

headmaster at St. Paul's. Because its accuracy is remarkable for the time, it was recently suggested¹ that it was actually prepared in England by "a group of English patriots, inspired by the antiquarian and historical ardour of the Renaissance". If this was the case, one wonders whether the travelled and erudite Leland was consulted during its preparation; although, as he was an ardent supporter of the king, it is unlikely he would have approved of the publication in Rome of a map such as he himself had intended for the greater glory of Henry VIII.

Leland was buried in St. Michael-le-Querne, near St. Paul's, where, according to Stow, in his "Survey of London", there existed a monument in memory of him; but the church was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

¹ Lynam, E., *Geog. J.*, 116, 8 (1950).

OBITUARIES

Prof. F. T. Brooks, C.B.E., F.R.S.

By the sudden death of Prof. F. T. Brooks on March 11, Cambridge has lost a man who played an important part in the development of the study of botany, and Britain is deprived of the wisdom and service of a leader in the field of mycology and plant pathology. Born at Wells in Somerset in 1882, he left Sexey's School, Bruton, in 1898, and entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1902. Like so many other undergraduates of that time, he fell under the spell of Marshall Ward's brilliant teaching of botany, and he gained first classes in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos, afterwards to commence research on plant diseases under Ward's direction. Prof. Marshall Ward died in 1906, and Brooks was left to carry on the specialized teaching of plant pathology in the Botany School. In 1914 he spent a year in the Federated Malay States investigating the diseases of rubber, and on his return he joined the team of investigators constituting the original Food Investigation Department of the Government. At the end of the War, which had seriously affected his personal happiness, he became University lecturer and continued his researches on diseases of crop plants. The peculiar silver-leaf disease, then very prevalent in Victoria plums, occupied much of his attention, and he again attacked some of the problems concerning the rust fungi of cereals, an important field in which Marshall Ward had done pioneer work.

During the years that followed, Brooks was responsible for the development of the study of mycology and plant pathology at Cambridge. In this he was highly successful; he trained a large number of men and women for research positions in Britain, the Dominions and the Colonies. His eminence led to his election as president of the British Mycological Society in 1922 and he played a considerable part in extending the scope of that Society, later recognized by his appointment as one of its honorary members. His work at Cambridge received considerable impetus and assistance by the gift to the University from the Rockefeller Trustees of a large sum of money for the building and equipment of a modern department of plant pathology, together with provision for a field-station for experimental work. Brooks became reader in botany, and was elected to a fellowship in his College where he played an active part.

On the resignation of Sir Albert Seward in 1936 Brooks was elected professor of botany, and he occupied this position with distinction until he reached the age of retirement in 1948. During this time he devoted much attention to the development of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, and to the plans for its improvement by the use of the Reginald Cory bequest. He took an active part in University administration and served as president of the Cambridge Philosophical Society during 1945-47.

His activities were not confined to Cambridge. After holding the office of president of Section K (Botany) of the British Association in 1935, he was biological secretary of the Association until 1946. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1930, and served on its Council during 1939-44. He was secretary of the First Imperial Botanical Conference in 1924, and one of the two secretaries of the Fifth International Botanical Congress in 1930. Later he gave much time and energy to the work of the Agricultural Research Council, of which he was a member from 1941 to the time of his death, apart from an intermission of three years; of late this work taxed his physical strength very severely. In 1947 he received the well-merited award of the C.B.E., he was made an honorary LL.D. of St. Andrews, an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

Brooks was the author of a large number of original papers on mycology and plant pathology, he wrote an important book on "Plant Diseases" and he edited and largely re-wrote a new edition of D. H. Scott's elementary text-book of botany. Last year he was responsible for the publication of an interesting little book on the auriculas, written by his friend Sir Rowland Biffen, which the author had left in manuscript at the time of his death.

A remarkably modest and friendly man, with wide interests in plants of all kinds, in horticulture and in agriculture, an excellent teacher who took a great interest in his students, he had a host of friends all over the world who will remember him with gratitude and affection.

H. HAMSHAW THOMAS

F. T. BROOKS was a man of marked and unusual personality, some features of which seemed to hark back to an earlier and more robust age than ours. In him the child was certainly father of the man, for as a pupil at Sexey's School, Bruton, the leading traits of character that distinguished him in later life were clearly discernible. Although he was not an outstanding figure at games or athletics, he entered with great zest and *joie de vivre* into every activity of school life. As a scholar he was marked by his all-round ability, except in one respect: he did not shine in the workshops devoted to woodwork and metalwork. A thorough West-countryman by birth and upbringing, he took an intense interest in country life, and his inherent love of Nature quickened and grew under the fostering influence of his headmaster, W. A. Knight, a great pioneer of nature-study and of science-teaching in schools. Frequent botany rambles, in a countryside renowned for the wealth and variety of its flora, formed an important part of the school curriculum, and to the end of his life this apt pupil of an inspiring master remained an ardent field-botanist.

