

## **OBITUARY**

PROFESSOR PERCIVAL R. KIRBY, M.A., D.LITT., F.R.C.M., D.MUS. HON.

Professor Kirby came to South Africa from Britain in 1914 to be Inspector of Music in Natal. He was one of the earliest musicologists to take a special interest in African music. As Professor of Music at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, he undertook several journeys into the country in the early 1930's to study the indigenous musics of South Africa under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. As a result of these tours numerous articles and the first important work on South African music appeared. "The Musical Instruments of the Native Races of Southern Africa". It has been printed in several editions, the first of which was issued in 1934 by the Oxford University Press. Together with the photographs by W. P. Paff his collaborator, this book has been a constant and important work of reference for students of the more southerly music and musical instruments of Africa. Professor Kirby was well-known as a lecturer on this subject both in Africa and overseas. He died on February 7th, 1970, at the age of 83.