

In addition to some hundreds of important papers published with numerous collaborators, Lowry wrote several useful books; the last of these, on "Optical Rotatory Power", was issued last year and will long remain a standard work on the subject. The immense amount of accurate experimental work which Lowry has left on record secures him a permanent place in the history of the science to which he was devoted. His old colleagues and students in the laboratory of physical chemistry which he built up at Cambridge will remember him as a staunch friend, an inspiring teacher and an indefatigable worker who has passed too soon from their ranks.

WM. J. POPE.

Prof. H. R. Briton-Jones

PROF. HARRY RICHARD BRITON-JONES whose untimely death occurred in Trinidad on November 3, following an operation for appendicitis, will be mourned by a wide circle of friends, scientific colleagues and past and present students of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. He was born in 1893 and educated at Llandoverly College, of which he was a scholar. He entered King's College, London, in 1912, proceeding to the Royal College of Science in 1913, where he took the associateship and, later, the diploma of the Imperial College. In 1915 he was commissioned in the R.G.A. and he gained the M.C. on active service, being eventually invalided from shell-shock, with the rank of captain. Attracted to the study of plant diseases, he re-entered the Royal College of Science to equip himself for phytopathological research; a short period was also spent at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in systematic study of the fungi parasitic on plants.

At the end of 1919, Briton-Jones was appointed mycologist in the Egyptian Department of Agriculture, but he left in 1923 to become mycologist at the Horticultural Research Station of the University of Bristol at Long Ashton. He was appointed professor of mycology and bacteriology at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, in 1926 and dean of the College in the following year; he acted as principal on several occasions.

In Egypt, Briton-Jones devoted himself largely to the study of cotton and cereal diseases, publishing in 1925 the main results in a memoir entitled "Mycological Work in Egypt during the Period 1920-1922". At Long Ashton he was led to consider the influence of the nutrition and cultural management of the host plant on its susceptibility to parasitic disease, a subject which afterwards became increasingly predominant in his mind. While there, he published work on the cause of die-back of fruit trees, a problem not yet fully elucidated but in which the factors of nutritional and soil-moisture unbalance which he emphasized probably play a considerable part. On proceeding to Trinidad, he applied the same considerations to the diseases of permanent tropical crops, especially cacao and coco-nuts. His book on "The Diseases and Curing of Cacao" (Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1934) was followed

by a similar work on coco-nut diseases, but he did not live to see it published.

Briton-Jones's outstanding virtue as a mycologist was his very practical outlook. His opposition to academic views was sometimes carried to extremes, but he was intensely in earnest, and his enthusiasm in combating theory by practical experience often supplied a useful corrective. He helped to place plant pathology on a wider basis than that of parasitology, and in this his influence has been spread by his students to many parts of the Empire. As a teacher, he was the right man in the right place; to his students he was a friend, and he shared in their college life—he was a keen Rugby player—and gained their affection to an unusual degree.

E. J. B.

Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Elliot

LIEUT.-COLONEL ROBERT HENRY ELLIOT, whose death on November 9 we regret to record, had a distinguished career in ophthalmology as well as in other walks of life. The son of a colonel in the Army, he was educated at Bedford School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was a prizeman of the medical school. He had a brilliant career as a student and qualified M.B., B.S. (London) with honours in three subjects. He took his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1892 and in the same year took the D.P.H. Cambridge and entered the Indian Medical Service. At Netley he was Montefiore scholar and medallist and Maclean prizeman in military surgery.

Soon after arrival in India, Elliot joined the Southern Presidency. His work there naturally led to an extended experience in ophthalmology, and he was superintendent of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, and professor of ophthalmology in the Medical College from 1904 until 1914. While on leave in 1904, he completed his qualifications by obtaining the Sc.D. (Edin.) and the M.D. (Lond.).

Elliot's name will always be remembered for the work he did on sclero-corneal trephining in cases of glaucoma. The operation is known by his name all over the world, and was a notable advance in the surgical treatment of a disease the origin of which is in many cases obscure, and which has in the past led to a great deal of blindness.

Elliot's literary output was considerable. His chief works were handbooks on glaucoma and an account of sclero-corneal trephining, each of which went to a second edition. Besides this, he wrote an excellent text-book on tropical ophthalmology, which has been translated into a number of foreign languages, as well as smaller works. His work brought him many distinctions at home and abroad. Returning home in 1915, Elliot settled in London and quickly acquired a very large practice. For a number of years he was ophthalmic surgeon to the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham; and he was Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

Apart from his work as an ophthalmic surgeon, Elliot was an authority on snakes and a first-class amateur conjurer. His last book was published

two years ago with the title "The Myth of the Mystic East". In it he discussed Indian magic and miraculous cures. He insisted that there was little if anything in Indian medicine that was unknown to European medicine; and he was equally sceptical as to the Indian rope trick, as may be seen from an article on "Indian Conjuring" contributed by him to *NATURE* of September 12 last.

