

as a director of Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., and other public companies. In spite of many attractive offers, he refused to join any commercial organization primarily concerned with the Defence effort. He took the view—and I am sure rightly—that he had been in far too central a position in the defence field to allow him to make his special knowledge available to a single company engaged in such work.

His health improved appreciably after he retired, and right up to the day of his death he was the most delightful and inspiring dinner companion. A typical form of activity into which he entered with all his usual enthusiasm was the year he spent in 1955–56 as Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. I am sure the Company benefited from his wisdom.

No account of Tizard would be complete without some reference to his quarrel with Cherwell. This originated in 1936 over the Committee on the Scientific Survey of Air Defence, and eventually got so bad that the two men could not endure in silence each other's presence in the same city. This, indeed, was the only matter on which I ever found Tizard really unreasonable, but Cherwell was worse. In fact, in this matter, both these eminent gentlemen behaved like a couple of spoiled children. The tragedy of it was that this quarrel prevented Tizard gaining the confidence of Winston Churchill when the latter returned to power in 1950.

By any standards, Tizard was a great man who made a large contribution to the nation's affairs. He had a very real foresight and was rarely proved wrong. I am still waiting for someone to take seriously the warning which he issued towards the close of his presidential address to the British Association in 1948. He knew little about agriculture in detail, but, as with all the other subjects he touched, he had a wide view of the necessities. "I shall predict", he said, "that unless the prevention of disease among plants and animals and all other scientific problems of the supply of food are studied on the same kind of scale by men of similar calibre as are the problems of human health, chaos and misery will result". How right he was.

F. BRUNDRETT

### Dr. Mary D. Waller

DR. MARY DÉSIRÉE WALLER, who died at the age of seventy-three on December 11, was widely known for her precise and beautiful work on vibrating plates and as an outstanding teacher of physics. She came of distinguished scientific ancestry, her father being Augustus Désiré Waller, who first showed that the electric currents set up by the beating of the human heart could be recorded, and her grandfather Augustus Volney Waller, whose name is commemorated in 'Wallerian degeneration'.

Educated at Cheltenham and Bedford College for Women, as a young woman she was appointed demonstrator in the Physics Department of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, a Department of which she later became head and in which she continued her research after her retirement in 1947. It was in 1932 that she first came into prominence by her discovery that metal plates could be thrown into regular vibration by the suitable application of a block of high-density carbon dioxide. It shows great scientific percipience that her discovery derived from the fact that an

itinerant vendor of ice-cream had directed her attention to the way in which a bicycle bell rattled when in contact with ordinary solid carbon dioxide.

With this solid carbon dioxide technique, the mode of action of which she explained, she carried out extensive and precise studies of the modes of vibration of metal plates of square, rectangular, circular and elliptical form, illustrated by beautiful photographs, the series recording the vibrations of a square plate being particularly striking. Her last published work included some interesting observations on the ridges formed by particles of different size and shape in the sound field between a vibrating plate and a parallel horizontal surface. At the time of her death she had nearly completed a book dealing with her work on vibrating plates, the appearance of which has been announced by the publisher. It is to be hoped that a colleague will finish the work and see it through the press.

Dr. Waller was a woman of great integrity and kindness, whose brightness and charm made her a welcome figure in scientific, and other, circles. As an accomplished teacher she endeared herself to generations of students in her Department. She was devoted to the subject that she made her own, but her interests were wide and she was a delightful conversationalist. She lived for many years with her friend, Dr. Bertha Turner, at a charming house in the neighbourhood of Regent's Park, in which she died.

E. N. DA C. ANDRADE

### Mr. Cyril L. Collette

CYRIL COLLETTE, who died suddenly on November 2 at the age of seventy-one, devoted most of his life to the study and service of natural history. His boyhood days were spent in the stimulating surroundings at Woodford, then a country parish in the heart of Epping Forest, and this early bent for the pursuit of Nature's secrets and offerings was never to leave him. He became a world-wide traveller naturalist in such places as Malaya, French Guinea, the Matto Grosso and British Somaliland, making valuable additions to collections, especially of insects.

Collette's main life's work began and ended at the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, as an associate and world authority on the large family of moths, the Lymantridae. Apart from his museum work, he was a keen spare-time botanist and bird observer, ever willing to pass on his experiences and recordings to such bodies as the British Trust for Ornithology (he was one of its earliest ringers), and the London Natural History Society (a member since 1907 and one-time president). He was on the Committee for the Birds of the Royal Parks, as well as on that of the London Natural History Society during the compilation of its book, "Birds of the London Area".

His own books include "A History of Richmond Park", written during 1937 when living at Richmond, and "Sea-girt Jungles", written on his return from a long Pacific sea voyage on the *St. George*, a sailing vessel which visited such places as the Marquesas, Easter Island and the Galapagos. He told me that this was one of the most exciting and rewarding episodes of his natural history career.

His colleagues at South Kensington will miss their tall and friendly companion, and all who sought out his advice and friendship will mourn an ever-willing helpmate and kindly friend. ALFRED LEUTSCHER