

and far more than a woman of her age should have attempted; but she would not and, indeed, could not ease up; there is no respite for a farmer in war-time. In the last year, when her head man was away ill for months, she still managed to carry on. It wore her out. She had served her generation in so many ways to the utmost of her powers, that when illness struck her, she was left with too little strength to fight for herself.

So this great-hearted woman became a war casualty, laying down her life for her country in the Battle of the Home Front. G. L. ELLES.

Prof. Jan Florian

It is with feelings of deep regret that we have to record the death at the hands of the Gestapo of the distinguished Czech embryologist, Prof. Jan Florian, dean of the Medical Faculty in the Masaryk University, Brno, on May 7, 1942. By his researches on early human embryos, Prof. Florian had established for himself an international reputation as an embryologist and had made many friends among the anatomists in England and other allied countries.

The following notice is contributed by his teacher and friend, Prof. F. K. Studnička, of the Charles University, Prague.

During the first year of their occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, the Germans closed all the universities and colleges, seven in number, and subjected their staffs to the harshest treatment. Many of them were sent to concentration camps and died there; others were executed. The Masaryk University at Brno was especially brutally treated. The institutes were looted and some twenty members of the staff were murdered, among them Jan Florian.

Florian was born in Brno in 1897. He served as a conscript in the Austrian Army throughout the First World War, and in 1919, when the Masaryk University was founded, he was among its first medical students. In 1923 he graduated M.D. and became assistant in the Institute of Histology and Embryology. In 1928, he was admitted *Docent*, and in 1933 was appointed professor of histology and embryology in the Comenius University, Bratislava. Eventually he returned to Brno as professor in succession to me.

Early in his career, Florian became interested in embryology, and with the help of Dr. O. Bittmann succeeded in forming a fine collection of well-preserved human developmental material. He devoted himself to the study of the early stages in his collection and, in papers published between 1927 and 1930, added much to our knowledge of early human development. We need only mention here his work on embryos Bi I (1927) and TF (1928) and his redescription of the Fetzer embryo, with Fetzer (1930), and the Beneke embryo, with Beneke (1930-31).

In the years succeeding 1930, Florian, with the aid of grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, was enabled to spend several long periods of study-leave at University College, London, where as honorary research assistant he continued his investigations. He participated actively in the meetings of the Anatomical Society and contributed several valuable papers to its *Journal*, and he also collaborated with Prof. J. P. Hill in the description of an early human embryo (1931) and in a study of early embryonic stages of *Tarsius*. He was co-author, with Prof. Frankenberger, of a text-book of embryology, the

first to be published in the Czech language, and author of a popular work entitled "From Protozoon to Man" (also in Czech).

Florian was an excellent mathematician, and utilizing the principles of projective geometry, he perfected a method of graphic reconstruction which has proved of great value in the interpretation of serial sections of embryos in which the sectional plane is oblique to the median plane of the embryo. He also designed an improved type of micro-manipulator.

In 1938, Florian was elected a member of the Institut International d'Embryologie, an honour he greatly appreciated. In 1939, he was appointed dean of the Medical Faculty in the Masaryk University, but he had barely assumed the duties of the office when, in November of that year, the universities were closed by the Nazis. Florian for a while tried to carry on with his work, and at the same time was active in alleviating the hardships of the families of those who had been persecuted. Eventually in October 1941 he himself was imprisoned by the Gestapo, at first in Brno, but at the end of January 1942 he was deported to the notorious concentration camp of Mauthausen, near Linz. There he was kept in solitary confinement, tortured and finally shot on May 7, along with seventy-six other prisoners.

Such was the end of an ardent and noble-hearted patriot and a gifted man of science. His death at the early age of forty-five is an irreparable loss to his beloved country and to the science he did so much to advance. F. K. STUDNIČKA.

Mr. J. H. Driberg

THE death of Mr. Jack Herbert Driberg on February 5 will come as a shock to his many friends and admirers. Born in April 1888, he was educated at Lancing College and Hertford College, Oxford, and in 1912 joined the Uganda Administration, spending nine years in it before he was transferred to the Sudan Political Service, from which he was invalided on pension in 1925. In 1923 he had written his well-known book, "The Lango: A Nilotic Tribe of Uganda", and thus established his claim as an anthropologist, and, after a training in the London School of Economics, was appointed to a lectureship in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. He held this post until the outbreak of the War in 1939, when he resigned and volunteered for war-work and was posted to the Near East; at the time of his death he was concerned with Middle East affairs in the Ministry of Information.

Driberg was a man of exceptional ability, and on the sound foundation of Greats at Oxford, developed a keen sense of the right word and turn of phrase which made his "People of the Small Arrow" (1930) and "Ngato, the Lion Cub" (1933), to mention only two of his works, such delightful reading. As a teacher he was inspiring, and devoted much time to helping his students. His appreciation of the value of anthropology to administrators in the Colonial Service, gained by his experience in Uganda and the Sudan, did much to inspire Colonial probationers who attended his lectures and talked with him in his rooms with the practical value of the science in relation to their future work, and seeds were sown in successive generations of probationers which to-day are bearing fruit.

He was a good linguist and spoke a number of African languages, and this, coupled with his magnificent physical strength and power of endurance,