Of late years, Col. Elliot had taken a prominent part in the management of the British Health Resorts Association, and until his health broke down he made his driving force felt in whatever he undertook. His wife died some years ago; much sympathy will be extended to his three sons.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Captain H. J. Coningham, an authority on the geography of Asia Minor and the Caucasus, aged sixty-nine years.

Prof. Edwin O. Jordan, professor of bacteriology in the University of Chicago, known for his work on public health, on September 2, aged seventy years.

Prof. Oskar Klotz, professor of pathology and bacteriology in the University of Toronto, an authority on diseases of the arteries and the liver, on November 3, aged fifty-eight years.

Dr. Alfred Nippold, director of the Magnetic Observatory, Berlin, on October 4, aged sixty-two years.

News and Views

Rev. Wm. Tuckwell: a Pioneer of School Science

IN the first number of *NATURE* appeared an article by one of Huxley's friends, the Rev. Wm. Tuckwell, on "Science Teaching in Schools". Tuckwell was a pioneer in this work, and it was he who really first introduced a regular course of instruction amounting to no less than three hours per week per boy. The story of his career as headmaster of Taunton College School, now King's College, Taunton, is a long and interesting one. At first he met with extraordinary success, numbers of scholarships were won, and with the help of Henry Labouchere, Lord Taunton, and other influential friends the ancient school was moved to new quarters outside the town at a cost of £25,000. Then trouble arose owing to local clerical and conservative suspicion as to Tuckwell's orthodoxy; and after a furious controversy resignation was forced on him in 1877.

TUCKWELL was a man of wide culture, a good classical scholar, with a deep knowledge of English literature, and, although his work was apparently a failure, his methods were copied in schools all over the country. The school almost broke up when he left, but was later acquired by the Woodard Corporation and has since gradually risen in numbers to two hundred boarders. The pendulum has swung back again, and in 1934, Dr. R. D. Reid, a science graduate and the first layman for three hundred years, was appointed headmaster. He, wishing to recognize the work of his pioneering predecessor, sought out Mr. Tuckwell's surviving daughters, Lady Welsh, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, C.H. They have presented many of their father's books and MSS. to the school library, including a much treasured first copy of *NATURE*. They also have erected a memorial to him in the school chapel, and this will be dedicated by the Chaplain, Bishop O'Rorke, on November 29, at 6 p.m., at which service any friends would be welcomed. King's College possesses what is believed the first school laboratory, erected by Tuckwell in 1868. It is still in use, but is shortly to be demolished.

Wilhelm Ebstein

NOVEMBER 27 marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the eminent German physician Prof. Wilhelm Ebstein. He was born at Jauer, in Silesia, and studied medicine in Breslau and Berlin, where he was the pupil of Frerichs, Virchow and Romberg. After qualifying in 1859, he became physician to the All Saints Hospital at Breslau, where he did valuable work on gastric secretion and dermatology, a subject in which he always took a keen interest. He served as a medical officer in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, and in 1874 was appointed professor of medicine and director of the Polyclinic at Göttingen, where he proved himself to be an indefatigable teacher, investigator and organizer, and created a model clinic well equipped with laboratories for scientific research. He was a remarkably prolific writer, as will be seen by the list of his works compiled by his son, the late medical historian Dr. Erich Ebstein (*Deut. Arch. Klin. Med.*, **89**, 367; 1907), but he is best known for his studies on obesity, gout and diabetes. His book on diabetes and its treatment was translated into French, Danish, Swedish and Russian, and one on the nature and treatment of gout into English and French. His historical contributions included articles on the Plague of Thucydides, the English Sweat, medicine in the Bible, Linnæus as physician, and the history of chicken-pox. He retired from his chair in 1906 at the age of seventy years, but remained in active consulting practice until a few days before his death from apoplexy on October 12, 1912.

Relation of Science to War and Defence

AT a public meeting organized by the Association of Scientific Workers, held at the Royal College of Science, London, on November 19, questions relating to "Defence and the Responsibilities of the Scientist" were discussed by a representative gathering of scientific workers. Prof. J. B. S. Haldane presided, and Prof. S. Chapman and Air Commodore L. E. O. Charlton opened the discussion. Prof. Chapman