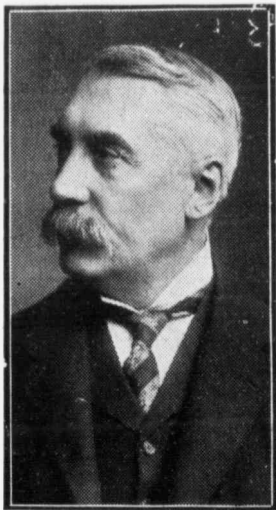


MAJOR PERCY ALEXANDER MACMAHON.

General Secretary

In Major MacMahon are happily combined the handsome presence of the soldier and the trained mental outlook of the man of science. Since 1902 the major has been one of the two general secretaries of the British Association, upon whose shoulders falls a



large part of the Association's work as well as much of the responsibility for its general policy. An important function with the British Association, and one which will commend itself to all who take even a casual interest in the progress of science, is the granting of money for the purposes of scientific research. Since its inauguration in 1831, the Association has granted for this purpose no less a sum than \$360,000. As an example of this branch of the Association's work it is interesting to note that for four years past some of the Winnipeg members have been carrying on an investigation into ductless glands. The local members of the committee which is doing this particular research work are: Mrs. W. H. Thompson, Professor Swale Vincent, Dr. F. A.

Young, and Dr. J. E. Lehmann. A report of their work was presented to last year's meeting of the Association at Dublin and a further grant of \$175 was secured for the continuation of the work.

It may not be out of place to mention here that according to its constitution the objects of the British Association are the following: "To give a stronger impulse and a more systematic direction to scientific inquiry, to promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science in the different parts of the British Empire, with one another and with foreign philosophers, to obtain a more general attention to the objects of science, and a removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which impede its progress." Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon this open avowal of the Association that its sphere is the whole of the British Empire and further that it seeks intercourse with the scientific men of other countries.

In being born on the Island of Malta in 1854, Major MacMahon, like many a soldier's son, saw the light beyond the confines of his fatherland. He was educated at Cheltenham College and later at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1872, and was instructor at the Royal Military Academy from 1882-1888. Then from 1890-1897 the major was professor of physics in the Ordnance College. Since 1896 he has been deputy warden of the standards board of trade at its well-known headquarters in Old Palace Yard, London. Major MacMahon has received a large number of academic honors and scientific distinctions. From 1894-1896 he was president of the London Mathematical Society. The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, was conferred upon him by Trinity College, Dublin in 1897, and the same degree was given to him by the Cambridge University in 1904. In 1900 he was awarded the medal of the Royal Society. At the Glasgow meeting of the British Association in 1901 Major MacMahon presided over the mathematical and physical science section. He has published numerous papers on pure mathematics. Two years ago the major married the daughter of the late C. R. Howard, of London.