

study of the parathyroids. Whether or no his conclusions stand the test of time, this work will always hold its place as one of the most complete and far-reaching studies of the subject. Nutrition always held a first place in his affections, and he was responsible for some of the most interesting dietary studies carried out in Britain. These studies culminated in the comprehensive study of child life done in conjunction with Prof. L. Findlay, and published as a Medical Research Council report under the title of "Poverty, Nutrition, and Growth."

Beneath a rather formal, sometimes aloof, but always graceful appearance, Noël Paton hid a very warm, sensitive, and kindly heart. It is perfectly true that he did not suffer fools gladly, but no case of real hardship left him unmoved. As a colleague he was always anxious and willing to allow full credit to his co-workers, and he contributed freely and generously of his experience. As Prof. Macneile Dixon said in his valedictory address at the graveside, "There were qualities in him, in that sensitive artist nature of his, shy and precious qualities, qualities he would fain have hidden, which did not make life easier for him, but which endeared him to his closer friends." These are true words. He lived for science. As he said himself on one occasion, the joy of sailing upon the ocean of discovery is to the man of science the real joy of life. But science was to him more than mere joy, it was a religion the teachings of which he accepted unflinchingly. His belief in and respect for these teachings ruled his life. E. P. C.

#### PROF. S. OPPENHEIM.

SAMUEL OPPENHEIM, professor of astronomy in the University of Vienna, died in that city on Aug. 15, in his seventy-first year. He had graduated at Vienna in 1880 in the subjects of mathematics, physics, and astronomy, and obtained the doctor's degree in 1884 with a thesis on a new method of integrating the equations of planetary theory. He was an observer at the University Observatory, Vienna, until 1889, when he moved to the Vienna-Ottakring Observatory, remaining there until 1896; he also took pupils in astronomy during this period. In 1896 he moved to Arnau, where he taught astronomy in a school; he went to Prague in a similar capacity in 1899, remaining there until 1911, when he was appointed professor at Vienna.

Oppenheim's interests were mainly in gravitational astronomy; he worked on the perturbations of asteroids, the problem of three bodies, and the distribution and motion of the stars. He wrote several encyclopædia articles on astronomical and gravitational subjects, and gained a high reputation as a teacher. His health began to fail last winter; he succeeded, though with difficulty, in attending the meeting of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* at Heidelberg in July, but he died only four weeks after his return home.

For many of the above details we are indebted to an article by J. Rheden, of the University Observatory, Vienna, in *Astr. Nach.*, No. 5585.

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#### MISS JESSIE L. WESTON.

THE death is announced of Miss Jessie Laidlay Weston, D.Litt., which took place in London on Sept. 29 at the age of seventy-seven. Miss Weston was born on Dec. 29, 1850, and educated at Brighton, Paris, and Hildesheim, and studied art at the Crystal Palace School. In 1890, at the suggestion of the late Alfred Nutt, and with the view of making the stories of the Wagner dramas more widely known in England, she took up the study of the Arthurian Legend. Her first work was a translation of "Parzival," by Wolfram von Eschenbach, and this was followed by a series of studies of the origins and development of the Arthurian Cycle. She dealt in succession with Sir Gawain, Sir Lancelot du Lac, Sir Perceval, and "The Three Days' Tournament," her studies being published in the Grimm Library. Then followed "Seven Arthurian Romances Unrepresented in Malory," "Romance, Vision, and Satire," and "Chief Middle English Poets."

Miss Weston was a finished scholar and a sound and acute critic, with a breadth of interest that took her beyond the purely literary or textual aspects of her material. As was shown in her last published book, "From Ritual to Romance," which appeared in 1920, origins meant more to her than purely literary sources, bereft of their context of belief and custom. At the time of her death Miss Weston was engaged on a study of the origin of the French romance "Perlesvaux." In addition she was a contributor to the "Encyclopædia Britannica" and the "Cambridge History of English Literature," as well as the *Folklore Journal*, *Revue Celtique*, and other and specialist periodicals. In recognition of her services to Celtic literature, in 1923 she was made a D.Litt. of the University of Wales.

#### WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. R. A. Berry, professor of agricultural chemistry at the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow, on Oct. 12, aged fifty-two years.

Brigadier-General W. H. Bixby, formerly of the U.S. Army, a former president of the Mississippi River Commission, of the International Navigation Congress (1912), and of the Society for Testing Materials (1917), distinguished for his work on bridges, rivers, and harbours, on Sept. 29, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. G. H. Bryan, F.R.S., formerly professor of pure and applied mathematics at University College, Bangor, and author of "Stability in Aviation," on Oct. 13, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. J. E. Kirkwood, head of the department of botany at the University of Montana, who worked on the botany of the Rocky Mountains region, on Aug. 16, aged fifty-six years.

Dr. David Murray, a distinguished student of the history and archæology of Glasgow, vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1900-3, and president in 1904-7 of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, on Oct. 2, aged eighty-six years.

Prof. A. H. Patterson, professor of physics and dean of the school of applied sciences in the University of North Carolina, known for work on high tension phenomena, aged fifty-eight years.