

students, for, in addition to Baron von Richthofen, there were nineteen professors or teachers on the staff who lectured on geography or on subjects of direct interest to them.

That Richthofen was greatly respected and beloved by his old pupils is proved by the "Festschrift" \* which they presented to him on his sixtieth birthday, and which contains contributions by Drygalski, A. Hettner, G. Schott, K. Kretschmer, E. Hahn, G. Wegener, H. Yule Oldham, and others; and that his labours were appreciated also in much wider circles was shown on his seventieth birthday in 1903, when 700 admirers in every part of the globe raised the sum of £1300 as a "Richthofen Stiftung," the interest of which is to be devoted to young geographers for the promotion of scientific research.

**Major-General Sir Charles William Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,  
F.R.S., etc.**

By the death of Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, which occurred at Tunbridge Wells on October 25, 1905, the Society has lost one of its most distinguished fellows and warmest supporters. Charles William Wilson was born on March 14, 1836. He passed second into Woolwich, and received his first commission in the Royal Engineers on September 24, 1855. He earned distinction in various ways, but he was, before everything, a surveyor and cartographer, and a large proportion of his long service was passed either in survey work or as head of the Topographical Branch of the War Office, while his very able administration as Director-General of the Ordnance Survey has been recognized by those who best knew the difficulties he had to contend with.

He was started early in his service on survey work, having been appointed in the beginning of 1858, while still a young subaltern, to the North American Boundary Commission, to which was entrusted the survey and demarcation of the boundary between British Columbia and the United States. He served with great ability with this commission till late in 1862. He received the thanks of the Foreign Office for his services.

It having been decided to make a contoured survey of Jerusalem, Wilson, who had just been promoted captain, volunteered at some pecuniary sacrifice to take charge of the survey, and his services were accepted. He proceeded to Jerusalem in 1864. Besides the actual survey, Captain Wilson undertook considerable underground explorations, and made many interesting discoveries. The Royal Society and the R.G.S. subsequently proposed that the opportunity should be taken of connecting the Dead sea by levelling with Jerusalem and the Mediterranean, thus ascertaining the correct level of the former. This survey was executed by Captain Wilson, who completed it, and returned home in July, 1865. Both surveys were successfully carried out, and required not only technical skill, but the exercise of great tact and judgment. It was probably the first instance of a considerable survey carried out in a country under Moslem rule, but so tactfully was it managed that Wilson and his surveyors were allowed to go anywhere, and were on the best terms with the inhabitants. Captain Wilson, who was a clear and attractive writer, gave an account of this work in his 'Notes on the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem.'

Shortly after his return home, Captain Wilson was posted to the Ordnance Survey and joined at Inverness; but his stay on the Ordnance Survey was short, as he returned to Palestine in November, 1865, to take charge of an expedition

\* Berlin, 1893.

organized by the Palestine Exploration Fund, of which Sir C. Wilson has been a mainstay ever since. This expedition made a reconnaissance of the country, fixed a number of places astronomically, and made considerable archæological researches. This expedition was the starting-point of the Palestine exploration, and Captain Wilson rejoined the Ordnance Survey in 1866. He acted as assistant Commissioner to the Bonyl Boundary Commission in 1867.

In 1868, a survey of Mount Sinai and of the adjoining country in which the wanderings of the Israelites took place was projected, and this survey was undertaken and skilfully carried out by Captain Wilson and Captain Henry Palmer, R.E., assisted by several scientific men and by a party of surveyors from the Ordnance Survey. An interesting account of this survey is given in 'Notes on the Ordnance Survey of Sinai,' by Captain Wilson. For his services in connection with these surveys Captain Wilson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was also elected to the Council of the R.G.S. and to several foreign societies.

In 1869, Captain Wilson joined the Topographical Department of the War Office, and shortly after was appointed director of that department. On the formation of the Intelligence Branch of the War Office, Captain Wilson was made its chief, with the rank of Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Intelligence Department. He held this appointment, with the approbation of his superiors, till 1877; his services were rewarded by the grant of a Companionship of the Bath.

In 1871 Captain Wilson received the Diploma of the International Geographical Congress at Antwerp for his work in the Holy Land.

On leaving the War Office, Wilson, who had meantime been promoted major, was specially employed for a short time under the India Office, in connection with Afghan affairs, and was subsequently reappointed to the Ordnance Survey, and placed in charge of the Dublin office.

