

Obituary.

DR. J. MCA. HENDERSON.

NEWS has been received by cable of the death of John McAskill Henderson, at Nairobi, in Kenya Colony, East Africa, where he was carrying out research on deficiency diseases on the African native. Dr. Henderson was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, where in addition to having a distinguished academic career he was president of both the Students' Representative Council and the Students' Union.

In 1923 Dr. Henderson joined the staff of the Physiology Department of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen. His chief work in Aberdeen was in connexion with the effects of ultra-violet irradiation on mineral metabolism in animals. The results of his investigation on this aspect of nutrition made a permanent contribution to our knowledge of the subject.

In 1926, Dr. Henderson was sent to East Africa with a group of other workers from the Rowett Institute to carry out an investigation on deficiency diseases in farm animals and African natives. The reports on this work which have been sent home show that he has opened up a field of investigation of exceptional interest. The data accumulated seem to throw new light on some of the problems of disease in the African native. This investigation, which was carried out in co-operation with Dr. Gilks, Principal Medical Officer of Kenya, and his staff, was done under the general supervision of a sub-committee of the Civil Research Committee, consisting of Major Walter Elliot, M.P., Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Sir Walter Fletcher, Prof. E. P. Cathcart, Dr. A. T. Stanton of the Colonial Office, and the Director of the Rowett Institute. All the data collected by the late Dr. Henderson and his colleagues are available, but the lack of Dr. Henderson's help in their interpretation will be a serious loss to the investigation.

Dr. Henderson was a man of wide culture, who was much beloved by his colleagues. Although only thirty-three years of age he had already done brilliant research work, and had undoubtedly a most distinguished future as a physiologist. His death is an irreparable loss not only to the Institute to which he belonged, but also to the wider field of scientific research in which he was engaged.

J. B. O.

DR. MAX MARGOSCHES, professor of chemical technology at the German Technische Hochschule in Brünn, died on Sept. 27, after an operation, in his fifty-second year. We are indebted to the *Chemiker-Zeitung* for the following details of his life and work. Born at Jassy, in Rumania, Margosches studied at the Technische Hochschule in Vienna and, after graduation there, was appointed assistant to Prof. Donath at the Technische Hochschule in Brünn. In 1906 he became lecturer on the chemical technology of mineral oils, fats, and asphalts. He was appointed extra-ordinary professor in 1913, and in 1918 he succeeded to the chair of chemical technology. In

conjunction with Donath he carried out numerous investigations on coal, asphalt, and tar. Margosches' success in this field led to his appointment by the Austrian Ministry of Commerce as a delegate to the International Petroleum Congress, where he prepared a comprehensive report on the subject of asphalts, and he was elected a member of the International Petroleum Commission. In 1907 he began the publication of a comprehensive work on chemical analysis, which has had a wide circulation among analysts. The researches of Margosches and his pupils in the field of chemical technology, and particularly of oils and fats, led to the publication of a large number of scientific papers, many of which dealt with iodometric methods of analysis and the applicability of Kjeldahl's method of estimating nitrogen to the analysis of nitro-groups in organic compounds.

MR. DOUGLAS J. P. BERRIDGE, who died on Nov. 11 after an operation in London, spent nearly the whole of his life as senior science master at Malvern College. The eldest son of Mr. Thomas Berridge, solicitor, of Leicester, he went up to Wadham College, Oxford, and took honours in natural science in 1892. He was for a short time a master at Dulwich, before his appointment to Malvern in 1893. At that time science was almost unknown as a school subject, and Berridge was one of the pioneers of science teaching. The proposal to found a Science Masters' Association originated in 1900, when a letter was sent out from Eton to the science masters in 57 schools. The result was the Association of Public School Science Masters, which later became the Science Masters' Association. Berridge was one of the original members, and in 1907 was appointed secretary, holding the post for the maximum period of four years. He served for several years as secretary of the Section of Educational Science of the British Association, and also as recorder of the Section. To the end of his life, and in spite of serious ill-health, Berridge remained an indefatigable worker, always wanting to undertake more than his fair share of common duties in school or in committees. Enthusiastic and often inspiring as a teacher, he included F. W. Aston among his pupils. As a house-master at Malvern he quickly won the devotion of his boys, many generations of whom will remember his example with affection. Increasing ill-health finally compelled his retirement in April 1927.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. James Edwards, curator and secretary to the late Mr. H. J. Elwes, with whom he was associated in the preparation of several monographs on the lesser known butterflies, and himself an authority on British beetles and Homoptera, on Oct. 13, aged seventy-two years.

Dr. Frank C. Wagner, president of the Rose Polytechnic Institute since 1923, known for his work on dynamo design and engine testing, on Nov. 21, aged sixty-four years.