

MR. H. G. MILLER

AGRICULTURISTS all over Great Britain will hear with deep regret of the death of Henry G. Miller, son of Dr. G. W. Miller, of Dundee, and until lately manager of the experimental farms at Rothamsted and Woburn.

Miller was born in Dundee in 1903 and was in the first instance intended for an engineering career; he entered on the engineering course at the University of Glasgow for this purpose, but his desire had always been towards agriculture and he soon transferred to the agricultural side, and afterwards to the University of Edinburgh. At both places he achieved remarkable success. He was then appointed to an Empire Cotton Growing Corporation scholarship and proceeded to the University of Cambridge and afterwards to the Imperial College, Trinidad, where he studied tropical agriculture and especially cotton growing.

Finding that tropical conditions did not suit him, Miller returned to Great Britain and was appointed farm manager at Boghall, the experimental farm of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Agricultural College. His work here attracted attention from discerning observers and when the farm managership of Rothamsted became vacant in 1927 he was appointed to it.

Two important tasks were entrusted to Miller

at Rothamsted. One was to complete the programme of converting a wholly arable farm without animals into a mixed grass and arable farm carrying a considerable head of livestock. This was done with great energy and efficiency and with a minimum of disturbance of the experimental work. The other task was to deal with the cultivation problems associated with the new methods of field experimentation designed in the Statistical Department at Rothamsted for the purpose of giving an estimate of the error of the experiment, a quantity which agricultural experiments had usually ignored in the past. In collaboration with his colleagues at Rothamsted, methods were worked out which satisfied the requirements both of the cultivator and the statistician.

Miller's personal bent was towards experiments on sheep, and several of these were begun at Rothamsted and will be continued. Perhaps the most interesting was the selection of a number of four-teated ewes and rams from four-teated mothers, on the basis of which a little flock is being built up to see whether this character is advantageous to a ewe suckling twins.

Miller's death is a great loss to agriculture as he was a man of undoubted promise. He combined to an exceptional degree the qualities of hard work, enthusiasm and genius for agriculture, and had he lived he would have been marked out for a brilliant career.

News and Views

Lieut.-Col. S. P. James, F.R.S.

THE Darling Medal and Prize was founded by the Health Section of the League of Nations in memory of that great malariologist, Dr. S. T. Darling, who met his death as the result of a motor accident in the Lebanon Mountains outside Beirut when carrying out malaria inspection work for the League. The choice of Lieut.-Col. S. P. James as the first recipient of this award is a most appropriate one, for malaria and the problems associated with it have occupied the foremost place in his mind since he first joined the Indian Medical Service in 1896. In India he carried out important pioneer work on the anopheles mosquitoes and their classification, and laid the foundations of the subsequent malaria work which has been accomplished in that country. He pursued other lines of research, and, independently of Low but a little later, was able to demonstrate that the embryos of *Filaria bancrofti* in their development in the mosquito pass ultimately into the proboscis of the insect, so that there is every probability that infection occurs when the mosquito feed. On his retirement from the Indian Medical Service in 1918, after war service in Mesopotamia, James joined the Local Government Board, now the Ministry of Health, as adviser in tropical diseases. There he was instrumental in organising and developing the malaria treatment of general paralysis in mental hospitals and asylums.

THE opportunity this gave of studying malaria under carefully controlled conditions was fully realised by Col. James, and, as a result, there was established at the Horton Mental Hospital the now well-known laboratory, which has been the means of bringing to light a whole array of new and important facts regarding the biology of the various malarial parasites, including the comparatively new form *Plasmodium ovale*, the diseases they produce and the factors which govern the action of quinine, plasmoguin, atebirin and other drugs in their treatment and prevention. The results obtained at this laboratory, which has been visited by nearly all the best-known malariologists and has been copied in other countries, have had a profound influence on malarial thought and action throughout the world. As a member of the Malaria Commission of the Health Section of the League of Nations, Col. James has taken an active part in its deliberations and recommendations and has visited most malarial countries, where his wide experience of the disease in all its aspects has enabled him to give valuable advice as to the methods which should be adopted to control this most widespread of all diseases. Col. James is still pursuing his investigations, and there is no doubt that he will continue to add to our knowledge of those minute parasites which are inoculated to man by mosquitoes, and attack the red blood corpuscles with such disastrous results. We wish him every success in his further endeavours.