

## OBITUARIES

## Dr. Josephine Macalister Brew, C.B.E.

It is hard to believe that Dr. Macalister Brew is dead; for if any one adjective could have described her it would have been the hackneyed word 'vital'. Of her it was abundantly true, for there can have been few people who have lived so fully, so usefully, or so serviceably.

Her last official job was as education and training adviser to the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs. But that title gives no idea of the immense scope of her interests and activities. She was not a dabbler—to her that word was an insult; she was simply a person of such energy and such catholicity of interest that she left untouched no part of the wide field of the lives of young people. She was not a simple-minded 'do-good-er'. Indeed, her unorthodox methods and rather unusual appearance sometimes frightened, even alarmed, the traditionalists. But she had a remarkable flair for getting inside the skins of the inarticulate young and then assessing what she found by the clear light of charitable reason.

For her intellectual equipment was of a quality quite unusual. She had a robust contempt for the 'starry-eyed' and the 'stuffy' (her own words); she quite simply hated the pompous and the pretentious; and for young people she had a boundless but shrewdly discriminating affection.

It was not surprising that she was worked to death. Government departments, charitable trusts, bodies as varied as the Marriage Guidance Council and the Educational Drama Association all made demands on her strength; and to none of them did she give half-measure. What she enjoyed most was not sitting around a committee table but gossiping with boys and girls in a canteen or a 'pub.', and there must be scores of them who remember this odd little figure who knew what they were thinking before they did and, more, could put it into intelligible words.

Josephine Brew made rather shop-soiled words like 'social welfare' or 'youth service' come to life. She never forgot the eternal importance of each single individual human being, and she would never allow generalizations or abstractions to hide the individual boy or girl, puzzled, uncertain, bewildered or lost. She had learning, and in her own field success—the award of a C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours only underlines the melancholy coincidence of her death—and the affection of a multitude of friends. She would prefer to be remembered as one who never lost her astringent affection for hundreds of 'crazy mixed-up kids'. JOHN WOLFENDEN

## Dr. J. E. Hamilton, I.S.O.

JAMES ERIK HAMILTON, who died suddenly at Stanley, Falkland Islands, on April 15, a few weeks before his sixty-sixth birthday, had spent more than thirty years in the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies. After graduating at the University of Liverpool in 1913, he spent the summers of 1913 and 1914 at Blacksod Bay, Co. Mayo, on behalf of the Committee of the British Association appointed to investigate the biological problems incidental to the Belmullet whaling station. In 1914 he took his M.Sc.

degree, specializing in oceanography, and occupied junior teaching posts at King's College, London, and The Queen's University, Belfast, until 1916, when he joined the R.A.M.C. as bacteriologist. In 1919 he was appointed to be Government naturalist and magistrate in the Falkland Islands, a post he occupied for thirty years until his retirement in 1949. For half this period, from 1924 until 1939, he was seconded to the scientific staff of the Discovery Investigations, and served in the ships belonging to the Discovery Committee, in the Marine Station at South Georgia, and in England. During the Second World War he was in the Falkland Islands and acted as registrar general and registrar of the Supreme Court, as well as being a police magistrate at Stanley and a temporary member of the Legislative Council. He was awarded the Polar Medal in 1943, and appointed a Companion of the Imperial Service Order in 1948.

Hamilton was a good field naturalist and was particularly interested in marine mammals and birds, on which he published a number of papers in various scientific journals. His most important published work is contained in two papers on the southern sea lion that appeared in Discovery Reports in 1934 and 1939, and formed the main part of the material for which his doctorate was conferred. During his residence in the Dependencies he had the opportunity for collecting much rare cetacean material and enriched the collections of the British Museum (Natural History) by presenting many valuable skulls and skeletons of the southern dolphins, which are generally very poorly represented in museum collections. In addition, he sent home large collections of skulls from several species of southern seals, specimens which are of unusual value as they are accompanied by very full data. After his retirement in 1949 Hamilton continued to reside in the Falkland Islands, where he carried on with his collecting and zoological work. He was particularly concerned for the preservation of the stocks of whales, which he considered were being dangerously over-fished, and stated his views in several outspoken contributions in *Nature* during recent years.

Hamilton was of medium height and stocky build, and enjoyed the rough conditions of life that he experienced on many of his expeditions in the course of the Discovery investigations, as well as during his work as Government naturalist. The latter took him into some very remote places in company with the sealers and whalers, among whom he had many friends. In 1931 he married Miss Rose Purdie, who survives him, and to whom we extend our sympathy.

L. HARRISON MATTHEWS

## Dr. J. F. Allan

DR. J. F. ALLAN, superintendent of the Ship Division, National Physical Laboratory, collapsed and died on June 8 while sailing on holiday at Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

James Foggo Allan was born on July 23, 1904, at Brechin, Angus, the son of a Church of Scotland minister. He was educated at Dumbarton Academy and the University of Glasgow, and served an apprenticeship with William Denny and Bros., Ltd., the