

THE LATE MR A. MURRAY, I.S.O.

We regret to announce the death of Mr A. Murray, I.S.O., Secretary to the Local Government Board for Scotland. Although he was always able to be at business, Mr Murray's health for some time past had not been very robust, and about three weeks ago he contracted a chill and, complications supervening, he died yesterday morning. Born about 59 years ago, Mr Murray entered the office of the Board of Supervision in 1873 and passed through the various grades. On the passing of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, which abolished the Board of Supervision and established the Local Government Board in its stead, he was appointed staff clerk in charge of the Local Government Branch of the Department, and his valuable co-operation with the Board helped to set in motion the machinery for the working of the new Act. Three years later, on the appointment of Mr Falconer-Stewart to be secretary to the Board, Mr Murray was made chief clerk, and in 1903, on the retirement of Mr Falconer-Stewart, he was promoted to the secretaryship, the duties of which he discharged with conspicuous ability and success. To a wide knowledge of the principles underlying the numerous questions which the Board are called upon to consider, he added clear and sound judgment, and his help and advice were invaluable to the Board, while his kindly and sympathetic nature endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. As showing the estimation in which he was held, it may be mentioned that Mr Murray was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order in 1903, very shortly after the creation of that Order by his late Majesty. Mr Murray was joint editor, along with Mr Patten MacDougall, of "Skotten's Handbook of Public Health," and editor of the "Councillor's Manual." In his earlier years he was an enthusiastic Volunteer, and for long held a captain's commission in his regiment. Notwithstanding his busy official life, Mr Murray found time for much beneficent work, done quietly and unostentatiously. In church matters he showed a keen interest, being a member of Augustine Congregational Church, Edinburgh, in whose management he took an active part. He leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter.