post from which he retired in 1922 when that newspaper became merged in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal*. He was Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen from 1932 to 1935, and an *ex officio* member of the University Court since 1932, having latterly acted as Assessor to Admiral Sir Edward Evans, the re-elected Rector of the University. He was D.L. and J.P. for the County of the City of Aberdeen. He was President of the following, namely, the Territorial Army Association of the City of Aberdeen, the Aberdeen Branch of the British Red Cross Society, the National Lifeboat Institution (Aberdeen Branch), the City of Aberdeen Playing Fields Association,

and the Royal Northern Agricultural Society. He was an Hon. Fellow of the Royal Empire Society, and a member of the following: the Council for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, the Northern Lighthouses Board, the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, the Scottish Regional Appeals Advisory Committee of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Scottish National Literary Society, the Consumers' Committee for Scotland of the Food Council and Consumers' Committee of Great Britain, and also Chairman of the Aberdeen King's Roll Committee.

In particular did Sir Henry distinguish himself, however, as Chairman of the Aberdeen and District Joint Town Planning Committee, which involved the preparation of a town-planning scheme for an area extending to ninety-six square miles, consisting of a large portion of the City of Aberdeen, and of the adjoining land within the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine—a scheme which was the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in this country, and to which he devoted five years of constant work. In March 1933 the scheme was approved of by the Department of Health for Scotland, and earned the considered appreciation of town-planning experts not only throughout this country but also abroad.

Sir Henry was from his youth a keen lover of the Scottish hills, and on every occasion available to a man with so many and exacting duties as he had, he endeavoured to retreat to the great cathedrals of nature, where he could enjoy the rest and refreshment to body and mind which they can always afford. He joined the Scottish Mountaineering Club in 1908, but it was not until 1911 that his mother Club, the Cairngorm Club, found him within her fold.

As one would expect from his professional hand, the leaves of the *Journals* of both Clubs were, from time to time, adorned with articles, both about the hills and the historical and legendary lore of the country around them, with a charm of style, and in a manner which showed he had an unflinching eye for mountain form in all its varieties, coupled with a very thorough knowledge of life in the Highlands in bygone days.



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His masterpiece, however, was undoubtedly the "S.M.C. Guide Book to the Cairngorms," extending to over two hundred pages. This book contains a most exhaustive and minutely accurate mass of information with regard to these important mountains, and has so far been one of the best-sellers of all the guide books yet issued by the S.M.C. He edited the *Cairngorm Club Journal* from 1924 until 1926.

Occasionally, however, Sir Henry wandered from his homeland hills, and in 1910, 1913, and 1923 we find him in the Tyrol, on the Matterhorn, and in the Pyrenees respectively, but it was the Scottish hills which attracted him most, and there were few of their tops he had not visited more than once.

In his variety of public work he at all times carried into it caution and prudence, and so in his mountaineering he belonged rather to the Salvationist than to the Ultramontane class. He was never inclined to look upon the mountains from the greased-pole point of view which Ruskin used to deplore. Like all true mountaineers, he climbed for the joy he got from the ever-changing scenes on the hillside, where, far from the noisy highways, he could linger and enjoy the peace and restfulness of the quiet places. And now he has gone down the long Western Ridge and disappeared in the sunset, but we cherish his memory for all that he was to our Club, and to ourselves—a fine, true gentleman. "Sic itur ad astra."

W. G.