

brings the story to the Turkish conquest in 1571. Meanwhile, he did valuable service as editor of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, edited a handbook of "Sources for Greek History", and extended his special studies to Italian coins and medals, and the practical art of die-engraving. His great "Corpus of Italian Medals before Cellini" is his monument in this field.

In 1931, Hill succeeded Sir Frederic Kenyon as director and principal librarian of the British Museum, for which he acquired the biblical "Codex Sinaiticus" from the Soviet Government, and the Eumorphopoulos collection of Oriental antiquities, and where he planted the almond trees in the forecourt. He was created K.C.B. in 1933 and retired in 1936. He took an active interest in the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the Joint Archæological Committee, and the Hellenic and Numismatic Societies; and published a standard treatise on "Treasure Trove".

Hill died in London on October 18, while a memorial volume of the *Hellenic Journal* and a bibliography, compiled by his many friends, were still with the printers.

JOHN L. MYRES

#### Mr. O. H. Latter

THE death of O. H. Latter on October 11 has removed not only a pioneer in science-teaching in schools but also one who, at the age of eighty-four, was as keen in sight and in mind and as ardent a correspondent as men sixty years his junior. His last letter in the *School Science Review*—characteristically both recalling a lecture of his Oxford days and insisting on accuracy to-day—appeared in June this year; and only two days before his death, while gardening, he shot one of his chief enemies, a grey squirrel.

Latter went as a boy to Charterhouse in 1878 and found there two science masters and no laboratory. In 1887 he took a first class in natural science at Oxford and became Berkeley fellow of Owens College, Manchester; he returned to Oxford in the following year as senior demonstrator to the Linacre professor. Next year he returned also to Keble as tutor. It was largely by chance—a very fortunate chance for science teaching—that in 1890 he returned to Charterhouse as senior science master. There he remained for thirty-six years, during ten of which he was a housemaster.

Latter's special interest was in Lepidoptera, Diptera and most particularly Hymenoptera. His paper in the *Cornhill* on wasps is typical of his gifts for observation and sympathetic exposition. But no branch of natural history escaped him. He contributed to various scientific journals papers on shellfish, the rabbit, puss-moth, cuckoo's eggs, an odd contortion in dog's mercury, and as a 'holiday task' in his seventieth year (with H. Eltringham) on the scent mechanism of the male *Euploea*. No living thing seemed to him to have been so well studied that nothing new could be observed about it, as witness his papers on the breathing of tadpoles (1923) and the dispersal of burdock (1941).

But Latter was far more than an observer, a writer of broad and lucid text-books and a teacher, great as is the debt his pupils owe to him and continue to acknowledge. He was a founder of what was then the 'Public Schools' Science Masters' Association', and his profound belief in the value of science (and especially biology) as an essential, and not merely a vocational, element in education has had an influence far beyond the public schools. Addresses of his exist on this, his favourite, subject to the British Association, the Association of Preparatory Schoolmasters and the Rotary Club of Colombo; and apart from this wider appeal his public spirit made him for many years the most valued chairman of Godalming Higher Education and Corporation Museum Committees and of the governors of Godalming County School. Fifty-eight years of meteorological observations have ended with his passing: his immense contribution to education remains.

J. C. THOMSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Johan Hjort, For.Mem.R.S., known for his sea-fisheries investigations, on October 7, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. Gustave Roussy, *académicien libre* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, formerly rector of the Sorbonne and director of the Cancer Institute of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, on September 30, aged seventy-three.

Dr. J. H. M. Wedderburn, F.R.S., professor of mathematics in Princeton University, aged sixty-six.

Dr. C. M. Wenyon, C.M.G., F.R.S., formerly director-in-chief, Wellcome Research Institution, on October 24.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Dr. Lise Meitner

WHEN, on November 7, Dr. Lise Meitner celebrates her seventieth birthday, her many friends will offer her their warmest congratulations and respectful admiration on a life of great activity, during which she has maintained the highest reputation for experimental discoveries in radioactivity and nuclear physics. Dr. Meitner studied under Boltzmann in Vienna. Moving to Berlin, she was for a time 'Assistant' to Planck. She then joined Otto Hahn and thus began a long and rich collaboration, ended only by her flight from the Nazi regime. Her investigations during this period of about thirty years are so many and so varied that only a few can be mentioned here. An early joint paper on the absorp-

tion of  $\beta$ -rays was followed by the discovery, with von Baeyer, of homogeneous groups in the  $\beta$ -ray emission from radioactive bodies. This opened up a new field, to which she returned again and again in subsequent years, taking a leading part in the elucidation of  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -ray spectra and in the study of the properties of  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -rays. To the earlier period of collaboration belongs also the discovery of protoactinium in 1918. In later years she worked with Hahn, and also with Strassmann, on the neutron-induced radioactivity of uranium. After Hahn and Strassmann had discovered the presence of active barium in irradiated uranium, and thereby established the division of the uranium nucleus, Dr. Meitner and her nephew O. R. Frisch gave, in a letter in *Nature* in March 1939, the first physical