

OBITUARIES

Prof. E. W. W. Carlier

PROF. E. W. W. CARLIER died on September 2, 1940, in his seventy-ninth year at his home in Warwickshire. In him has passed away an outstanding personality.

Prof. Carlier was of French extraction, being the only son of Antoine Guillaume Carlier, officier d'Académie. He was born at Norwich in 1861, and received his early education at the King Edward VI School there. Later, he went to the Lycée de Valenciennes, where he graduated Baccalauréat *és Sciences*. He began his medical education at the University of Edinburgh at the age of twenty-one, and took the degree M.B., C.M., with honours in 1886. After this, he was asked to join the junior staff in the Department of Physiology. He obtained the M.D. degree with first-class honours and gold medal in 1891. In 1895 he was appointed senior lecturer in physiology.

In 1899 he went to Birmingham as professor of physiology in Mason College, which in 1900 became the University of Birmingham. He held the professorship of physiology in the University of Birmingham until his retirement in 1927, when he was elected emeritus professor.

During 1909-14, Prof. Carlier was examiner in physiology for the first fellowship examination of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was vice-president of the Physiological Section of the British Medical Association at Ipswich in 1900, and at Birmingham in 1911. He was a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and of the Royal Entomological Society. For seven years he was honorary secretary of the Scottish Microscopical Society and vice-president for one year.

In 1895 he married Hannah Culver of Hughenden, who died in 1929. He leaves a daughter and two sons.

When he was at the University of Birmingham Prof. Carlier was instrumental in the building and equipment of a new histological laboratory, which was admirably adapted to its purpose. He conducted the classes in histology himself; his descriptions of the slides were a marvel of lucidity; he saw to it that first-rate material was supplied, and many of his own magnificent preparations were distributed to the students, whose work he superintended individually. At each session students were privileged to examine slides from his unique private collection, which is of European reputation; and which, at the request of the British Museum, is now being sent there.

Prof. Carlier carried out a large amount of research work, many of his papers being published in Germany and France. Perhaps his greatest contribution to physiology was the combination he made of experimental and histological methods as exemplified in his discovery of the functions of the nucleolus in cellular fatigue, his work concerning the changes

observable in the gastric secreting cells during digestion, and the secretion of ferments by the liver cells.

Besides physiology, Prof. Carlier took a keen interest in other branches of science, particularly natural history; he was seven times president of the Birmingham Natural History and Philosophical Society. He made a special study of entomology, and since his retirement was engaged in research on the Lepidoptera. He had a very fine collection of butterflies. He was an enthusiastic gardener, and his class was often cheered by the sight of some special flower in his buttonhole or on his table. At the age of seventy he began a research on the Rotatoria, Rhizopoda, and Heliozoa, for staining which he invented a laborious, but very effective process.

Prof. Carlier had a tall and imposing appearance, and students at first were apt to be intimidated by his somewhat abrupt manner and penetrating look, but they soon discovered his genial kindness, readiness to help in any difficulty, and genuine liking for young people. Women owe him a debt of gratitude in that he upheld their claim to a medical education when this met with much opposition.

Prof. Carlier was deservedly popular, and was held in affectionate esteem by his colleagues, laboratory assistants and students. He will be missed by a large number of friends.

HILDA WALKER.

Dr. W. E. Harper

DR. WILLIAM EDMUND HARPER, who died on June 14, at the age of sixty-two, had been director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory since 1936. Dr. Harper was born in Ontario on March 20, 1878, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1906. On that day he received word of his appointment to the staff of the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa. For thirteen years he was engaged there in the determination of the orbits of spectroscopic binaries, and on his transfer to Victoria, when the Government sponsored the 72-inch reflector, he continued the same work. In 1924 he was made assistant director, and finally director in 1936. From the time of his graduation until his death he was intimately associated with the development of astronomy in Canada. Before his death he had determined the orbits for more than a hundred binaries. No other astronomer has approached this number. His contributions to this part of astronomy constitute approximately one quarter of the known orbits. Among other major pieces of work were the determination of 1,100 spectroscopic parallaxes and the measurement of over 7,000 plates for radial velocity.

