

THE TIMES 27 November 1959

MR. ALBERT KETELBEY

Mr. A. W. Ketelbey, who died at Cowes yesterday, was born in Birmingham in 1875. He was educated at Fitzroy College, Fitzroy Square, and at Trinity College of Music, where he beat the runner-up, Gustav Holst, for a musical scholarship.

He distinguished himself in numerous fields, especially in Composition. His first compositions were in the Classical Style and a Quintet for Strings was awarded the Sir Michael Costa Prize. He developed a talent for descriptive writing, however, and of all his many works it is in those of this genre—" In a Monastery Garden," " In a Chinese Temple Garden," and " In a Persian Market," where he showed an ability to catch atmospheric tone—that he found his public.

"He was active in several other fields. He was musical editor to some well-known publishing houses, and for some years musical director of the Columbia Gramophone Co. He was a popular conductor and was well esteemed in the Theatre world where he conducted for Andre Charlot at the Vaudeville. He also conducted many concerts of his own works, in London and the provinces. and as guest conductor with well-known orchestras on the Continent. including the Concert Geibouw Orchestra of Amsterdam. His reputation on the Continent was in fact probably higher than in his own country. He was himself fond of European travel and spoke several foreign languages.

He married first Charlotte, daughter of L. Curzon, and secondly, Maud, widow of L. S. Pritchett, who, survives him. There were no children by either marriage.