work in this direction may, however, yield pointers of value to workers on the chemotherapy of tuberculosis.

- ¹ Anderson and Chargaff, *J. Biol. Chem.*, **85**, 77 83, 169 (1929).
² Robinson and Birch, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 505 (1940).
³ Polgar and Robinson, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 389 (1945).
⁴ Adams *et al.*, *J. Pharm. and Exp. Ther.*, **45**, 121 (1932).
⁵ Barry and McNally, *Nature*, **156**, 48 (1945).
⁶ Barry and Twomey, *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, in the press.
⁷ Feldman, Mann and Hinshaw, *Amer. Rev. Tub.*, **46**, 187 (1942).
⁸ Barry, *Nature*, **158**, 131 (1946).
⁹ Izzo and Cicardo, *Nature*, **158**, 590 (1946).

OBITUARIES

Prof. E. H. Lamb

ERNEST HORACE LAMB was born at Adelaide on May 5, 1878. He left Australia for Great Britain when his father, the distinguished mathematician, Horace Lamb, was appointed to a chair at Owens College, Manchester. After attending Manchester Grammar School, Ernest had a distinguished career at Owens College (now Victoria University of Manchester). He gained his practical experience with Mather & Platt, Ltd., Manchester, and was afterwards employed by W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford. In 1913 he was appointed professor of civil and mechanical engineering at East London College (now Queen Mary College), University of London.

Lamb served with distinction during the First World War, first with the Royal Marines and later with the R.N.V.R. After service throughout the Gallipoli campaign, when he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, he went to H.M.S. *Vernon*, at Portsmouth, where during 1917-19 he was in charge of experimental work and special designs for naval mining appliances.

When Lamb returned to Queen Mary College after the War, he played an active part in the development of the engineering studies of the College, and of the University of London. He was dean of the Faculty of Engineering of the University during 1924-28, and a member of the Senate of the University during 1929-34. He was dean of the College Faculty of Engineering, served on the governing body, and was appointed vice-principal of the College.

Ernest Lamb inherited his father's mathematical ability, and contributed papers on various engineering subjects to the engineering institutions and to the technical Press. He was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers; and an associate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, of which he was awarded the Telford Gold Medal.

With all his gifts and extraordinary ability, Lamb was devoid of any personal ambition. To all his many duties he brought a freshness of outlook, a capacity for work, and a sense of humour that endeared him to all his colleagues. He gave freely to help all around him, but preferred to remain himself in the background. For this reason his work, both scientific and administrative, was not so well known as it deserved to be, and it was only those who knew him best who appreciated just how much he contributed to the welfare of Queen Mary College.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, the College was moved to Cambridge, and, although Prof. Lamb reached retiring age in 1943, he carried on until the end of the War. He retired in 1945, being later appointed professor emeritus. He continued to live in Cambridge, where his many friends hoped he would

be active for many years. He was looking forward to carrying on with work for which his College duties had not given time.

His many friends were shocked to learn that Prof. Lamb died suddenly of heart failure on October 12.

E. GIFFEN

Prof. A. E. Tehitchibabin

ALEXEJ EUGENIEWITSCH TEHITCHIBABIN, born at Kusemino, Bortava, in 1871, recently died in Paris at the age of seventy-four. He studied at the University of Moscow from 1888 for four years, and published his first scientific paper during that period. His work was on pyridine and its derivatives, a field then neither well known nor very popular; but in spite of opposition, he persisted with it and never lost interest in the field.

In 1902, he was made 'Magister Chimia' in the University of Moscow as a result of a thesis on the action of alkyl halides on pyridine and quinoline, and afterwards gained the rare honour of doctor of chemistry of the University of St. Petersburg; six years later he was appointed professor of organic chemistry at the Imperial College of Technology (Moscow), becoming dean of the College in 1909. In 1918 he was in addition professor of chemistry in the University of Moscow. During the First World War, Tehitchibabin undertook the organisation of the Russian pharmaceutical industry and, largely due to his work, his country became substantially independent of German supplies. In 1931, Tehitchibabin moved to Paris and directed the laboratory of the Collège de France.

Most of Tehitchibabin's two hundred or so publications are concerned with pyridine and its derivatives; among other things he synthesized pyridine itself from acrolein and acetaldehyde, an example of a general method for synthesis of pyridine derivatives due to his researches, and found that acrolein could be substituted for glycerol in the Skraup quinoline synthesis. In 1913, with his co-worker Seide, he made one of those rare discoveries in chemistry—an entirely new reaction by which 2- and 4-aminopyridines could be obtained by the action of sodamide on pyridine. This reaction, he showed, takes place in two stages, the intermediate sodamidopyridine being decomposed by water. This remarkable discovery was not at first appreciated by chemists outside Russia, due possibly to the fact that it was published in Russian; but, as is shown later, had very important industrial and academic implications in due course.

Tehitchibabin and Seide also showed that alkyl halides could be induced to react with α - and γ -picolines in the presence of sodamide to give higher alkylated pyridines.

Tehitchibabin and his assistants also studied the tautomerism of the aminopyridines, in particular of 2-aminopyridine, which like 4-aminopyridine and unlike 3-aminopyridine is not a true amino compound, and which cannot be diazotized and coupled to give azo dyestuffs.

2-Aminopyridine has been manufactured in large quantities by Tehitchibabin and Seide's method in connexion with the manufacture of sulphapyridine (M and B 693); condensed with *p*-acetamidobenzene-sulphonyl chloride, the acetyl derivative of this sulphonamide is obtained from which the drug itself can be prepared by alkaline hydrolysis.