OBITUARIES

Dr. C. M. Wenyon, F.R.S.

By the death of Dr. C. M. Wenyon, in London on October 24, at the age of seventy, the scientific world in general and tropical medicine in particular lost one of the foremost exponents of medical protozoology.

Charles Morley Wenyon, son of Dr. Chas. Wenyon, was born at Liverpool on March 24, 1878. He passed his childhood in China, where his father was a pioneer medical missionary, but returned to England for his education. He studied science at University College and medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, graduating B.Sc. (1901) and M.B., B.S. (1904). The dual training in zoology and medicine provided the right background to Wenyon's subsequent activities, and is a clue to the quality of his contributions to medical protozoology, a subject to which he devoted himself from the very beginning of his scientific career. During the first ten years (1904–14), he held with distinction the post of lecturer in protozoology at the London School of Tropical Medicine, where he worked under Patrick Manson. During this period he also continued his studies in Paris, under F. Mesnil, and in Munich, under Richard Hertwig (1906–7), and undertook an expedition for the study of protozoal diseases in the Sudan, where he spent a year (1907–8) working in a floating laboratory on the Nile. He was later (1910–13) sent by the School on missions to Mesopotamia, Syria and Malta, returning with abundant material which formed the subject-matter of important publications on oriental sore and kala-azar in these regions.

In 1914 Wenyon joined the staff of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research as director of research in the tropics. Shortly after the outbreak of the First World War he was seconded—with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, R.A.M.C.—for work under the War Office and proceeded abroad. He carried out important researches on the intestinal protozoal infections, published in Wenyon and O'Connor's "Human Intestinal Protozoa in the Near East" (1917), and on malaria in Greece, the results of which appeared in a series of papers (*J. R.A.M.C.*, 1921–22). In 1924 Wenyon succeeded Sir Andrew Balfour as director-in-chief of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research (now Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine) and director of research to the Wellcome Foundation, retiring in 1944, but continuing to act in a consulting capacity. Under Wenyon's direction the Bureau developed into a first-class scientific institute enjoying an international reputation among workers in tropical medicine and parasitology.

The variety and volume of Wenyon's contributions to protozoology render their assessment a difficult task. Though by no means restricted to purely medical questions, his work was chiefly concerned with protozoological problems having a direct bearing on tropical diseases. Much of our knowledge regarding the relative medical importance of the intestinal Protozoa and of the epidemiology of amœbiasis is due to Wenyon's pioneer work. He was particularly interested in the transmission of the leishmaniases. Though the credit of solving this problem belongs to others, his own researches and critical reviews of the existing data did much to clear the path for his successors in this field. The most outstanding work published by Wenyon, his *magnum opus*, is the well-known "Protozoology" (1926). This treatise, now generally recognized as a classic, gave a synthesis of our knowledge of the parasitic Protozoa and, though now in places out of date, it remains an indispensable reference book for all serious students of protozoology.

Apart from research work, for many years Wenyon contributed authoritative reviews of the world literature on protozoal diseases to the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*. The present position of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in the medical world and the high quality of its *Transactions* are due largely to Wenyon's untiring efforts during a quarter of a century, first as its honorary secretary and ultimately as its president.

In 1927 Wenyon was elected a fellow of the Royal Society; he received many other honours and awards both at home and abroad.

As a man, Wenyon was universally liked and respected for his friendliness and cheerful disposition. His knowledge and experience were at everybody's disposal, and workers from all over the world, when visiting London, never failed to call on him for advice and help. In his relations with immediate associates there prevailed a happy comradeship, in which 'C. M. W.' was *primus inter pares*. His colleagues will remember with gratitude and affection his constant interest and encouragement in their work and welfare.

C. A. Hoare

C. A. Hill

Charles Alexander Hill, founder of the British Drug Houses, Ltd., was born in London on August 18, 1874. He was educated at Winchester, King's College, London, and the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy. His death occurred on October 23.

C. A. Hill will be long remembered among men of science for the work he did in developing the manufacture of chemicals of high purity for use in research and analysis which began in the 1914 crisis, when it became clear that Great Britain must no longer remain dependent upon importing supplies of these chemicals from Germany or elsewhere.

Hill's natural abilities were well suited to this task; he took a keen interest in science, passionately insisted on accuracy in all matters, particularly in the written or spoken word, and was at all times disposed to devote meticulous attention to matters of detail.

Five years before the First World War broke out, the amalgamation of six companies concerned with pharmaceutical manufacture had taken place under Hill's leadership. Of the resultant company, the British Drug Houses, he had become chairman and managing director. At the outbreak of war, scientific workers throughout Great Britain were made acutely conscious of their dependence upon imported laboratory chemicals, including organic chemicals for use in synthesis, and microscopical stains for use in bacteriology. This challenge made a profound appeal to Hill and he applied his marked organising ability to making good this defect. In the course of the next ten years he achieved a great measure of success in so doing.

Important studies were made in determining the highest obtainable standards of purity for chemicals in this category. New standards were in due course formulated and submitted for acceptance to an independent committee set up for the purpose. The analytical and research laboratories under his direction undertook much work in devising delicate