

OBITUARY.

WE regret to announce the death of SIR ALBERT J. HOBSON, LL.D., on April 20th at Sheffield at the age of sixty-one. Sir Albert had been a member of the Society from its commencement.

By the death of Sir Albert Hobson, the glass industry and the cause of glass technology in particular have lost a great friend and warm-hearted supporter. This statement may convey little meaning to many members of our Society, for to them and to the meetings of the Society he was practically unknown, but his quality was realised by those who heard him speak in proposing the toast of the glass industry at the Society's Annual Dinner in 1922. In the world of men and affairs he was known as a steel magnate, the chairman of directors of important undertakings; for his civic work as Master of the Cutlers' Company, as Lord Mayor of Sheffield, as the ablest Chairman the City Finance Committee has ever had, and as President of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce. At the University of Sheffield he had filled the offices of Treasurer, of Pro-Chancellor, and of Chairman of the Glass Research Delegacy. In wider circles he was known as a frequent adviser to the Treasury, as a former President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, and as Chairman of the British Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce. It was at the meetings of this last-named body in Rome in March that, in a plea for arbitration as a method of settling commercial disputes, he made one of the finest speeches in a memorable career, and where also, by working strenuously while in a poor state of health, he brought on the illness which resulted in his death.

To those who knew him he was a constant example of high courage, character, and devotion to duty. A life-long physical disability made walking impossible except for a few yards by the aid of sticks, yet he travelled widely in the interests of commerce and of education.

It may seem strange that a man who had not even a remote business or scientific interest in glass should have been a tower of strength, as he had been for four or five years, to those at Sheffield who are attempting to raise the level of the glass industry. Probably it was the enthusiasm of those who undertook the task and his recognition that it was by no means an easy one that

attracted his attention and support; for he was a man to put his shoulder to the wheel whenever the load was heavy. In his capacity as Chairman of the Glass Research Delegacy at Sheffield, he saw much of the expansion of the Department of Glass Technology, was always a supporter of a progressive policy, and, in these days of severe financial stress, had been ever ready to plead with the University Council to go on shouldering the burden and to assure them that the glass industry would one day acknowledge its debt.

If Sir Albert Hobson was but little known to members of the Society, he was, all the time, one of those unseen powers whose influence, wisdom, and advocacy were being constantly exercised on behalf of the Department of Glass Technology, on the success and welfare of which the work of the Society has hitherto been very largely dependent. The Society therefore owes him grateful remembrance.

W. E. S. T.