

ALAN LESLIE.¹

AN APPRECIATION.

A career full of promise, and also of achievement, was abruptly ended by the tragic accident which cost Alan Leslie his life. It is difficult for an intimate friend to write about him with restraint, for few of his contemporaries were so universally loved and respected. Not only was he a lawyer of very great learning and ability (sometimes apt to be underrated in consequence of his extreme modesty) but he was also one of the most honourable, unselfish and lovable of men. He had indeed a genius for friendship; he inspired the trust and confidence of all those with whom he was brought into contact and had the power of making new friends without ever losing an old one. Endowed with a singular talent for goodness, purified and strengthened by religion and self-denial, he represented all that was best in the ranks of the English Bar.

Leslie was one of those who answered the call at the beginning of the War. Abandoning his career at the Bar he joined the Royal Field Artillery in which he served with great gallantry until wounds suffered in action relegated him, much against his will, to a less active form of service. Like so many others he returned to chambers at the conclusion of hostilities to begin his professional life over again. He faced the ordeal manfully, and no word of complaint ever crossed his lips.

He will perhaps be best remembered hereafter as the author of the leading text book on "The Law of Transport by Rail." He was undoubtedly one of the ablest of the younger generation of English legal writers, and his book has been described by competent critics as the model legal text book. This is very high praise, and possibly it errs somewhat on the side of exaggeration. But not very much; because this opinion is in substance a correct estimate of a work of the very highest order, combining exceptional learning with unusual lucidity and accuracy of statement. Leslie himself frequently stated that a law book was, in his view, of no real value unless the author set before him the task of facing the solutions of

¹ EDITOR'S NOTE.—The late Alan Leslie, of the English Bar, was for a time our London correspondent. His friends will be glad to have this feeling appreciation of his gifts and qualities by Professor Gutteridge.

problems which remained unsolved. This was his aim, and the success which he achieved in attaining it appears from the pages of his book.

Legal authorship was however only one of the many outlets which he found for his exceptional gifts of industry and energy. In addition to his practice on the Northern Circuit and elsewhere he found time to be a valued member of the teaching staff of the Law Department of the London School of Economics. But perhaps he found his greatest happiness in the discharge of his duties as Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield, a position in which he brought to bear, in full measure, those qualities of learning and downright honesty of purpose which will for ever keep his memory green amongst his contemporaries.

H. C. GUTTERIDGE.

London.

LLOYD GEORGE'S SARCASM.—David Lloyd George speaking at Edinburgh on the 3rd instant, at a big Liberal meeting, attacked the Conservative Government on the ground that it was neglecting opportunities to establish world peace. "How did Sir Austen Chamberlain and Lord Cushendun receive the great offer from President Hoover?" he added. "Instead of accepting right away, they said they must do this, that and the other. When the angel of peace comes the Conservative Government must scrutinize its clothes in case there should be poison concealed in their folds."