Dr. Harper took a very active part in popularizing astronomy in Canada. He was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and served

on the executives at Ottawa and Victoria and was president of that national society for the years 1928-29. He also sponsored a series of popular astronomical articles for the Press, and the revenue from these articles was devoted to a trust fund for the encouragement of amateur astronomy under the auspices of the Society. For many years he gave monthly radio talks on astronomical topics which did much to stimulate interest in the subject throughout the Dominion and even farther afield.

Dr. Harper's services to astronomy were well recognized throughout the astronomical world. In 1913 he was made a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. In 1924 he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1935 the University of Toronto, on the occasion of the dedication of the David Dunlap Observatory, conferred on him the degree of doctor of science. In 1938 he was appointed as official Canadian delegate to the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union at Stockholm. It was while absent on this trip that he was taken seriously ill with pneumonia. For several weeks he lay critically ill in Rostock Hospital and the international crisis finally necessitated his removal by ambulance to Denmark and thence to England. He returned to Canada in October somewhat improved and attempted to carry on, but suffered a serious relapse the following spring which a year later proved fatal. In his death, Canada has lost a very worthy citizen and a distinguished man of science.

R. K. YOUNG.

Mr. R. M. Wilson

THE sudden death on September 15 of Mr. Robert Melville Wilson, principal of the South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye, has removed a notable figure from the British agricultural educational world.

Mr. Wilson was fifty-four years of age. He graduated at the University of Edinburgh and gained the national diploma in dairying. He obtained a Carnegie scholarship for research in mycology at the Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, and in 1910 became a lecturer in agriculture for East Lothian and Peebleshire. In 1911 he became lecturer in agriculture and dairy farming at the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture, Chelmsford, where he performed splendid work in enhancing the reputation of the Winter School and Dairy School. In 1914, after holding an inspectorship in the Education Branch of the (then) Board of Agriculture, Mr. Wilson returned to the East Anglian Institute as principal and agricultural organizer for Essex. Several administrative appointments were held concurrently with the principalship at Chelmsford, and in 1920 Mr. Wilson was elected a member of the Council of Agriculture for England.

In October 1922 on the resignation of Principal M. J. R. Dunstan, Mr. Wilson was appointed to the principalship of the South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye. From the day of his arrival Mr. Wilson continued to build the reputation of the College both as an educational and research centre. His constant

interest in every aspect of the College's many activities was evinced by the enthusiasm with which he described to others the work that the various members of his staff were doing. He was always ready to devote time and energy to solving the difficulties of research workers, teachers and students alike, and was never too busy to discuss with any member of the College the problems or interests of his particular branch of study or research, and to bring the keenness and enthusiasm of his own nature to bear with vitalizing encouragement upon the question at issue. At all times Mr. Wilson was an idealist, he expected the best and believed the best of everybody. He was a great believer in the educational value of the pursuit of the solution of original problems in horticulture and agriculture and he encouraged students to take this view in their work. He kept in close contact with old students and was enthusiastic about their successes and ever ready to help them to progress in their careers.

At the outbreak of War Mr. Wilson threw himself into the task of training members of the Women's Land Army, and the kindly and understanding way in which he carried this out was much appreciated. It was a great satisfaction to him to re-open the College in January for the ordinary courses and a corresponding disappointment when it was found impossible to continue this autumn. He felt deeply the break with students and with members of his various staffs who were taking up new work, and no doubt this told heavily upon him. One who never spared himself, he was loved and respected by all who knew him, and heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wilson and members of the family in their bereavement.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Max Cloetta, formerly director of the Pharmacological Institute, University of Zurich, aged seventy-two.

Mr. E. P. Van Duzee, curator of the Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, on June 2, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. J. Goldschmidt, formerly director of the Berlin Institute of Criminology, aged sixty-six.

Sir Robert Hadfield, Bart., F.R.S., metallurgist and industrialist, on September 30, aged eighty-one.

Mr. F. C. Hart, manager of the Optical Lantern Department of Messrs. Newton and Co., Ltd., scientific instrument makers, on September 4, aged sixty-three.

Mr. F. H. Hooper, formerly editor of the "Encyclopædia Britannica", manager during the War of 1914-18 of the New York office of the Ministry of Food, on August 16, aged seventy-eight.

Mr. Cherry Kearton, the pioneer in popular natural history photography, on September 27, aged sixty-nine.

Colonel J. J. M. Shaw, consulting surgeon to the Army of the Middle East, a member of the National Radium Commission, aged fifty-four.