

J. B. LOCKHART, F.R.S.E.

James Balfour Lockhart was born in 1886 at Cambuslang and received his early education there. Later, when aiming at the Civil Service, he obtained instruction from Skerry's College, Glasgow. Progress was such that he became for a time tutor at their Edinburgh branch, where he first met his future wife Adie, then a pupil. James became attracted by the chance of aiming at a degree and after matriculating, studied at the University of Edinburgh from October 1912 until June 1914. Great War service in Gallipoli and Egypt then intervened until March 1919. Thereafter he graduated M.A., B.Sc. at Edinburgh, with 1st Class Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, gaining the Napier Medal as the best mathematician of 1920. That same year, after brief nibbles at more lucrative openings, he decided to teach and joined the staff of the Edinburgh Academy.

There he rapidly showed his worth, teaching the Geits and upwards to Higher Grade presentation of pupils in the sixths. Between 1930 and 1937 he was Housemaster in Dundas House, a most happy period, wherein he and his wife gained the lasting affection and respect of the boys. At their next home, in Inverleith Grove, James was able to develop the interest in bee-keeping which lasted throughout his life. In 1940 he realized a cherished ambition and assumed the headship of the Mathematical Department at Henderson Row. Despite numerical depletion of boys and staff by the effects of war, that period became one of achievement, with James now teaching Calculus and Trigonometry up to Scholarship standard with marked success. Then also, responsibility for the school timetable, for detailed arrangements on special occasions and compilation of examination entries alike devolved upon him and were to remain thus when peace brought with it mounting complexity. Offers of assistance met with the invariable reply "I like doing it". In time however, abdominal trouble developed and this led in October 1950 to a major operation and to James's retirement in 1951.

For many years he had been an office-bearer in Inverleith Church and in 1932 had become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Holidays were usually spent at his cottage near Kingskettle in Fife. From 1927 to the time of his operation, a period of much growth in the international stature of that body, he had functioned notably as Honorary Treasurer of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society. The accounts arrived annually for auditing accompanied by a jar of honey which sweetened the Departmental teas for several days thereafter. The minute of Professor Whittaker's tribute at the November 1950 meeting of the E.M.S. is relevant to most of James's work: "Sir Edmund said that it was with the greatest good will and the strongest feeling that he moved the vote of thanks. Mr Lockhart had done the work himself unaided by clerical staff and

he had done it as a labour of love. Sir Edmund remarked on the healthy state of the funds of the Society and moved that the Society should tender its greatest thanks to Mr Lockhart for more than twenty years' work as Treasurer. . . . The motion was carried with acclamation ”.

Although the hopes then expressed for an early and complete recovery could not be realized in full, James was far from inactive in retirement at Balmony, Glendevon. For a spell he assisted with the Academy Development appeal. For years he participated in local kirk affairs, while caring for his bees and precipitous garden. No visitor ever failed to receive a warm welcome and a glass of mead, or jar of honey. Heart trouble developed however and 1966 found both James and Adie in hospital. On returning home James continued to owe much to the devoted care of his wife, until, following an operation on a broken leg, he passed away at Glenfarg Hospital on 27th January 1969. She did not long survive him, having met her valiant end on 27th July.

J.B.L.'s pupils remember him for ready help when in difficulty, for meticulous nailing of error, for illuminating alternative solutions, for tireless patience and invariable clarity of mind. Colleagues are grateful for the application of these high qualities to their own problems and will recall his pawky good-humour with never a trace of malice: his ability to throw off care and enjoy a round of golf in all weathers: and many a glass of mead or pot of honey from his beloved bees.

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