

Obituary

MRS. ALICE H. HENRY

1883-1956

The daughter of an eminent physician and wife of a renowned forester, it is not surprising that these sciences were a major interest to Mrs. Henry all her life. Neither is it surprising to those who knew her that this interest was an active one. Her father, Sir Lauder Brunton, was a prolific writer on medical subjects and, until her marriage, Mrs. Henry aided him tirelessly in preparing his material for the printer. She married Professor Augustine Henry when he was embarking on his six year task of producing the monumental "Trees of Great Britain and Ireland" in collaboration with Mr. H. J. Elwes. Mrs. Henry's assistance in this work was enormous. She took part in all sides of it—secretarial, research and translation—and accompanied her husband on his expeditions to study trees at first hand which took him to many countries.

After his death in 1930, Mrs. Henry presented her husband's collection of tree specimens to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, to form the "Augustine Henry Herbarium." She spent eight years arranging and cataloguing the 9,000 specimens which it contains and the herbarium is now in its comprehensiveness and accessibility a most valuable national asset for the study of forestry.

Mrs. Henry's own interests were many. Her charming house in Dublin was a centre of culture where poets and artists met and where she gave parties for her musical and literary friends and her husband's academic colleagues. To these gatherings would be invited her young forestry proteges, but such was her skill as a hostess that they would feel happy and at home amidst the brilliant conversation. The depth and thoroughness of her own knowledge of many subjects was profound and one was always struck by the quickness of her wit and extent of her reading. From her aunt, Mrs. Stopford Green, came her interest in Ireland and her desire to help all good national causes.

Mrs. Henry was a member of this society from the start and was elected an Honorary Member in 1947. She made handsome contributions to our funds in our early days and helped the establishment of the society in every way possible.