

DEATH OF A GREAT ORIENTALIST.

DR. GINSBURG'S RESEARCH INTO THE SCRIPTURES.

With great regret we announce the death of Dr. Ginsburg, which occurred on Saturday morning at Palmer's-green, N.

Dr. Ginsburg was born at Warsaw in 1831. By birth and education a Jew, he became a Christian at the age of 15 years, and as a young man made his home in England. Two historical and critical commentaries on Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs, published in 1857, were his first works, and since then he has been constantly engaged in research. The greatest achievement of his life was the publication and explanation of "The Massorah." This appeared in three huge folio volumes, consisting of nearly 2,000 pages, from 1880 to 1885. "The Massorah" is a directory, indicating on almost every line in the margin of MS. Bibles how the letters, words, forms, and phrases are to be written, according to the most ancient rules laid down by those who compiled, preserved, and transmitted the canon of Old Testament scriptures.

The greatest of Oriental scholars in our own time, Dr. Ginsburg enjoyed a world-wide fame. His vast knowledge of Biblical matters led to his taking part in many controversies. One of the most memorable was with Gladstone, with whom he became on terms of intimate friendship, enduring until the statesman's death.

This great Hebraist was one of the original members of the committee appointed by Convocation in 1870 to undertake the revision of the Old Testament. For the last six or seven years he had devoted himself to the compilation of a Massoretico-Critical Hebrew Bible, and he was engaged on this until a few days before he died. Dr. Ginsburg's labours in the cause of Biblical scholarship included many articles in Bible dictionaries and encyclopædias.

He was a keen collector of books and engravings. A complete series of old German printed Bibles which Dr. Ginsburg had collected during many years was recently acquired by the British and Foreign Bible Society. In politics Dr. Ginsburg was an earnest Liberal, and took great interest in the Gladstone Library at the National Liberal Club, of which he was an original member. His only son, Dr. Benedict William Ginsburg, is a well-known barrister and statistician.