

tribulation. Lastly, his numerous pupils lament the loss of the master who not only fired them with enthusiasm for their science, but who also, by his great example of unswerving devotion to duty and of resolute fortitude in bearing adversity, inspired them to lead a higher and a nobler life.

P. F. F.

---

GEORGE JOHNSTON ALLMAN. 1824—1904.

GEORGE J. ALLMAN, born in Dublin on September 28, 1824, was a younger son of William Allman, M.D., who was Professor of Botany in the University of Dublin from 1809 to 1844. Dr. William Allman was one of the most distinguished botanists of his time, and was the first professor in the British Isles to introduce (in 1812), and lecture on, the Natural System of Linnæus.

George J. Allman entered Trinity College, Dublin, at an early age, and during his undergraduate course uniformly obtained high honours in Mathematics, pure and applied. He graduated in 1844 as a Senior Moderator and Gold Medalist in those subjects, along with the late Professor Samuel Haughton, F.R.S., who obtained the First Senior Moderatorship of that year. In 1853 he married Louisa, daughter of Mr. John S. Taylor, of Corballis, Co. Meath, and in the same year was appointed Professor of Mathematics in Queen's College, Galway; there he had among his colleagues Sir Thomas W. Moffett, late President of the College, George Johnstone Stoney, F.R.S., John E. Cairnes, the distinguished Political Economist, D'Arcy Thompson, and other men of celebrity. He was made a Member of the Senate of the Queen's University in 1877, and was nominated by the Crown, in 1880, one of the first Senators of the Royal University of Ireland, a position which he filled until the end of his life.

The degree of Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) was conferred on him in 1882, and he was elected F.R.S. in 1884. He was sent by the Council of his College as a delegate to the University of Bologna on the occasion of the celebration of its Octo-centenary in 1888.

The work by which Dr. Allman's name will long be known is his "History of Greek Geometry from Thales to Euclid," which first appeared in the form of successive articles in various numbers of the Trinity College periodical, entitled 'Hermathena,' and afterwards (in 1889) was published as a volume in the Dublin University Press Series.

To this work Dr. Allman devoted many years of indefatigable study, learned research, and original thought. In it he traced the rise and progress of the sciences of Geometry and Arithmetic, comprising the labours and discoveries of the three great schools of the period, known respectively as the Ionian, the Pythagorean, and the School of Athens. As remarked by Mr. J. S. Mackay at the end of a critical review in the 'Academy,' June 1, 1889, "Nothing so painstaking, so lucid, and so satisfactory has been written on the history of geometry during the period selected, even in laborious Germany." The work was hailed with high praise by scientific and literary journals at home and on the Continent; it was recognised, as having thrown a large amount of new light on the different steps in the early development of science, by distinguished foreigners, such as Tannery, of Paris; Zeuthen, of Copenhagen; Loria, of Genoa; Hultsch, of Dresden; Günther, of Munich; Cantor, of Leipzig, and other well-known mathematical scholars.

Dr. Allman had earlier published several mathematical memoirs, among which was an account of Professor McCullagh's lectures on the "Attraction of the Ellipsoid," which was reproduced in the collected works of McCullagh, published (1880) in the Dublin University Press Series. At a later period he contributed to the 9th Edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' articles on Thales, Pythagoras, Ptolemy, and other Greek philosophers.

Dr. Allman died of pneumonia in Dublin, on May 9, 1904. In every relation of life he was estimable, and his loss will be long felt by a large circle of college and other deeply attached friends. To the latter he was endeared by his affectionate, frank, and genial disposition; and no person who came in close contact with him could fail to be impressed by the integrity, sincerity, and strong sense of duty which were among his marked characteristics.

B. W.

---