

he was appointed University demonstrator in mechanism and applied mechanics, a post which he held until he was appointed University lecturer in electrical engineering in 1903.

During the War of 1914–18, Lamb acted as head of the Department of Engineering; and thereafter, in 1921, the post of reader in electrical engineering was created for him, and ceased to exist on his retirement from reasons of health, in 1931. During the forty years he was teaching in Cambridge, Lamb watched and helped the growth of the Engineering Laboratory from insignificant beginnings to one of the largest departments of the University, and he is remembered with gratitude and affection by generations of students.

One of Lamb's distinguishing characteristics was his versatility; his interests and knowledge of matters remote from his own particular work were astonishingly wide. He could hold his own in discussions on such diverse matters as history, medicine and psychical research, so that experts in each subject were astonished when afterwards told that the man to whom they had been talking was not a specialist in their own line of research. His encyclopædic knowledge, practical ability, and readiness to take any amount of trouble whenever his help was asked were of great value to his friends, and to the University, especially in his capacity of a syndic of the University Press, an office to which he was repeatedly elected for many years.

Lamb spent most of his spare time in collecting and studying insects. He specialized on the flies, working for some years with Dr. David Sharp, and such was his ability in this direction that he became a recognized authority on certain groups of the Acalyptera, especially the Ephydridæ and the Drosophilidæ, describing many new species. He was a real naturalist, and was a mine of information on the habits and life-histories of the insects he studied. His most important research was the study of the Diptera of the Seychelles, of the 428 species of which 28 genera and 311 species were previously unknown. He also did most valuable work in the Insect Department of the University Museum of Zoology, where he was in effect honorary curator of the Diptera for many years. For his zoological work, the University conferred upon him the degree of Sc.D. in 1923, and on his retirement from the Engineering Laboratory in 1931 he was created emeritus reader in electrical engineering.

Lamb never lost his early interest in music; although of late years even his most intimate friends could seldom prevail on him to play to them. As a freemason, he was a well-known figure in both town and University, and attained high rank. As a lecturer, he sometimes failed to appreciate that his mind worked faster than that of any but the most able of his audience, but he never grudged the time to explain privately any difficulties. To Cambridge zoological research he was for twenty years the valued referee whenever mathematical conceptions were involved. No student, colleague or friend ever asked his help in vain.

C. R. C.

Mrs. Beatrice Bateson

THE recent death of Mrs. Beatrice Bateson, widow of William Bateson, F.R.S., has meant more than the loss to her own immediate friends. A link with the past has been broken, and many of his former pupil and colleagues will recall the integral part she played in those memorable days at Grantchester or Merton—a Saturday afternoon, a Sunday lunch—where the sense of intellectual freedom and curiosity, the spaciousness and the humour, were of her making as well as of his. She was always there to help, whether it was Japanese prints, embroideries, a display of home art, the chicken-pens or the greenhouses that formed the absorbing interest of the moment.

In recent years, when her own talents and her own energy had to stand alone, Mrs. Bateson's labours were mainly threefold; she made her garden in Sussex a delight, and with her needle she produced embroideries of great beauty of design and execution. But more important than trowel or needle was her piano; even within a few months of her death, under able and kindly guidance, she was mastering the intricacies of Bach with the enthusiasm and intensity of youth.

To Mrs. Bateson is due the biographical sketch of her husband, published in 1928: "William Bateson, F.R.S., Naturalist, His Essays and Addresses, together with a Short Account of his Life", which must form an important work of reference to some future biographer.

Of their sons, the eldest was killed in the War of 1914–18, and the second died in London shortly after. Gregory Bateson, the anthropologist, now working in America, is the youngest and only surviving son. Mrs. Bateson was the third daughter of Dr. Durham.

Her single-minded devotion to the things of the mind will remain embodied in the memory of her music-room in Sussex—the adapted bakehouse of the small Mill House. Two grand pianos of the smallest size could just fit in; on the window-sill stood a pot or two of her orchids, while one window looked straight into her beloved miniature greenhouse. On the walls and in the book-cases were many treasures, ranging from Blake to the Chinese, each eagerly acquired in the early days, each loved for its own sake and for its associations. In that room was no place for ignorance or for idleness.

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We regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. E. O. F. Brown, president of the Institution of Mining Engineers, on May 22, aged fifty-nine.

The Right Hon. Lord Cadman, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., Chairman of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Ltd., and the Irak Petroleum Company, Ltd., emeritus professor of mining and petroleum technology in the University of Birmingham on May 31, aged sixty-three.

Prof. Oskar Loew formerly professor of plant physiology in the University of Berlin, aged ninety-seven.

Dr. R. Campbell Thompson, F.B.A., Shillito reader in Assyriology in the University of Oxford, on May 23, aged sixty-four.