In 1878 he temporarily left the Ordnance, on appointment as British Commissioner for demarcation of the Servian boundary, under the Treaty of Berlin. For his services he was given a brevet as lieutenant-colonel, and received the thanks of Government.

In 1879 Lieut.-Colonel Wilson left the Ordnance Survey to take up the appointment of consul-general in Anatolia, and while so employed collected much valuable geographical information in spite of the arduous nature of his duties. He was, while so employed, sent on a special commission to Bulgaria, Roumelia, and Macedonia, and also on a mission and consular posts in Syria, Palestine, and Asia Minor. In these services he was made a K.C.M.G., and received the thanks of Government; he was also given the honorary degree of D.C.L. Oxford.

He was employed on special service under the Foreign Office during the Egyptian campaign of 1882, and on the conclusion of the campaign was attached to Lord Dufferin's special mission. He received the thanks of Government for his general services, and also specially in connection with the trial of Arabi Pasha. On his return home he was reappointed to the Ordnance Survey at Dublin.

In the campaign for the relief of General Gordon in 1884, Colonel Sir Charles Wilson was appointed Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the Headquarters Staff. He was present at the principal actions of the campaign, and when Sir Herbert Stewart was wounded, he succeeded to the command of the Desert Column. After the action at Metemneh, he made a bold attempt to communicate with General Gordon. Starting by steamer, with a few British soldiers and less than two hundred Sudanese, he fought his way to Khartum, only to find that the gallant Gordon had been already killed.

For these services he received the thanks of the Government and a K.C.B. Colonel Sir Charles Wilson rejoined the Ordnance Survey at Dublin in 1885, and

in November, 1886, he was appointed Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, in succession to Colonel R. H. Stotherd, C.B., R.E. He took over charge of the Ordnance Survey at a very anxious and critical period. The Cadastral Survey of Great Britain was approaching completion, and revision had not yet been authorized. The future of the Ordnance Survey was very uncertain, and this uncertainty had naturally unsettled the staff, and there was a good deal of discontent. Sir Charles Wilson tackled the difficulties which confronted him with ability, boldness, and judgment. He obtained authority in 1887 to revise the Survey of Ireland on the 1 : 2500 scale, instead of the 6-inch scale, and a similar revision of Yorkshire and Lancashire and of the south of Scotland, which so far had only been surveyed on the 6-inch scale, was prosecuted vigorously by him. It was during his tenure of office that the revision of both large-scale and small-scale maps of the Ordnance Survey was authorized. The large-scale revision was hardly commenced during his tenure of office, but the revision of the 1-inch maps, some sheets of which had not been revised for sixty or seventy years, was undertaken independently of the large-scale maps, and this revision, the arrangements for which were made under his supervision, made considerable progress during his time. It was due to the arrangements he initiated that the Ordnance Survey maps are now always to be had reasonably up to date.

Sir Charles Wilson's administration of the Ordnance Survey entitles him to rank as one of the ablest heads of that department. He was an able administrator, and a clear and vigorous writer. He was always considerate to those under him, took great interest in their welfare, and spared no trouble to further their interests. He gained the esteem and confidence of all who served under him.

He was given the temporary rank of major-general in 1893, and the permanent rank in 1894, and shortly after vacated his appointment as Director-General of the Ordnance Survey to the regret of all who had served under him.

He was not allowed to be long unemployed, as, early in 1895, he was appointed Director-General of Military Education, a post he held until his retirement under age rules in 1898.

After his retirement he continued to take a keen interest in the work of Palestine exploration, and besides acting as chairman of the Exploration Fund, he wrote a good deal on the subject, and made a visit to the Holy Land. He also retained his interest in the R.G.S., although, owing to his living out of London, he found it necessary to resign his seat on the Council. From 1872 onwards he had served frequently on the Council, and was for many years a Vice-President of the Society.

A man of great ability and of very varied attainments, but withal extremely modest and retiring, he gained the regard and affection of all who knew him, and his loss will be regretted by many Fellows of the Society and by many in the country generally who, although not knowing him personally, knew and admired the splendid work he had done. His funeral was attended by representatives of the R.G.S., the War Office, the Palestine Exploration Fund, and by many friends.

D. A. J.

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### Admiral Sir W. J. L. Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S.

William James Lloyd Wharton, second son of the late Mr. Robert Wharton, County Court Judge of York, was born in London on March 2, 1843. Educated at Burney's Academy, Gosport, he entered the Royal Navy in August, 1857. Passing in seamanship for the rank of lieutenant on January 13, 1863, he was