The path leading eventually to the chair of botany at Cambridge and a fellowship of Emmanuel College

was beset with formidable obstacles; but Brooks was endowed with great resolution and persistence. At Sexey's School he learnt more than the formal subjects of teaching; he acquired the habit of methodical working, even at unattractive tasks, and also of concentration. In later life, as at school, his forceful and forthright character was tempered by friendliness and geniality, and mellowed by a robust sense of humour. He possessed unbounded energy, both physical and mental. At Cambridge he played tennis and squash rackets with great zest, and until fairly late in life he took an early morning dip in the river as a regular practice throughout the year. Often, also, in going home to his beloved West Country he would take train to Bristol and walk the twenty miles over the Mendips to Wells. He was fond of travel, and his botanical wanderings took him as far away as Malaya and Australia.

Besides his heavy teaching and administrative duties at the Botany School, he took a leading part in the councils of Emmanuel College. He was also a governor of his old School, a member of an unusual number of committees and commissions, and he served for a period as joint general secretary of the British Association. As a chairman he was particularly effective; for his firmness and honesty of purpose, his shrewd common sense, and his outspoken and good-tempered judgments appealed to all. His mind was of a strongly practical cast, and so it came about that his interests ranged far beyond the limits of academic mycology and botany into their applications in gardening, fruit-growing, cider-making, agriculture, rubber-cultivation, and the like.

The short and sturdy figure with the purposeful air, the ruddy good-humoured countenance, the strong West-country voice, the cheery greeting, the hearty and infectious laugh, the warm welcome, the unnumbered acts of kindness, will not lightly be forgotten:

"But now we hope his kindly feâce
Is gone to vind a better pleâce;
But still, wi' vo'k a-left behind
He'll always be a-kept in mind".

JOHN READ

Lord Lindsay of Birker, C.B.E.

LORD LINDSAY OF BIRKER, Master of Balliol College in the University of Oxford from 1924 until 1949, and latterly principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, died on March 18 at the age of seventy-two. His writing and teaching were in the field of philosophy; but his influence in education extended far beyond his subject and outside the College where most of his working life was spent.

Only a few of his many activities can be mentioned here. He played a large part in the establishment and development in Oxford of the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, believing that the study of philosophy should not always depend on a classical background, but should be related to contemporary social problems. He also urged, though in vain, the foundation of a school based upon the joint study of philosophy and the principles of natural science. He was vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford during 1935-37, a period which saw many important developments, including the Nuffield bequests for medicine and social sciences. During the Second World War he was chairman of the Oxford Joint Recruiting Board, and handled

with humanity and understanding the many problems arising from the call-up of students from the University. When an international commission was appointed after the War to consider the future of the German universities, Lindsay was the only British member, and his wide knowledge and good humour eased many difficult situations. All these activities (and many others) were not just the automatic accretions of an able administrator, but were causes for which he felt deeply and worked unsparringly.

Lord Lindsay was always keenly interested in education outside the conventional framework of academic study, for example, in the Workers' Educational Association and education in the Armed Forces. It was typical of his pioneering spirit that at the age of seventy he accepted the invitation to become the first principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, in the foundation of which he played a leading part. Here he was able to initiate an educational experiment which embodied several of his own ideas, notably a first-year course common to students of all faculties.

Many institutions owe much to Lord Lindsay, and many individuals will remember him with affection as an inspiring teacher and colleague.

Mr. John Wylie

JOHN WYLIE died at Larne, Co. Antrim, on February 29 at the age of eighty-six, after a short illness. He rendered great service to the Queen's University of Belfast, of which he was a B.A. (1890) and an M.Sc. *honoris causa* (1948), during the forty-eight years that he was a member of the staff of the Physics Department. As demonstrator (1897-1919) and lecturer (1919-30) he was given charge of the undergraduate teaching laboratories by the late Prof. W. B. Morton. These were at first in the old college block but later, after 1914, were in the present physics building, which was erected to Wylie's plans. When he reached the normal retiring age in 1930, the post of workshop superintendent was created for him. Especially in the period between 1920 and the time of his ultimate retirement, when he had the able assistance of Mr. Adam Buick as mechanic, he produced much beautiful apparatus for teaching and research throughout the University, with the most meagre shop equipment. He also acted for many years as secretary to both the Matriculation Board and the General Board of Studies of the University. Wylie was a modest man of simple tastes, hiding great kindness behind a superficially abrupt manner. In younger days, he was a keen yachtsman, and well known as the designer of the Waverley yacht. He remained active, mentally and physically, until the last month of his life. He is survived by his wife.

K. G. EMELÉUS

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Paul Dienes, formerly professor of mathematics in the University of London (Birkbeck College), on March 23.

Dr. L. Dobbin, formerly reader in chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, on March 3, aged ninety-three.

Mr. Henry Woods, F.R.S., formerly University lecturer in palaeozoology, Cambridge, on April 4, aged eighty-three.