

Obituary

MEMBERS of the Society will have heard with deep regret of the death of Dr. Herbert Francis Mooney, C.I.E., C.B.E., E.D., M.A., Sc.D., F.L.S. which took place suddenly on the 20th August 1964 at his home in Killiney. May he rest in peace.

After a most varied and distinguished career in the Indian Forest Service and the British Middle East Office, he retired in 1962, devoting his abundant energies to planning and planting a large garden, yachting in Dublin Bay, golf and social work. He also found time to take an active interest in our Society, reading a very interesting paper on "The Vegetation of Ethiopia", and attending several of our field events where his technical contributions and his ability as a raconteur were equally appreciated.



Born in Dublin in 1898, he received his education at Belvedere College and Clongowes Wood before taking up medicine at Trinity College. His studies were interrupted by the First World War when he served in India with the Indian Cavalry. After a forestry course at Oxford he joined the Indian Forest Service in 1921 and retired as Conservator of Forests in 1947. He worked especially in Bihar and Orissa and was noted for the excellent relations which he established with the Indians. He achieved exceptional success in dealing with such intractable forest problems as "shifting cultivation". No doubt his genuine anxiety to improve the living conditions of the population was recognised and this, together with his outstanding personality, was the key to his success.

After his Indian service he joined the British Middle East Office with headquarters in Beirut and paid forestry advisory visits to Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Lebanon, Israel and the Sudan. Later he moved to Addis Ababa where he was advisor on forestry to the Emperor of Ethiopia and became his personal friend.

Apart from his professional and administrative work, he earned a reputation as a botanist and ecologist, publishing a "Supplement to the Botany of Bihar and Orissa" and enriching the Herbaria at Kew and Addis Ababa. Trinity recognised his scientific achievements by conferring on him the degree of Sc.D. in November, 1945.