

Obituary

MR. C. F. BEADLES

CECIL FOWLER BEADLES, pathological curator of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, whose death at the age of sixty-six years occurred on January 3, received his medical education at University College and Hospital, London, where he gained honours in histology. In 1890 he obtained his diploma and afterwards passed two years as senior house surgeon at the Cancer Hospital; there he was enabled to perfect himself in microscopical technique and pursue the study of pathological anatomy, the branch of medical science towards which his natural inclination turned.

Mr. Beadles's subsequent career falls into three periods defined by the posts which he successively occupied, namely, those of assistant medical officer at the London County Asylum, Colney Hatch, assistant to Prof. Shattock, then curator of the Hunterian Museum, and finally pathological curator of the Museum. While at the London County Asylum, he was constantly engaged in scientific studies relating both to mental disease and to pathological anatomy generally. Most of his published works at this time were contributed to the *Transactions of the Pathological Society*, which contain no less than forty-five papers from his pen. He communicated a few papers to the Medico-Psychological Association, of which he was a member and from which he received a prize and bronze medal in 1894 for a dissertation on degenerative lesions of the arterial system in the insane. He interested himself particularly in the vascular supply of the brain, the anatomical variations and anomalies of which he considered might have a bearing on mental disease and on the clinical signs of such conditions as embolism.

The results of Mr. Beadles's researches in this direction were embodied in the Hunterian lecture which he delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1907-8. He contemplated writing a book on the subject which should include the literature, and he collected a great number of extracts from British and foreign sources for this purpose. However, the War intervened and his subsequent ill-health prevented him from resuming the work.

In 1909 Mr. Beadles became assistant to Prof. Shattock, who was then engaged on the revision of the pathological catalogue of the Hunterian Museum, and he continued to be connected with the Museum up to the time of his death, a period of more than twenty years. At the outbreak of the War he was appointed, under Government, to deal with the pathological war material which was accumulated at the Royal College of Surgeons. This was an arduous undertaking involving the examination, preparation, and dissection of a vast number of specimens, their selection to form a fully illustrative series of the injuries and diseases incidental to warfare, their mounting and suitable

display. The collection thus formed now constitutes a separate and important section of the Hunterian Museum, consisting of about three thousand specimens; and it will remain as a standing memorial to the honour of Mr. Beadles.

The final period of Mr. Beadles's career, that of the curatorship, is mainly one of steadily declining health. When he succeeded to Prof. Shattock in 1925 he was already afflicted with bronchial and pulmonary trouble. The commencement of this he considered to have dated from the time of his work on the war material, and it is quite possible that the inhalation of the vapour of formalin to which he was constantly exposed at that time was responsible for his illness, although his ill-health was aggravated by other complications. His untiring energy and devotion to museum work, however, did not desert him even to the end, although the work became an obvious burden.

Mr. Beadles was a pure pathological anatomist of a type now gradually disappearing amid the experimental tendencies of the time. He was entirely absorbed in his subject, beyond which he had but few interests, and he lived a life of absolute seclusion. The well-merited honour of the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons was conferred upon him shortly after his promotion to the curatorship.

PROF. R. DONALDSON

PROF. ROBERT DONALDSON was a man of very great culture. Before commencing his medical studies, he took an arts course in the University of Edinburgh and graduated M.A. in 1899. In 1904 he obtained his M.B., Ch.B., and the same year received the diploma in tropical medicine. He gained his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1908, the diploma of public health in 1912, and his M.D. degree with honours in 1918.

Donaldson commenced his pathological career as assistant with me in the University of Sheffield. From there he went as assistant to Prof. Walker Hall in the University of Bristol. Later he was appointed pathologist to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, where, during the War, he was specialist officer in charge of the laboratory. From Reading he went to St. George's Hospital as lecturer in pathology and in forensic medicine, and in 1928 he was appointed to the Sir William Dunn chair of pathology tenable at Guy's Hospital.

Dr. Donaldson took a very active part in research work, and his knowledge of modern languages was a great help to him. The mass of routine work which falls to the lot of a lecturer and professor in departments which are inadequately staffed—and this seemed always to be Donaldson's lot—limited his output of published work; but his knowledge of the subject which he taught—and he was a great teacher—is evidenced in his excel-

lent book on morbid anatomy, of which the second edition appeared only last year.

Dr. Donaldson had wide interests outside his department. He was a Scot with all the keenness for knowledge which is so characteristic of his countrymen. He loved his native land, and he had a wide knowledge of its customs, its songs and its language. His wanderings in the Highlands and Islands inspired him to learn Gaelic. He was a man of deep religious convictions, and his home life was an inspiration to many. Those of us who knew him regarded him as a great pathologist and teacher, we welcomed him as a colleague, but we loved him as a man, and, as one of his greatest friends has said of him, "Allied to a keen analytical intellect was a heart of the warmest emotions". To his wife and his two daughters we tender our heartfelt sympathy.

J. M. BEATTIE.

DR. MALCOLM E. MACGREGOR

It is with regret that we have to record the death at the early age of forty-three years of Dr. Malcolm Evan MacGregor, who was in charge of the Wellcome Entomological Field Laboratories at Esher, Surrey. Born in South Africa, he studied at Cambridge and later as a Carnegie fellow at Harvard, where he came under the influence of Dr. L. O. Howard, and decided to study the medical aspects of entomology. He first came into prominence during the War when he served with the R.A.M.C. in East Africa in connexion with mosquitoes and other insect carriers of disease. From East Africa he was invalided home, and on recovery was placed in charge of a War Office Research Laboratory at Sandwich to study mosquitoes in their relation to the spread of malaria

in Great Britain from returned soldiers carrying the disease.

After the War, MacGregor took charge of the Entomological Field Laboratory founded by Sir Henry Wellcome. Here he continued his studies of mosquitoes, particularly with the view of solving some of the fundamental problems underlying their mode of life, feeding, hibernation and reproduction. For a period, these researches were interrupted by a visit to Mauritius on behalf of the Colonial Office, to study the mosquito-malaria problem. A valuable report was the result, and it was shown that a second important malaria-carrying mosquito occurred in Mauritius, namely, *Anopheles funesta*, which had been overlooked both by Sir Ronald Ross and Sir Andrew Balfour during their visits to the island.

On his return to England, MacGregor resumed his mosquito studies. He showed that the diverticulum, a sac which opens into the oesophagus of the mosquito, is a kind of reservoir into which the mosquito can direct at will or by reflex action fluids unsuitable for the stomach. He studied the extraordinary effect of ultra-violet rays on the larvæ, the various reactions of waters in which they occurred, and strove to establish the fact that the larvæ of culex and anopheles mosquitoes live in waters of different but particular hydrogen ion concentration. Latterly, he had been studying a so-called autochthonous race of *Culex pipiens*, a race which is able to complete its life-cycle without any blood meal and does not hibernate.

MacGregor's death at the height of his scientific career is nothing short of a tragedy, inflicting a serious loss upon the science of medical entomology. He was the author of numerous scientific papers dealing with the subjects of his particular study, and of a book entitled "Mosquito Surveys".

News and Views

Gold in Kenya and Native Reserves

THE memorandum issued by the Colonial Office on the position in Kenya in relation to the leasing of lands in native occupation on native reserves for mining purposes cannot be regarded as satisfactory. It affords no guarantee that the more objectionable consequences of the amendment of the Ordinance will not ensue. For example, while admitting that "the matter of immediate importance is to ensure that any individual native . . . shall receive compensation and an alternative piece of ground on which he may live and work in proximity to his market", it states that the Governor "does not contemplate any difficulty in providing individual dispossessed natives with land". But when the amendment was introduced, and also when it was discussed in the House of Commons, it was stated definitely that the reason for payment of a money compensation was that land could not be provided for all the natives who, it was anticipated, would be dispossessed. Nothing is said of the terms of

tenure of the land on which the dispossessed natives will be settled, a matter of the first importance in tribal organisation, as has already been pointed out in NATURE.

THE Chief Native Commissioner himself, in introducing the amendment, stated that the natives would not lease their lands voluntarily and that their "most sacred traditions" would be violated by "removal from their own land on which they had the right to live, and setting them up on another piece, the owners of which had the right to eject them". No attempt is made to meet this difficulty. As the explanatory memorandum issued to natives had been circulated before the Chief Native Commissioner made his statement, it is therefore to be presumed that it did not assuage native feeling in this matter. Yet every anthropologist is well aware that it has been through neglect of susceptibilities of this character that our Colonial administrations have been involved in innumerable difficulties and