

SIR JAMES MURRAY died on the 26th July, 1915. His great wish that he should live to finish the Dictionary on his eightieth birthday, in 1917, has not been fulfilled; the unceasing labour of three and thirty years has ended when less than a tenth part of the work remains to be done. Almost within a week of his death he was still hard at work, showing, as Dr. Bradley wrote of a visit made to him, 'not a little of the zest and mental lucidity that I remembered of old.' In the preceding months, while barely convalescent from an illness that seemed to bring him to the gates of death, he had prepared, and at the appointed date of July 1 published, his usual 'double section'. 'The words contained in it,' Dr. Bradley says, 'present an extraordinary number of difficult problems, which are handled with the editor's characteristic sagacity and resource; the section is a piece of his work of which he might be proud.'

It has always been the rule that each of the editors should be exclusively responsible for the portions of the Dictionary issued under his name. The sections in the hands of DR. BRADLEY, DR. CRAIGIE, MR. ONIONS, and their staffs, will not be affected. But SIR JAMES MURRAY at the beginning laid the lines and drew the plan; in the prosecution of the work, when it became clear that it must be shared, his amazing capacity for unremitting labour enabled him to take more than an equal part, and the volumes produced by himself show characteristic excellences which cannot be exactly matched, though they may be rivalled by merits of another kind. He will not write the last pages, but more than that of any other man his name will be associated with the long and efficient working of the great engine of research by which the Dictionary has been produced.